

The Connector

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

Fall 2008

Peggy Strickland & Billie Jo Matthews, Co-Editors

Volume 12, Number 4

In the Sweet Bye and Bye

In the sweet bye and bye,
We shall meet on that beautiful
shore; ...

... Til we meet, Til we meet.
God be with you 'til we meet again.

Joseph Pherrell Tingen (1839-1925) penned the two beautiful and well-known hymns "In the Sweet Bye and Bye" and "God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again." He had little education but he certainly had a way with words.

Tingen was born and lived in Person Co., NC near

Roxboro where the Tar River first arises. He enlisted in Co. H, Regiment 24 of the North Carolina Infantry in 1862 and served as a bandmaster. While in the service, he wrote the two hymns and recorded them in his *band book*.

Unfortunately, Tingen lent his band book to another band member and it was never returned. After the war, both songs were copyrighted and published by others.

Tingen wrote two other songs, "Merry Robin" and "Person County Quick Step." The latter is probably

the only song ever written about Person County.

After the war, Joseph Tingen was active in his community in **Cunningham Township**. Besides being an accomplished musician and songwriter, he was also a farmer and a Justice of the Peace.

Tingen named the Person County community of "AI" and established a post office there in 1885. The post office, located near the intersection of state roads 1708 and 1709, remained in operation until 1924. The building was torn down in 1935.

Joseph's Family

In 1861, Joseph Tingen married **Mary J. Evans**, also of Person Co. They had twelve children: 3 boys, **Andrew Absalom, Obedi-**

[Tingen, Cont. On Page 4]

God Be with You.

1. God be with you till we meet again, By his counsels guide, uphold you,
2. God be with you till we meet again, 'Neath his wings securely hide you,
8. God be with you till we meet again, When life's perils thick confound you,
4. God be with you till we meet again, Keep love's banner floating o'er you,

Treasure

BY FRED CONYERS, TRC MEMBER

It was in the mid-1930s. My grandparents and an uncle lived on a farm in eastern Wake Co. about a mile from the Franklin Co. line. Imagine the problems two young male teenagers presented to them when they came to visit at the same time! My cousin, **Ralph Wallace, Jr.**, and I entertained ourselves by exploring the area.

One day, we decided to take the south farm path which was an old wagon trail. It led into a pine wooded area and our view was limited to just seeing the woods. As we wan-

dered toward the southeast corner of grandfather's land, we began to see an Indian arrow point here and there that seemed to have washed down into the wagon wheel treads. They were treasure to us and we picked them up eagerly.

[Treasure, Cont. On Page 4]

2009 Dues

This is the last issue of *The Connector* for 2008. The dues for 2009 are \$20. Please mail your check to **TRC, P.O. Box 8764, Rocky Mount, NC 27804.**

Display Case

BY TRACI THOMPSON, LIBRARIAN

The TRCGS recently bought a lovely new display case for the library's 1743 Martin Luther Bible. Beautifully made by Mr. Julius Whitley of **Stantonsburg, NC**, the case features UV-filtering glass to protect the Bible from light damage.

A description of the 1743 Bible by Ralph W. Klein can be found on the Gruber Rare Books Collection, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, website: http://collections.lstc.edu/gruber/luthers_bible/following.php

[BIBLE, CONT. ON PAGE 8]

Two Of Rocky Mount's Oldest Residents Remember Rocky Mount As It Was

Joseph Parker Recalls Story of Opera House

BY DR. MARGARET BATTLE (1967)

Joseph Parker is the son of the late **Jeffery Parker** who was ordained in the Baptist Church at the Falls. Parker attended the county school which was held three months of each year. He also attended **Weeks Armstrong's** private school and taught himself from borrowed law books. He had an insurance business (Royal Benefit) and dealt in real estate, working with **Lawyer Rich**.

He recalls that "The Forum" was organized to get representation for the Negro people. This resulted in the formation of the 5th Ward and sent the first Negro aldermen to the City Council: **Peter Darden**, 1897-1898; **Bill Waters**, 1901-1902; and the Reverend **Charlie Spicer**, 1899-1900.

Henry Battle had the first Negro barber shop, but was well known by all as the banjo player who supplied the music for the square dances.

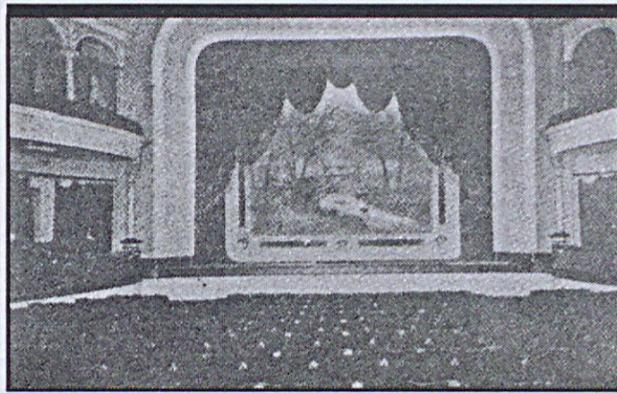
Then there was the wedding of Joseph Parker's sister, **Cornelia Parker**, to **Hugh Parker**. Miss **Annie Lewis** insisted that she be married in the **Church of the Good Shepherd**, the Episcopal church attended by the white people. The best man was to be **Will Parker**; however, Will took himself over to **Wilson** on the train to see a big game knowing well there was no train back in time for the wedding. Therefore, the minister, **Gaston Battle**, took the groom into the church. The front pews had been reserved for colored guests, but very few came, so the

white people moved up to fill the pews. Joe Parker gave his sister away.

"The Storm"

In 1918 one memorable event was the play, "The Storm," which had an all Negro cast. Lawyer Rich had received a telegram on Monday to secure the opera house for a performance on Thursday. The Negroes had been sitting in the balcony of the opera house but having been a bit rowdy, they were no longer allowed to enter it. This posed quite a problem for Rich.

After several helpful sugges-



Inside the Opera House
From *Rocky Mount, A Pictorial History*
by Bugs Barringer, Dot Barringer, and
Lela Chesson, 1977

tions, he finally said, "Damm it. Parker, you do it."

Parker replied, "Damn it, I will."

Joe then approached the trustees of the opera house. All of these were dubious, but left it up to the chairman, **Luther Bassett**. Joe was sent to see the owner, **Mr. Fenner**, but Mr. Fenner was away on tobacco market. His representative at the office was **E. F. Duke**, who was playing cards on Parker's arrival. Joe waited patiently until the game was over, and then put in his request for the opera house.

A lively discussion followed, and not until Joe Parker had guaranteed a house of 400 did Mr. Duke give in. Door tickets would be sold by the opera house and Joe was given one roll of 75 cents tickets, and one roll of \$1.25 tickets.

As the opera house had never had an attendance of 400, quite a formidable task lay ahead. But anyone who had doubts about this did not know Joe Parker. He made out a set of passes, one for each trustee, and one for his insurance agents who were scattered all over eastern Carolina. Then he sent each agent a number of tickets, shrewdly judging how many each one could sell. Posters were put up and hand bills were passed out; no stone was left unturned.

The night of the play, people began pouring into Rocky Mount. Joe had \$400 in ticket money to turn in to the office; however, local sales had been only \$9.00. The only white people attending were **T. T. Thorne** and **L. V. Bassett**, who sat in a box. They talked so much about the play, saying it was the best ever to be performed here, that the white people asked for a repeat performance. There was a big reception for the cast at Dr. Armstrong's but no one remembered to ask Joe Parker.

Billy Sunday's House

Joe Parker is the oldest elder at **Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church**. On one occasion he and 40 delegates were at the "Holy City" attending a church convention. This was the place where **Billy Sunday** lived. Three Negroes from the convention were taken over to see Billy Sunday's house.

He was away, but his wife showed them everything except the library. This, she said, was never shown. The three finally talked her into showing them this room also. On a table lay the finest Bible Joe Parker had ever seen; besides this there was a chair and a couch. Not another thing was in the room.

...

Cora Parker

Cora Parker, Joe Parker's wife, is familiarly known as "Cousin Cora."

[Oldest, Cont. On Page 5]

Pam's Corner

BY PAM EDMONDSON

PROMINENT ROCKY MOUNT MAN DEAD

A. P. Thorpe Dies Suddenly At Hospital in Philadelphia—News is Shock

Rocky Mount, Aug. 30—A. P. Thorpe, pioneer tobacco and textile manufacturer of this city, was dead today and his family was laying plans for bringing his body home from **Philadelphia** where he died suddenly in a hospital yesterday.

Final rites will be held at 10 o'clock Saturday morning from the First Presbyterian church.

Details were not available here. Mr. Thorpe and Mrs. Thorpe had gone to the **Pennsylvania** city Sunday and he was supposedly in good health when they left here. The news of his death, which reached here yesterday afternoon, was a surprise and shock to the community.

Mr. Thorpe, a former president of the Tobacco Association of the United States, was president of the **Thorpe and Ricks Tobacco company** of this city which he helped organize in 1886 and president of the **Rocky Mount Mills**, oldest textile plant in North Carolina. He was engaged in a number of other local enterprises.

He was an elder in the First Presbyterian church here and was noted for his philanthropy. He was 74 years old.

Surviving are his widow, the former Miss **Sudie Middleton**, and four children, **A. P. Thorpe, Jr.**, **Mrs. R. H. Gregory, Jr.**, **Miss Mary Bryan Thorpe** and **Miss Carlton Thorpe**, all of this city.

[Daily Southerner, 8/30/1934]

A North Carolina Visit

William Attmore was a merchant from **Philadelphia**. In the winter of 1787, he came to **North Carolina** to collect debts owing to his firm and to obtain new business. He visited **Washington, New Bern, Greenville** and **Tarboro**. While on his tour he kept a diary. The following are excerpts from that diary.

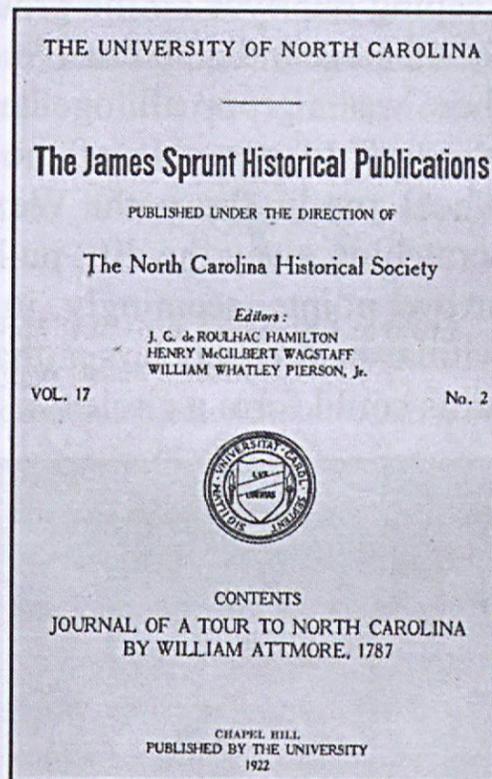
Saturday, December 15. **WASHINGTON** is a Town containing about sixty Families, it is situated on the North East side of **Tar River** about 40 Miles from the mouth of the River and 80 from **Ocracoke Bar**—the River at Washington is about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a Mile over but the Channel is narrow, there being flats near the Shore; Vessels drawing $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet Water come up to the Town when the River is low; when the Water is raised by Freshes Vessels of greater burthen can come there; for about two Miles below the Town the Navigation is impeded by sunken Logs, and by Stumps of large Trees that are supposed to have grown there—From this Town the trade up the River as far as the town of **Tarborough** at the head of the Navigation, is carried on chiefly in large Scows and Flats drawing but little Water, some of these carry 70 or 80 hogsheads of Tobacco—**Tarborough** is 50 Miles above Washington and contains about 20 families—

At Washington there are several convenient Wharffes, and there are sometimes lying here near 20 sail of Sea Vessels—Washington being the County Town of **Beaufort County** there is a Court House and Prison there; and there is a School House—The Lots upon the River are laid out 100 feet front to each Lot.—The Houses are built of Wood a few are large and convenient—

Tar River like many other Rivers of North Carolina has no tide, other than a small rise sometimes occasioned by the Winds driving the Waters, a Vessel at Anchor usually rides with her head to the Wind. Heavy Rains however occasion considerable Freshes when these happen it is difficult setting and poleing Flats up the River, they often then warp up by Ropes fastened to the Trees on the bank.

Mr. Nuttle brought with him to our Quarters this Evening a large Dog, singular for being whelped almost without a Tail, he has now but a short stump about an inch long, it is cover'd with hair just covering the Stump and ending in a point at the bottom of the Stump.

Wednesday, December 19. **GREENEVILLE**, so called in Honour of **General Green**, is the County Town of **Pitt County**; it is situated on the Southeast side of **Tar River**, at this place about 90 or 100 yards over, when the River is low; tho' near a Mile wide when there are freshes in the River, and it is here about ten feet deep.—The Village consists of about fifteen families, and is a place of some Trade, the planters in the vicinity,

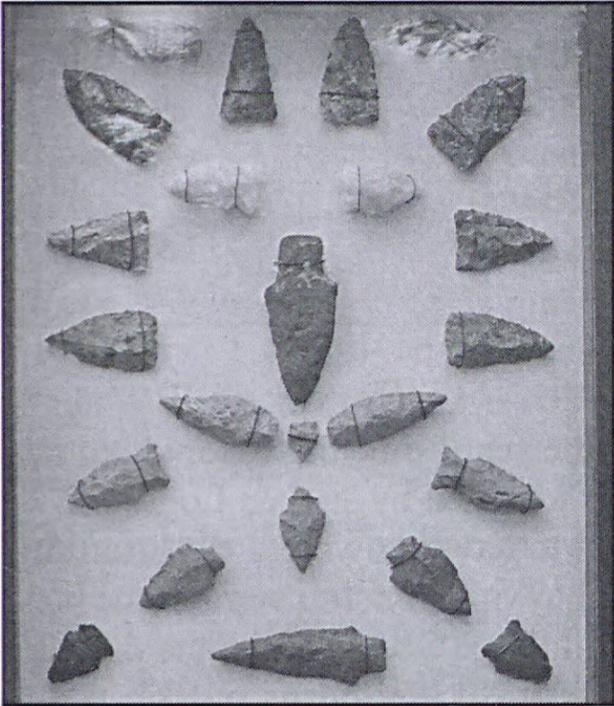


[CORNER, CONT. ON P 9]

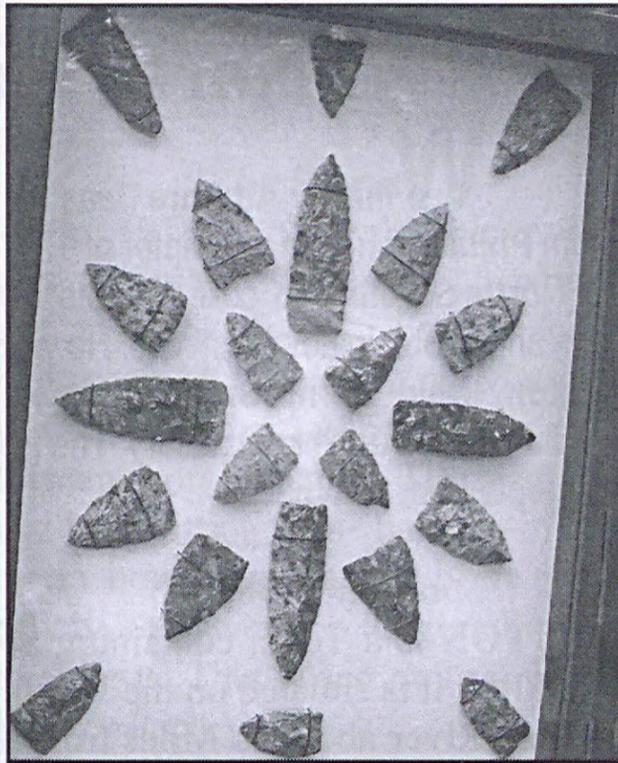
[Attmore, Continued on Page 5]

[Treasure, Cont. From P 1]

As we continued down the path, keeping our eyes on the ground, we found more Indian points. Suddenly, there was a group all together. They were off to one side of the wagon wheel rut in the path. We started scratching away the dirt, pulling out arrow points seemingly in layers within an area no larger than your arms could form a circle.



Within this small area, without scratching out a real depth in the dirt, we found over 150 arrow points that had never been put on an arrow shaft. We were as excited as if they had been pieces of gold. We loaded



the arrow points in our clothes wherever we could tuck them. Instead of taking the wagon trail back to the house, we took a short cut through the woods. When we got back, we divided the arrow points.

This was over 70 years ago and I still cherish my share of that unexpected find. My cousin may have given his portion of the cache to an uncle who lived nearby. It is believed that the arrow points he received may have been donated to the state museum. That uncle went back to the area where the arrow points were found, but he could not find any other Indian relics.

We were never able to identify the points as to where they may have originated or what tribe might have made them. My uncle's explanation for the arrow heads being found in such a concentrated area was that a "runner" had to leave them and never got back to retrieve them.

In the 1960s, I was part of a team that was surveying the ACL tracks in southern N.C. The objective was to straighten out curves in the track and thereby increase train speed. The project was never completed, but I found this very old axe head in the woods on the west side of the tracks near **Hope Mills, Cumberland Co.**



[Tingen, Cont. From P. 1]
ah, and Rufus Japhteth; and 9 girls, Mary Magdalene Barton, Lucretia Borgia Satterfield; Lovetta Dorcas Satterfield; Albania Ashley, Tryphenia Elizabeth Tingen, Trephosia Ann Ashley, Ophelia Lera Allen, Laura Clayton; and Della Tingen.

Tingen Ancestor

Joseph's father, **Garrett Robert Tingen** (1789-1847) came from Scotland to America in the early 1800s. He lived with his mother and stepfather in **Maryland**. The stepfather often mistreated Garrett and in 1806, at the age of 16, he ran away from home. He said, "I went out to

feed the pigs and never went back home." He left with nothing—no food, clothes or money. Somehow, he managed to get across the **James River** and into North Carolina where he settled in **Granville Co.**

Garret Tingen served in the NC Regiment from Granville Co. in the Drummers and Fifers during the **War of 1812**. Perhaps Joseph Tingen inherited his musical talent from Garrett.

In 1815, Garrett married **Joanna Duncan** (Abt 1800-1853), daughter of **Ambrose Harrison** and **Martha Slaughter Duncan**. The young couple moved to **Allensville** in Person Co., where they purchased 100

acres of land on **Ghents Creek**, northwest of **Roxboro**, the county seat of Person Co. Tingen's trail of land purchases and the birth places of his children later put the family in **Franklin County, NC**, then **Hertford Co, NC** and finally back in Person Co. Garrett suffered a stroke while visiting his nephew, **Giles Duncan**. He was carried home in a wagon and died 2 weeks later. When Joanna died in 1853, she left an estate that totaled \$2,192.16.

[Tommy Markham's website: www.tommymarkham.com; *Person County Past* by Phylliss Boatwright, 2006; article by Harold T. Clayton, descendent of Joseph Tingen.]

[Attmore, Cont. From P. 3] bringing their produce to this Landing. The Town stands high and pleasant.

... About night fall arrived at the house of **Mrs. Cobb**, an ancient woman, who keeps a petty Ordinary—We concluded to stay here all night, not being sure of obtaining a lodging in Tarborough if we went there, as we had heard that every house was crowded, the Assembly being then met at that place. Mrs. Cobbs' house consisted of two Apartments, one was the sitting Room, the floor was of Clay or dirt, and there was one Bed in the Room—The other Apartment was floored with Boards and contained four good Beds, two on each side of the Room.—Mrs. Cobb is a Woman between 83 and 84 years of Age, as she told me; she was born in the **Isle of Wight County, Virginia**, she retains her faculties and is as brisk and lively as most Women of 30 years of Age—She waits on Travellers herself and even goes to the Stable and takes care of their Horses herself. This not from necessity, having as-

sistance enough if she chooses it; but seems to plume herself on her activity, and attention to her Guests and to their Horses—This Woman has near 50 descendants Children, Grandchildren, and Great Grandchildren —We complained on entering the House that the Fire was almost out, she went and brought a load of Wood, threw it on, and with a pleasant air said "There it will be a fire when it burns"—alluding I suppose to the Story of the Fox that made the Ice smoke—We were furnished with a very indifferent supper; but our Horses being well taken care of in regard to food and each one being fastened by himself in a cover'd log Pen, we getting clean and good beds for ourselves were not uneasy.—

Thursday, December 20. **TARBOROUGH**, is the County Town of **Edgecombe County**; it is situated on the Southeast side of Tar River, at this place about eighty yards over, the Town contains about twenty Families, and for the size of it has a considerable Trade, it is the highest Town on the River, and Boats seldom go above this place.—The

houses are all of Wood—It is situated on a high flat piece of Ground, and is a very pleasant place.

There is an Inspection house here for the reception and examination of Tobacco, and I am told there is brought to it annually 1400 Hogsheads.—

[*Journal of a Tour to North Carolina*
by William Attmore, 1787:
<http://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/attmore/attmore.html>]

THIEF SHOT.—

On Wednesday the 20th inst. Some one attempted to break into the store of **Col. J. F. Jones**, but failed. The following night guards were placed in the store, and about one o'clock the thief made his appearance, and in attempting to make his escape was shot by **Mr. H. L. Beacham**, the ball entering his arm near the wrist, causing a very painful wound; the ball was extracted by **Dr. J. B. Clifton** — The thief's a black, spare built boy named **Horace Terrell**. He has been committed to jail to await trial at the March term of our Court.

[*Franklin Courier*, Jan. 29, 1875]

[Oldest, Cont. From Page 2]

She was born in **Edgecombe County** to **Watson** and **Sallie Hines** and educated in Hines school. She graduated from **Lincoln Hospital School of Nursing [Durham, NC]** in 1908 and was married shortly thereafter.



Lincoln Hospital, Durham, NC
From *Documenting the American South*,
UNC

At age 34 her only child was born, the late **Dr. Joseph Parker**.

Mrs. Parker started the first Negro Girl Scout troop and has been active in the YWCA. For her service in Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church, she received a plaque. During the depression she worked with a white social worker, to see that the hungry were fed and the ragged clothed. She also taught a night school class. She worked with ERA and WPA before becoming truant officer for the city.

Also, she worked with **Judge Sides** for children in difficulty, went to court with them, advised their parents and attended all PTA meetings, thus earning the name, "Mother of all children."

Once when Cora was nursing at **Park View Hospital** one of her patients became very much upset and **Dr. Boice** was sent for.

"Doctor," said the patient, "I knew you were going to remove 46 pounds of tumors, but you never told me you were going to remove my navel."

Dr. Boice replied, "That is all right. You will get along, and when you go to heaven, Adam will be able to pick you out."

(Years later, when I was intern- ing there, it was explained to me that under no circumstance was a patient to have the navel removed; if it just had to go, a new one must be made with minor plastic surgery.)

[*Rocky Mount Evening Telegram*,
3/12/1967]

Rocky Mount City School System History

BY HILL MATTHEWS

Rocky Mount can trace the history of its city school system back to 1902, when a graded school district was created and a bond issue provided the necessary funds for buildings and equipment. Prior to 1902 The University school, owned and operated by **William V. Boyle**, provided private education for all grades. The **University school** was located on **Hammond St.**, across the street and on the next block from where the Catholic Church now stands.

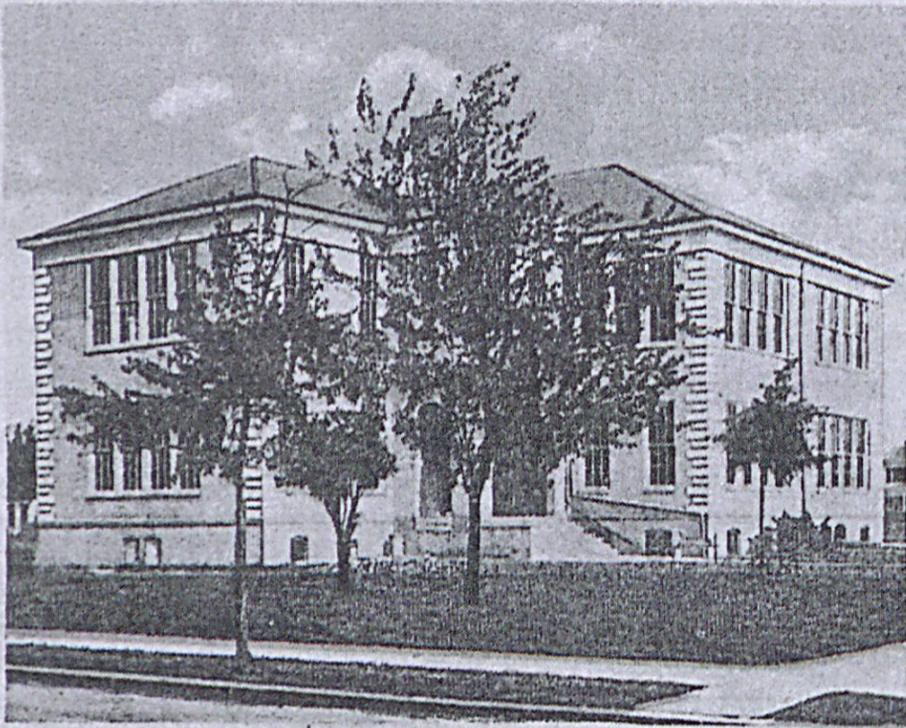
The first school of the new system was the **Rocky Mount Graded School** on the corner of **Nash and Pearl streets**, which was later known as the **West School**. The first year the school was open it had approximately 350 students and 12 teachers. In 1909, the **East School** was constructed on the corner of **Marigold and Raleigh streets**, facing **Raleigh St.** and this school was notable in its time for its size and superior architecture.

In 1914 the **Edgemont School**, later known as the **Fannie Gorham school**, opened on **Cokey Road** and the building now serves as the Rocky Mount Judicial Center. An interesting story about Edgemont

School was told by **Henry Gregory** and included in **Vernon Sechrist's** book, *Relax*. Famous musician and Rocky Mount native **Kay Kyser** and **Frank Wilkinson** joined **Henry Gregory**, who with the help of a few other student pranksters had the bright idea of giving a huge bull owned by **Tom Stith** a little education at Edgemont School. The students got the bull, whose name oddly enough was **Mary**, up the steps and into the building then closed the doors and locked him in overnight. Needless to say, there were some surprised teachers, staff and students the next morning, though even **Henry** was unable to describe the extent

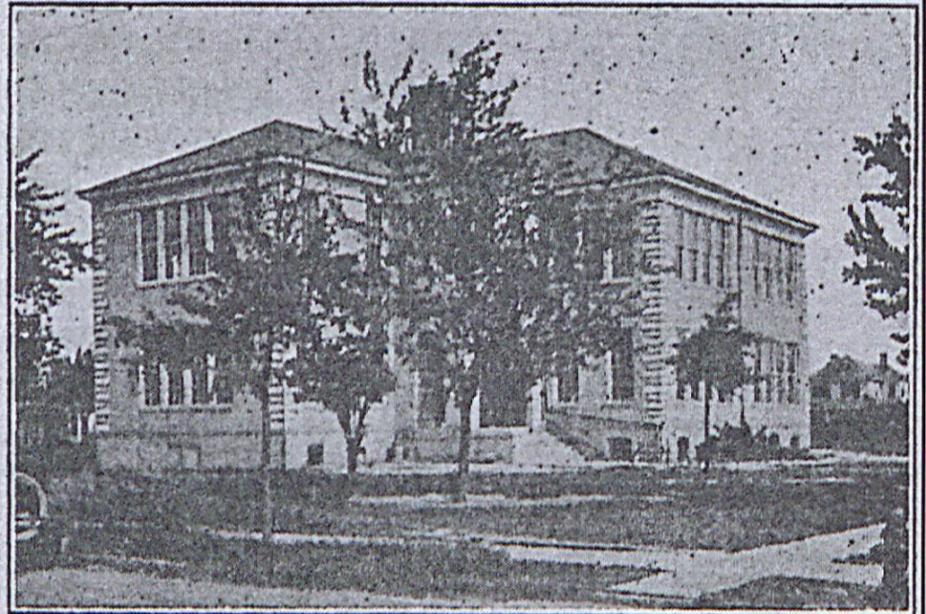
[History, Cont. On P. 7]

West School.

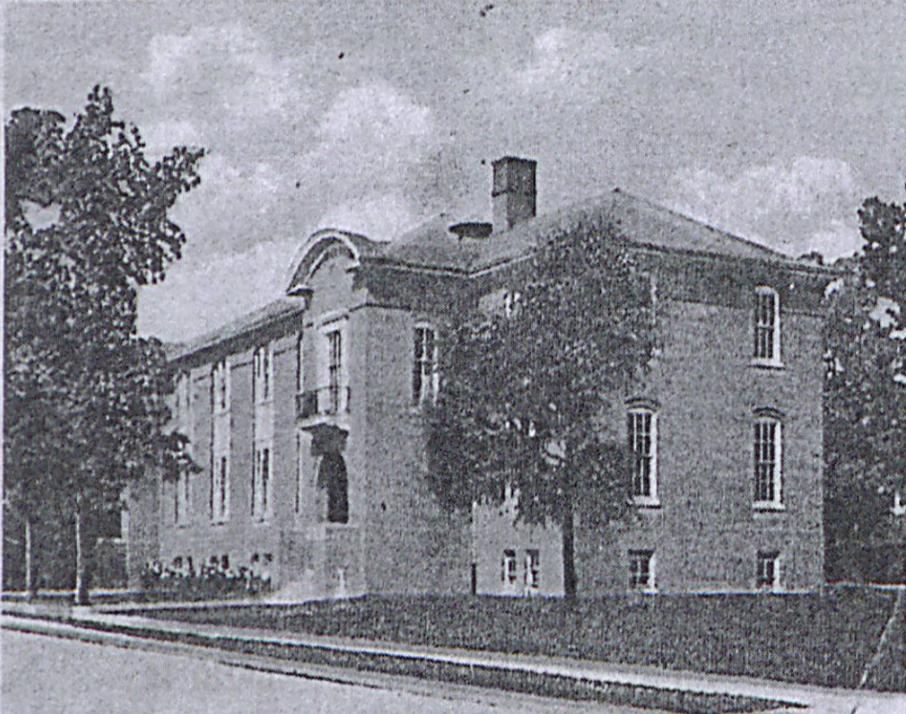


ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.

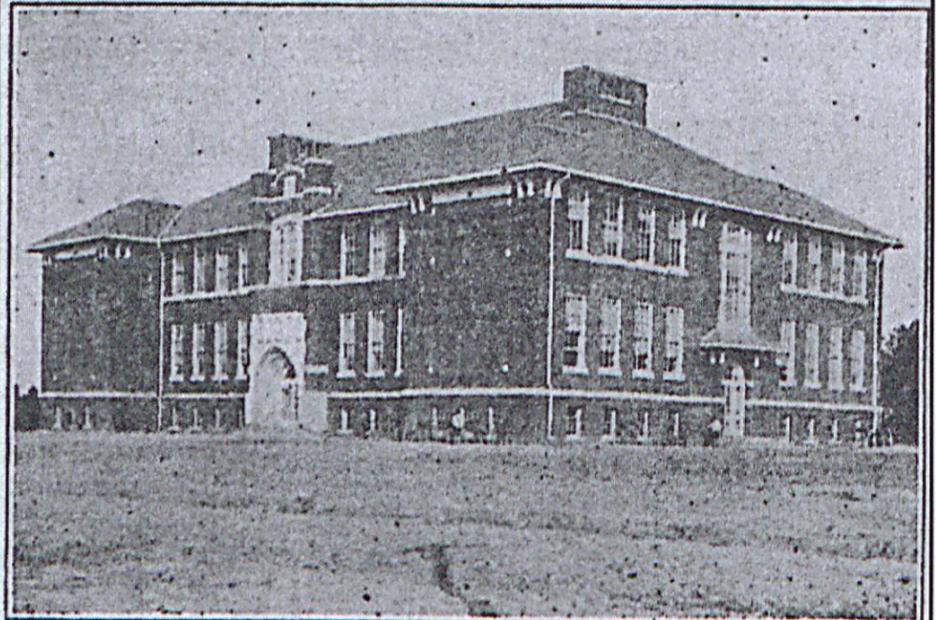
CITY SCHOOLS



West School Building, Rocky Mount, N. C.



East School



Edgemont School Building, Rocky Mount, N. C.

Letter to the Editors:

I have had a life long interest in the history of **North Carolina**, and especially in the **Tar River-Rocky Mount** area. From an early age, I was fascinated by that river.

The first time I crossed it, my father slowed the car so I could gaze in awe at that mighty flow. It was the gateway to the Promised Land where so many good things could be found in Rocky Mount. It was there where I first went courting, and learned a thing or two about the world's most interesting subject. Who could forget the Falls Lover's Lane! Romance, romance, romance!

Bob Melton's original barbecue place was so great that I returned to it many times. It stood close to the Tar River until an angry flood abolished that mecca.

At **Louisburg College**, the **Tar River** flowed nearby. The daring, and foolhardy, had to prove something each spring by diving into its icy waters—in March.

Should some of you "olders" care to share some memories with me, please contact me at: **189 Stanford Lane, Seal Beach, CA 90740**

Norman T. Vick

[Norman Vick, 95 years old and a TRC member, was born in 1913 at Glenview Farm in **Halifax Co., NC**. He wrote *Carolina Camelot—RFD* in which he told of

growing up on the farm prior to the depression. The book includes chapters about working on the farm, school days, all-day preaching and chicken on the grounds, hog killing, and mules, among others. *The Connector* ran stories from the book in the Fall, 2004 and Winter, 2005 issues.

If you would like to purchase a copy of *Carolina Camelot—RFD*, it is available from Norman for \$20 including postage]

We welcome letters from TRC members. Tell us what you think of stories we have run, historical or genealogical information that might interest our readers, or stories of your own. Send them to TRC, PO Box 8764, Rocky Mount, NC 27804.

We would love to hear from you.

[History, Cont. From P. 6] of the chaos the bull caused. Unfortunately, Mary was excused from school and was unable to finish her education.

Many thousands of students did



Mary, from 1923 *Hi-Noc-Ar*

receive their education and graduate from the city schools in the early days of the system. By 1925, enrollment was up to 3,472 students. The school system was segregated then of course, and that year it had 2,306 white pupils and 1,166 black stu-

dents. In August 1926, a \$350,000 school bond was passed, and by October construction had begun on a new grammar school and a new Negro school in the city's northeast section. The bond also provided funds for the conversion of the East School into a modern high school facility and turning Edgemont High School into a grammar school.

1928 saw the first class graduate from the new **Rocky Mount High School**, formerly East School. At this time in history the high school was a very modern facility that included laboratories for physics, chemistry, biology, general science and home economics. There was a spacious library, an auditorium that seated over 1,000 and a total of 14 classrooms, including the labs. The high school perfectly fit the needs of the growing city and ranked among the top such facilities in the state.

After being upgraded to a high school, East school was reconfigured to face Marigold Street instead of Raleigh Street. The school was later renamed **RM Wilson High**

School and now serves as apartments for the elderly, with the gymnasium being used as a city recreation facility. The old school has seen generations of students walk through its hallowed halls, with many now living there in their retirement apartments. Memories abound for so many current and former Rocky Mount residents and not to be forgotten on that day of the first graduating class in June 1928, when a young boy, **Tom Matthews**, who would later become the first district Judge to hold court in the Judicial center in the old Edgemont school, jumped up and yelled in excitement, breaking the silence when his aunt **Minnie Parrish** walked down the aisle to receive her diploma.

[Postcards on Page 6 from Eric Dawson, TRC member. Sources: 1911 *Rocky Mount Record* Industrial Edition; *Tar River Connector* Vol. 3, # 4; *Tar River Connector* Vol. 9, #2; *Rocky Mount Evening Telegram*, 9/10/1926; *Rocky Mount Evening Telegram*, 9/4/1926; *Rocky Mount Evening Telegram*, 9/5/1927; *Rocky Mount Evening Telegram*, 6/1/1928]

JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS THE GENERAL'S WIFE, MRS. ROBERT E. LEE'S FAMOUS CAKE

Twelve eggs, their full weight in sugar, a half weight in flour. Bake it in pans the thickness of jelly cakes. Take two pounds of nice "A" sugar, squeeze into it the juice of 5 oranges and three lemons together with the pulp. Stir in the sugar until perfectly

smooth, then spread it over the cakes as you would jelly-putting one above another till the whole of the sugar is used up.

Icing for a Great Cake

Take the whites of twenty four eggs and a pound of double refined sugar beat and sifted fine; mix both together in a deep earthen pan, and with a whisk, whisk it well for two or three hours, till it looks white and thick, then with a thin broad board, or bunch of feathers, spread it all over the top and sides of the cake; set it at a proper distance before a good clear

fire, keep turning it continually for fear of its changing colour; but a cool oven is best, and will harden it. You may perfume the icing with what perfume you please.



THOSE WERE THE DAYS!

[Source: THE ROBERT E. LEE FAMILY COOKING AND HOUSEKEEPING BOOK, BY ANNE CARTER ZIMMER, PUB. 1997 THE UNIVERSITY OF NC PRESS]

[BIBLE, CONT. FROM P. 1]

The 1743 Bible was the first European language Bible printed in America. It was printed in **German-town, Pennsylvania** by **Christopher Saur** (1693-1758) and was one of 1,200 copies. According to Klein, "It took three years to produce. The price was 18 shillings although Saur wrote that for the poor 'we have no price.'

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg (1711-1787) of the German Lutheran Church did everything in his power to embarrass the work, as did the Reverend **Caspar Schnoor** of the German Reformed Church of Lancaster, PA. Saur was accused of being an "arch Separatist." There were many typographical errors, and critics feared a non-orthodox bias in the translation. The text is based on Martin Luther's version by way of the 34th edition of the Halle Bible. It contained only that part of the Apocrypha that Luther had used...Saur maintained his independence from German religious factions.

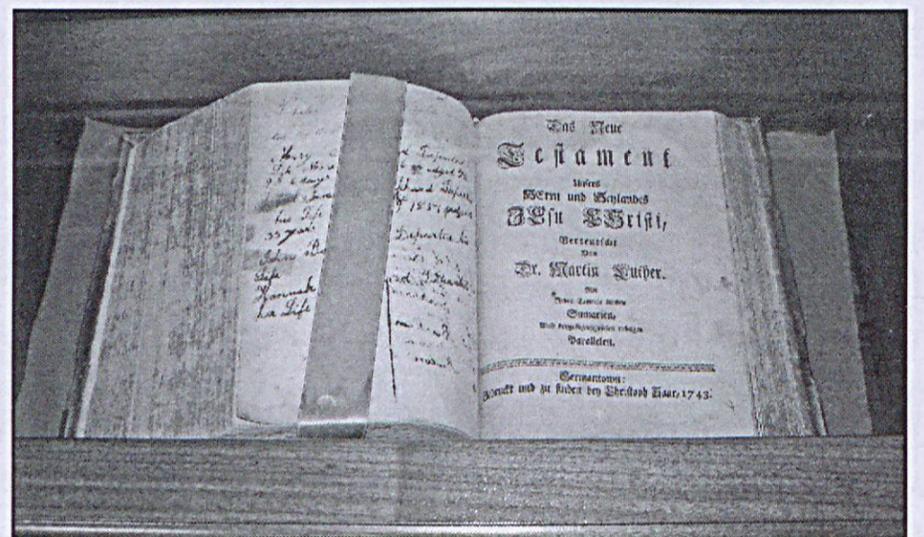
On June 12, 1778, Muhlenberg wrote: "A short time ago the German printer, Christoph Sauer, was taken prisoner in Philadelphia and brought to the American camp because his sons in Philadelphia, have been treating the Americans very unreasonably and abusively in the German newspapers. A German general in the camp said a good word for him, which brought about his release after he had sworn the oath

of loyalty to the state. *The Journals of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg*, 3:163.

A second edition of 2,000 copies was printed by Saur's son Christoph (1721-1784) in 1763. This was the first Bible printed in America on American-made paper. The third edition, in 1776, was the first Bible printed from American-made type.

Many legends are associated with the 1776 Bible. One story says that many unbound pages of this edition were used to make cartridge paper during the Battle of Germantown, October 4, 1777. Hence it is called the "gun-wad" Bible. Another legend states that after winning the battle, British soldiers seized many of the unbound leaves to make litter for their horses. Another legend: one of Saur's daughters gathered enough leaves to make a copy for each of her ten children.

When Saur was writing in English, he spelled his name Sower, which his descendants use. In 1738 Saur published the first almanac in America. A farmer, planning to make a trip, noted that the almanac promised fair weather and so traveled in an open wagon. When he was drenched with rain, he complained to Saur, who replied, 'My friend, I made the almanac, but the Almighty made the weather.'"



Black Fire Department

On March 11, 1896 the Rocky Mount, NC town council approved the first black fire company and appointed **D. D. McIntire** as its foreman. This bucket brigade, was named *Excelsior*. It was composed of 26 men and was stationed in the 100 block of East Thomas Street in **Edgemcombe Co.** The company was responsible for the operation of the hand drawn hook and ladder wagon. This was a well

trained and efficient company and, as Captain **E. J. Pitt** recalled on one occasion, was able to arrive at the fire and have it under control before other equipment could be set up.

This group of men attended many of the state conventions and tournaments. In 1906 while practicing for an event at the upcoming tournament in **Warrenton, Warren Co., NC, Henry Mitchell** died of a heart attack. (from the *Evening Telegram*, 6 July 1967). This was the first firefighter of record to die in the line of duty.

In 1903, **Bynum "Boo" King** was a jailer for the City Police when he

was given the opportunity to become caretaker of the fire horses and paid driver for the fire department. King lived in the fire station from 1904 until his death July 31, 1940 at the age of 97. He had requested that a fire truck be used as his hearse at his death. His request was granted and Engine 3 rolled out "Bertha" to give "Boo" his final ride.

The rest of the black fire company lost interest and disbanded in 1914.

[<http://legeros.com/history/ebf/#ROCKY%20MOUNT>]



[Corner, Cont. From P. 3]

Died

At his home in No. 12 township, near Rocky Mount, **John W. Bradley**, after a brief illness of only three days; aged 26. He was the son of **J. B. Bradley** of Rocky Mount.

[*Tarboro Southerner*, 2/19/1903]

Reflections of a Bachelor.

Every man craves flattery from his superiors; he gets it from his inferiors.

It takes a woman to have her hand squeezed and protest she thinks she is putting on her gloves.

The man who takes no pride in his ancestors is not likely to have his descendants take any pride in him.

Men learn more about the fashions from stranded women in a windstorm than in the bosom of their own family.

It is the man who leaves his wife every morning in a wrapper and curl papers that can't believe his eyes when he meets here in the street.—

[*Tarboro Southerner*, 2/19/1903]

PLANTERS' HOTEL.

THE Subscriber respectfully informs his friends and the Public, that he intends removing to town on the 1st day of January next, and will recommence keeping

A House of Entertainment,

AT HIS OLD STAND IN TARBOROUGH.

The House will be thoroughly repaired, and the beds, bedding, &c. all in good order; and his table, bar, and stables furnished with every thing necessary for use and comfort.

SOLOMON PENDER.

Dec. 17, 1832. 17

[*N. C. Journal Free Press*, 1/8/1833]

Glen Curtiss and the OX5 Airplane Engine

Foy Pullen, TRC member and author of *90 Years of Aviation in Rocky Mount*, took his first airplane ride in 1927 in a WWI surplus aircraft with an OX5 engine. His first instruction was in 1934 in a *Challenger*, also with an OX5 engine. Pullen barnstormed around North Carolina in the late 1930s in planes equipped with OX5 engines and worked as a mechanic repairing the engines.

The OX5 engine, developed by Glenn Hammond Curtiss, was the first mass-produced engine for aircraft. Curtiss's earliest engines were air cooled engines built for motorcycles. Soon these were adapted for use in dirigibles. The first Curtiss engine to power a heavier-than-air machine was an air-cooled 8-cylinder Vee-type which developed 40 h.p. at 1,800 r.p.m. This engine had a tendency to overheat quickly and flying had to be stopped until it cooled. Curtiss then turned out another engine for the *Silver Dart*. This engine had many flights of up to 20 minutes, a vast improvement over previous engines.

The next innovation was the Model O and the Model OX which eventually became the OX5. The U.S. Army bought 125 aircraft powered by the OX engine prior to 1917. The British also bought Curtiss Jennies powered with OX engines. It has been estimated that over 12,000 Curtiss OX engines were produced between 1912 and 1918.

After the war, planes powered by the OX5 were readily available as surplus.

Glen Curtiss was born in upstate New York in 1878. As a boy he worked on anything mechanical and he set up a bicycle shop while still in his teens. In 1901, he borrowed \$5,000 and started manufacturing motorcycles. He was asked to design an engine to power a balloon and his design won honors at an air meet in 1904. He soon had 100 men learning the mechanics of dirigible engines.

Curtiss was obsessed with speed. He became the fastest man on earth in 1907 when his motorcycle was clocked at 136.3 mph.

The Wright brothers made their successful flight on the N.C. coast in 1903, but condemnation from the press and public distrust toward flying resulted in little publicity and, consequently, little advancement in flight. On July 4, 1908, Glen Curtiss piloted his *June Bug* for a total distance of 5,090 feet. This was the first officially

observed and recognized flight in America and earned him the first pilot's license issued in this country. In 1909, Curtiss flew his *Gold Bug* 24.7 miles establishing a new distance record. In 1910, Curtiss demonstrated aerial bombing tactics to the Army and Navy. In 1911, he landed and took off his hydro-aeroplane.

Soon after war broke out in Europe in 1914, the Curtiss plant was deluged with orders for the famed "Jenny." By the end of the war, there were ten plants employing 10,000 people running at full capacity.

After the war, Curtiss turned to other interests, pioneering the "home away from home," or what is known today as the house trailer. He continued to indulge in his favorite hobby,

speed.

Glen Curtiss died in 1930 as a result of a blood clot after an appendectomy.

Curtiss TWIN MOTORED TRACTOR

Flies and Climbs with One Motor

Possessing Thereby a Double Factor of Safety Against any Possible Forced Landing.

Recently piloted by Victor Carlstrom 661 miles, when equipped with pontoons, in 8½ hours in flights for The Curtiss Marine Trophy, making greatest mileage for this contest so far recorded.

THE CURTISS AEROPLANE CO.
BUFFALO, N.Y.

CURTISS

**Handbook on Setting Up
And Caring for the
Curtiss Aeronautical Motor Model OX
Copyright, 1916 by
Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Corporation**

Important Don'ts

1. Don't try to start without oil, water, or gasoline; all three are vital.
2. Don't get dirt or water into the oil.
3. Don't get dirt or water into the gasoline.
4. Don't try to start without turning on the switch.

[Curtis Cont. On Page 13]

Nature's Natural Remedies Forsaken

BY BOICE WALKER

Humans, for some unknown reason, have always had a desire to be first or be different. This may explain why some or most of nature's natural remedies were put aside for commercial, inferior products because they were more simple to use and advertisements depicted them as the perfect medication with the sales pitch of, "Don't be old timey and sick when you can be modern and well."

New processing methods were discovered that removed most of the pungent odor even though the odor might have been the real purpose of using it. For example, with respiratory treatments, when you removed the odor, you removed its medicinal qualities along with it. It is amazing how the cycle of medicine has wavered repeatedly from natural to man-made and man-made back to natural. Research teams worldwide have recently confessed that while they could not see the forest for the trees, they realized that we have not discovered nor invented anything. It was here and has been here all the time. Most of the early products or home remedies came into existence through insects, plant life, and organic osmosis. Most of these man has copied, but has not been able to duplicate.

My mother, whom I will call Mama, possessed a special talent that seemed to give her the knowledge as to the makeup and uses of nature's remedies. Since I can remember, Mama had a tin safe packed with a combination of country store purchases and items that she had gathered and prepared. This was in the early 1900s before electricity, telephones and ambulances were available to rural people and it was often a matter of life or death if immediate care was demanded. Since most farm and home chores were performed with hand-held tools that either punched a hole or possessed a hand-

filed, razor sharp cutting blade, accidental cuts were the most dominant emergency.

Mama had two items for stopping the flow of blood—soot and scrapings from a felt hat. Chimney soot was considered the best, but was only used in areas that showed the least, because it would sometimes cause a black scar. Scrapings from a felt hat were used when the wound was on the face or hands, because it did not leave any visible marks. Bandages made were from white bed sheets, torn by hand—not cut by scissors—and washed and sun cured.

Astyptodyne Healing Oil came from the store and it deadened pain and provided healing powers. A daily application of Astyptodyne resulted in unbelievably short *getting well* periods. In addition to being good for cuts, astyptodyne was also good for toothache, sores, bruises, rheumatism, fever blisters, and whatever.

Mama's medicine cabinet served as the neighborhood or community doctor's office for many years. It contained such items as camphor, paregoric, Castoria, boric acid, asphidity, sulphur, alum, quinine, Black Draught, Epsom Salts, dried sassafras, Black Ointment, Cloverine Salve, Granny's Liniment, cod liver oil, and many, many others.

These remedies must have been beneficial to her as well as hundreds of others. She lived to be 101!

The June 2008 issue of *Our State Magazine* had a story entitled "Tar Heel Cure" about Astyptodyne which is still made in **Wilmington, NC**. The owners of the business are Linda and Nellie Sistrunk.

Astyptodyne was discovered accidentally in 1906. A steam pipe in a turpentine plant burst and sent scalding vapor everywhere. Three employees nearest the ruptured pipe fled. One of them tripped and was splashed with a worthless by-product of the turpentine distilling process. He was covered in the liquid. The three workers were carried to the hospital where it was found that the first two workers were badly burned, while the third, who was covered in the liquid, had no pain and little scarring. The worthless by-product became Astyptodyne.



Wood Community

BY EVELYN GUPTON WINSTEAD

Wood, NC is located fifteen miles east of **Louisburg** on Highway 561 on the northern edge of **Franklin Co.** In 1917 Wood, with a population of 372, became an incorporated town. The Incorporation Act was repealed in 1969 and therefore the town is no longer incorporated.

To tell the story of any town, one must first tell of the people who made the settlement possible. Wood's history goes back to 1762 when two early **Bute Co.** families were joined by the marriage of **Stephen Gupton** and **Nancy Ann Portis**. Their great-grandson, **Thomas Buck Gupton**, was born Oct. 30, 1830 in a log house that is still standing, although it was later framed..

Thomas Buck Gupton owned all the land that now comprises the community of Wood and, when he died in 1902, he left it to his daugh-

ter, **Lula Gupton Wood**. The town was named for **Lula Gupton Wood** and her husband, **Charlie**, who ran the first store located in the present town limits.

Also, it was **Isaac John Portis**, great-nephew of **Stephen** and **Nancy Ann Portis Gupton**, who discovered gold in **Franklin Co.** in 1838. Over \$3,000,000 of gold was mined from the **Portis** mine.

One of the first major industries, second only to the **Portis Gold Mine**, was the **Greenleaf Lumber Co.** that was located at Wood from 1912-1922. The company brought many workers into the area to cut timber from **Vaughan**, in **Warren Co., NC** to **Spring Hope**, in **Nash Co., NC**. The lumber company owned several houses in Wood and rented them to workers. This company also brought **Russian** workers into the area to cut timber. The **Montgomery Lumber Co.** later bought the timber interests in 1922 and continued operations until 1924.

In 1914 the railroad came to Wood for the purpose of shipping timber to other areas. Soon after the laying of the tracks, a depot was built and the station was named **Greenleaf Johnson**.

At one time a passenger car was attached to the train. When my grandmother, **Lillie Rose Burnette Gupton**, was a teenager, she and her friends spent many enjoyable Sunday afternoons riding the railroad passenger car from Wood to **Vaughan** and back. The round trip ticket cost a grand total of 25¢.

Farming was the most important occupation of Wood residents for many years. Tobacco was the primary crop, but cotton, corn, wheat and other grains were also grown. Cucumbers and peppers were introduced as money crops later. These two crops were processed and shipped to other areas of the state.

Corn mills and cotton gins were necessary for the farming area and

[WOOD, CONT. ON PAGE 13]



Pictured, from left to right, in front of **Charlie and Lula Wood's** store were (Photo of 1910 approximately); **Battle Wester**, **John Wood** (**Charlie Wood's** Father), **Billy Tucker**, **George Raynor**, **Alex Wester**, **Dolphin Gupton**, **John Lanier**, **Bob Lanier** (seated in front), **Sid Hamlet**, **Lena Hamlet Wester**, **Mr. Pate Gupton**, **Taylor Gupton**. Children seated were **Annie Rue Wood** and **Bertha Hamlet Coley**. People in Buggy were **Kearny Gupton**, **Stephen Lewis**, **David Thomas (Buddie) Gupton**.

[WOOD, CONT. FROM P 12] several were operated at Wood. One corn mill was owned and operated by **J. W. Tucker**. Two others were owned and operated by **Gus Wester** and **J. M. Griffin**.

The first cotton gin was built by a **Mr. Allen** and later this structure became a part of **Annie Radford Gupton's** home. The second gin was built by **Charlie Wood** and later **Dave McKinne** added to this gin. McKinne later sold the gin to **W. D. Fuller**.

An important swine production operation was owned by **William Spruill**. **Laverne Gupton** owned

and operated a cucumber plant and was also a local fertilizer distributor. **Ollie Gupton** owned and operated a dairy on **Wood Baptist Church Road**. **Willie Boone** owned and operated a shoe store on Highway 561 for many years.

Several sawmills were located in or near Wood. **Charlie Wood**, **H. B. Shearin, Sr.**, **Ollie J. Gupton**, **Graham Radford** and **Ennis Gupton** all operated saw mills. Another industry was a government distillery that was operated by **Thomas Buck Gupton** for several years. It was located in front of what is now **Annie Gupton's** home.

In the beginning, Wood had few businesses; however, as time passed, more stores were built. The following men operated stores at Wood: **Charlie Wood**, the **McKinne brothers**, **Bryant King**, **A.S.J. (Sid) Hamlet**, the **Leonard brothers**, **W. D. Fuller**, **Jim Gupton**, **Candler and Crowell**, **G. M. Raynor**, and **John Lanier**. **Stephen Thomas**

Gupton operated a store and barber shop in the house where **Agnes Leonard** lives today on **Wood Baptist Church Road**. The **McKinne brothers** operated a general store,

and later branched out into **Candler-Crowell Ready-To-Wear Shop** that was later established in

Louisburg. The first manager of the **Wood Branch** was **S. R. Maxey**. In 1928 **F. A. Read** bought the store. Other store owners were **Gus Wester**, **H. B. Shearin, Sr.**, **Major Gupton**, **Linwood Gupton**, **Ezra Gupton**, **Billy Tucker**, and **Mamie P. Gupton**. **Ezra**

Gupton operated his store from 1927-1984.

Mamie Gupton was the owner and operator of the last store in Wood. She kept the store open until her death in 2000 at the age of 103. She is sorely missed by all who frequented her store for the good snacks and early stories of Wood and its founding. Aunt **Mamie**, as she was called, didn't live in the past. She was a regular attendee of the **Wood Baptist Church** and was often seen at political speeches and rallies.

Aunt **Mamie** loved to tell of the day they auctioned off the lots in **Wood Township**. The prize that was given that day was a surrey with the fringe on top.

In 1917, **W. D. Fuller** bought **Wood Supply Co.** and began operating it with **Sid Hamlet** as manager. They specialized in seed, fertilizer, and other farm supplies.

Charlie Wood owned and operated the first blacksmith shop. **W. D. Fuller** later took over with **Charlie Denton** as operator. **Charlie Denton**

later became owner. **Elijah Gupton** also ran a blacksmith shop.

Wood also had an undertaking business. **Mr. W. D. Fuller** was undertaker and **J. P. Leonard**, **E. J. Fuller** and **Austin Fuller** worked with him. The first hearse was drawn by a matched pair of horses. Later **Mr. Fuller** bought a motorized hearse.

Wood had a bank named **Wood Bank & Trust Co.**, built in 1918. It later went broke. It was located in the building that was then **F. A. Read's** store. It had the following officers: President, **June J. Lancaster**; Vice-President, **W. D. Fuller**; Cashier, **Ben Sykes**. The clearing house for **Wood's Bank** was in **Richmond, VA**. The money was sent there at certain times and during one of the trips to **Richmond**, the money was stolen in **Henderson, Vance Co., NC**. Later it was found in an inflated automobile tire. During this time the bank was audited and it was found that there was not enough money to take care of its obligations; therefore, the bank closed.

Mrs. Joe Shearin operated a hotel and had quite a few boarders—teachers, railroad workers, lumbermen, etc.

[Wood, Continued in Next Issue]

[Curtis Cont. From P. 10]

5. Don't forget that the propeller is the business end of the motor; treat it with profound respect—especially when it is in motion.
6. Don't develop that destructive disease known as tinkertitis; when the engine is working all right, let it alone.
7. Don't fail to stop your motor instantly upon detecting a knock, a grind, or other noise foreign to perfect operation.

[OX5 Aviation Pioneers]



Lula and Charlie Wood

1918 INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC

By Dr. Margaret Battle

In the fall of 1918, **Rocky Mount** was laboring with the war effort. Food was scarce, workers were hard to get. **Dr. H. L. Large** was health officer for the city and the Red Cross had just been organized here the year before under **William S. Wilkinson**. Suddenly the city was in the midst of an epidemic such as has never been here before or since. It was the Spanish influenza.

Doctors were seeing 100 patients a day. In some houses every member of the family was sick. If you were well, you went next door to help the neighbors. In this strange epidemic, one could walk into a room and make a diagnosis from the peculiar odor of the sick. If the fever was very high (105), it burned out the infection and the patient would usually recover. But if there was almost no fever, the patient usually died in three days.

Mothers-to-be were hardest hit by this influenza. Miscarriage was the rule; following this, the infection spread and the mother died.

Many parents lost two children in one week. Some entire families were wiped out. There are heart-rending memories of finding one woman so sick she did not realize her two children were dead in the same room.

Overflowing Hospitals

The hospitals were overflowing with influenza cases; beds were even set up in the reception rooms. Help was scarce there too; so young boys and old men were serving as orderlies. Wilkinson met all the trains to help take off the sick. Then his newly functioning Red Cross would contact the families.

Absenteeism from work was overwhelming. Many returned to work still weak and debilitated. One would wake up and wonder who had died in the night. Funeral processions seemed to be passing all day long. (**C. M. Battle** remembers seeing 27 caskets lined up at the depot at one time, waiting to be shipped out.) It was the saddest time Rocky Mount has ever experienced. Fright settled over the city, at the very time one had to fight to live.

Dr. Large closed all the schools, churches, and theaters. If a group collected even for prayer meeting, they were threatened with indictment.

At the very onset of the epidemic a fair was going on. Dr. Large begged them to close but it was beyond his jurisdiction. In its ignorance, the management refused to close the fair; it ran its full six days and the carnival people were stricken even harder than the rest of the city and county.

An emergency hospital was organized by Dr. Large in the Methodist Church. It was managed by the Red Cross. Miss **Sally Shumate**, as health nurse, supervised the volunteer nursing.

These workers were wonderful; many were teachers, a few were high school girls. Twelve hour shifts might stretch to 16. Miss **MacDearman**, Mrs. **Embra Morton**, Miss **Annie Hughes Wilkinson** (Mrs. Beam), Miss **Fannie Gorham**, Miss **Adeline Wright**, Mrs. **Rosa Bulluck**, Miss **Claude Bassett**, and Miss **Lucy Shine** were among the volunteers.

Miss **Anne Sorsby** took care of a premature baby whose mother had died there; with not a stitch of clothes

[Influenza Continued on Page 15]



Newly formed Rocky Mount Chapter of American Red Cross operated an emergency hospital during influenza outbreak of 1918. Picture from *Rocky Mount* by Bugs Barringer, Dot Barringer and Lela Chesson.

[Influenza Continued From Page 14]

at hand, she called for help from Mrs. Jim Braswell, who sent her plenty. At the end of a week, Miss Sorsby was down with the flu herself. Later two Red Cross nurses were sent to help from Georgia. Even men volunteered to help with patients in the 'men's ward.'

Doctors brought in the sickest patients from the city, from the carnival, even soldiers from the trains. They would make rounds at the emergency hospital while they were there, regardless of whose regular patient they were seeing.

Patients would often get delirious; one tried to walk down a fire escape; one, looking at lovely Adeline Wright, thought she was an angel and concluded that he was in heaven.

Nursing was not easy in this emergency hospital; five patients died in a single night there.

Mrs. Anne Fenner kept the office in the church, checking in each patient. She was relieved in the afternoons by Miss Louise Wilkinson. Beds were set up in the Sunday School rooms upstairs and down.

The Soup Kitchens

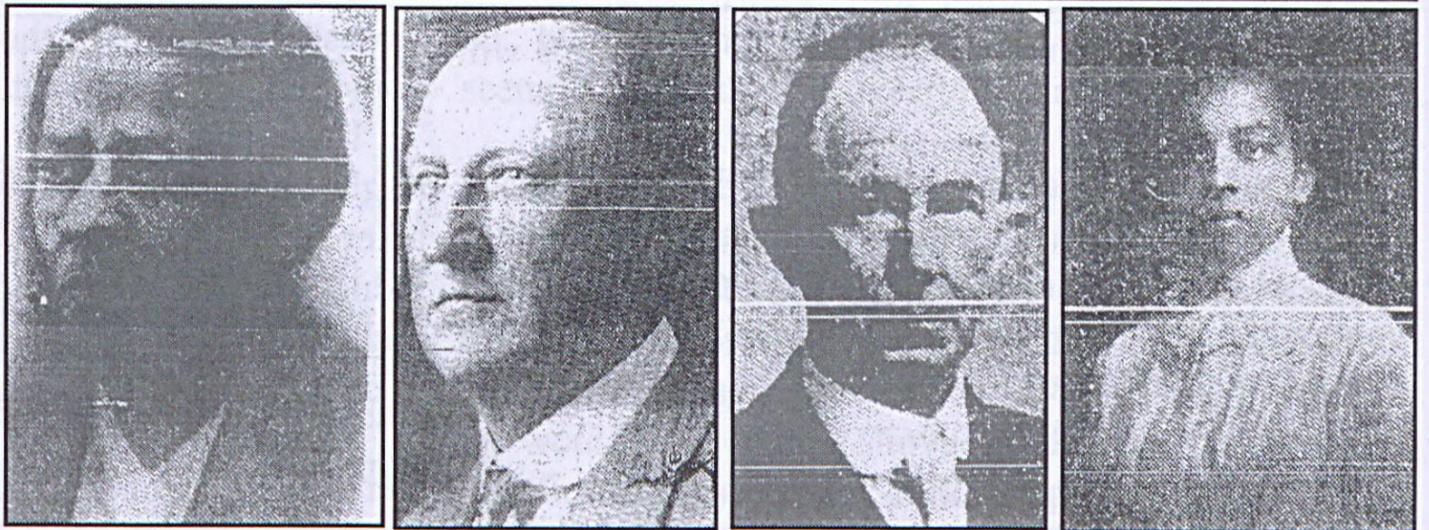
In the basement Miss Effie Vines (later Mrs. E.J. Gordan) supervised the soup kitchen. Cooking was done on a coal stove. Besides soup and grape juice, whiskey was used as a stimulant. (One of the workers looking at a whiskey bottle on a shelf in the minister's study, remarked that this was a strange sight here.) The hotel sent in food, the drug stores sent Coca Colas; but most of the food was sent in by people in the county.

Ministers were doing all they could to assist. One particularly was always there at the church hospital; this was Father Frank Gallagher. He would do anything to help; he rode in all the ambulances and helped get patients into the building, brought Cokes from the drug store for weary workers, and even helped cut up chicken. He had a gift for raising the morale of all about him.

Women and young boys did chauffeuring (Miss Bessie Bunn, Miss Louise Wilkinson and others). They would deliver medicine, as the drug stores could not possibly make so many deliveries. All wore masks wet with Dobell's solution when going into 'flu infected homes. Other women worked at home making soup and sandwiches for the soup kitchens (Miss Lizzie Winstead.)

Another soup kitchen had been organized on Main Street next to the Sagamore Club before the emergency hospital was set up. Miss Ray Levi, Miss Susie Battle, Mrs. Henry Thorpe, Miss Mary Lee Shine, and Mrs. Ella Ramsay all worked in this soup kitchen. Mrs. Daisy MacMillan was stenographer for this.

The colored people never did have an emergency



Susie Baskerville

Dr. Mark Braswell

W.S. Wilkinson

Mrs. G.W. Bryan

hospital, although one of the schools was about to be opened for their sick. But they did have an efficient soup kitchen. This was on Washington Street in what was later Dr. Black's office. It was supervised by Mrs. G. W. Bryan, a registered nurse. Different committees would begin at sunrise.

Mrs. Lizzie Bernard was chairman for the chicken soup. Her group had first to kill and dress the chickens. Mrs. Cara Sessoms and Susie Baskerville made the vegetable soup. Food was donated by Nash and Edgcombe people, by different stores (Howard Miller and Jim Sessoms)—roosters, hens, beef shanks, milk, and eggs. The grocery store below the soup kitchen gave space in its big refrigerator for storage. Besides soup, grape juice, whiskey and cat nip tea were brought to patients. The Police Department would deliver the whiskey to the soup kitchen; Mrs. Sessoms made the hot cat nip tea and put the whiskey into this. It was given to break up fever. She was sent over to one of the other soup kitchens to show them how she made the cat nip tea. She also made red onion syrup (onions and brown sugar) for cough syrup.

Dr. Mark Braswell, Dr. Ivan Battle, Dr. L. P. Armstrong, Dr. G. W. Bryan, Dr. G. W. Bulluck, Dr. P. W. Burnett, Dr. J. A. Fountain, Dr. Hood, Dr. Joe Whitehead and Dr. Wimberly would come to inspect sanitation, and get some hot soup to get strength to carry on. All said it was the best they had ever tasted.

By 11 a.m. the soup would be ready. Mr. Groome said prayers before the workers went among the sick.

[Influenza, Contued on Page 16]

LOCAL AFFAIRS

Seven marriage licenses were issued in **Nash county** during the month of July—four for whites and three for colored.

—tt—
We learn that **J. R. Thigpen**, Esq., contemplates starting a new paper soon, in **Tarboro**, [**Edgecombe Co.**] of which, it is understood, Mr. E. R. Stamps will be editor.

—tt—
On the evening of the 15th inst., whilst at tea, Mr. **B. S. Beal** had stolen from his sleeping apartment on the premises of Mr. **Frank Battle** near **Tarboro**, his valise containing his clothing, money and silver watch. No clue to the thief as yet.

—tt—
[*The Battleboro Advance*, Aug. 18, 1871]

[Influenza, Contued from Page 15]

(Dr. Joe Whitehead said he was "scared as hell" and they might as well say prayers for him too.) Then after much spraying and sprinkling of Dobell's solution, the cars were ready to roll. Soup was taken to homes where so many were sick they could not wait on themselves. It was served by committee members, wearing masks.

Shortly after the onset of the epidemic, Dr. Large and his whole family were sick with the 'flu. So Dr. Mark Braswell came out of retirement to take Dr. Large's place. Dr. Ivan Battle became sick himself and nearly died. (There was someone sick in every room in his house.)

Doctors Overwhelmed

The regular doctors were so overwhelmed with work that the specialists used their regular medical knowledge to assist in caring for the sick. This meant that **Dr. W. W. Looney** and **Dr. E. S. Boice** were making calls all over town. **Dr. Kornegay** closed the

Rocky Mount Sanitorium to all but 'flu and emergency surgery. Doctors were even stopped on the streets with urgent requests to see patients.

Medicines used to combat this infection were cough syrups, whiskey, quinine, aspirin, and phenacetin. In some places these drugs were quickly exhausted. Prescriptions were kept to as small an amount as possible. Druggists were instructed to fill prescriptions with the closest substitute if the supply was exhausted. One home remedy was to eat a raw onion each night.

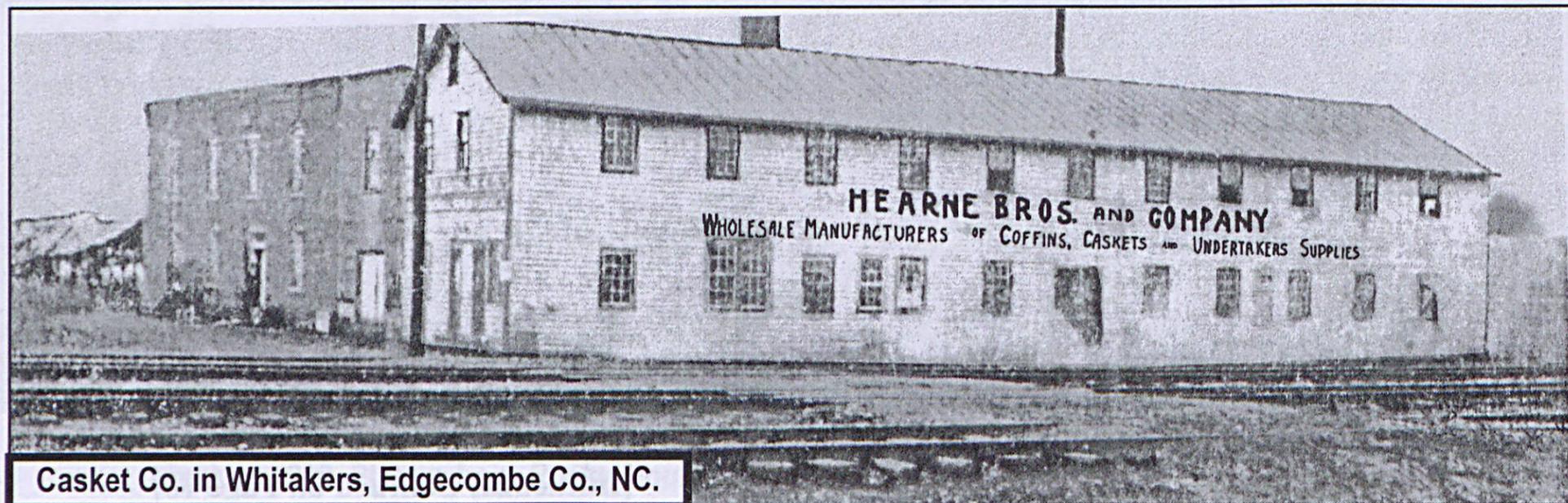
Undertakers had no time to embalm bodies; there might be as many as seven funerals a day. One undertaker filled 18 caskets in a single day. Some sixth sense induced **B. F. Winstead** to order a whole carload of caskets just before the epidemic. For this he was severely criticized, but not for long.

When the supply of caskets was exhausted, some were ordered from **Norfolk**. Some boxes were used and sometimes burial was delayed for several days, waiting for a casket. The Federal State director's office made a special effort to round up carpenters and laborers to work in the **Whitakers [Edgecombe Co., NC]** casket factory. There was even difficulty in getting pall bearers. On one occasion when young **Josh Horne** was to act as a pall bearer, he asked a doctor if there were any precautions to take. The doctor replied that the only thing he knew to kill the infecting organism was alcohol; this advice was promptly taken.

Churches were closed a month; most of the epidemic was over in six weeks. In the month of October alone, Rocky Mount had 75 deaths (58 from Spanish influenza). The population then was under 12,000. thanksgiving and Christmas have never been so neglected.

All those who were in the midst of this disaster can recall what a terrible time it was. But they remember that everybody helped his neighbor. Each helped according to his talents. All were willing to give whatever they had, and all were involved.

[*Rocky Mount Evening Telegram*, 3/17/1968]



Casket Co. in Whitakers, Edgecombe Co., NC.

Life At Oxford Orphanage

Nettie Nichols Bemis arrived at Oxford Orphanage in Oxford, Granville Co., NC, in 1898 as Lady Supervisor. She remained there until 1929. Bemis recalled her experiences in *Life in Oxford*, published in 1937.

The main building of the Oxford Orphanage was four stories with a driveway leading to the entrance through a large grove of oaks. The girls lived in this building and the boys in cottages on the right. The laundry and sewing room were in a building on the north side. Nearby was the superintendent's cottage on the right and hospital on the left, with the dairy and barns some distance away from the superintendent's cottage at right. There were two hundred acres or more of farm and pasture land.

Lack of sufficient water was a great handicap. The town of Oxford had no water supply so Col. Hicks [the Superintendent] decided to have a deep well drilled on the grounds. It was slow work. Day after day the drilling continued. Col. Hicks never lost his sense of humor and one day he tasted a bit of soil and turning to a visitor standing near said, "It's salty, isn't it?"

The young lady took a taste and looking up to him said, "I believe it is."

On the way back to the cottage he said with a twinkle in his eye, "So much for the power of suggestion."

Finally, the water came, a pump was installed and pumping was kept up for twenty-four or more hours and still the water came.

An immense tank located in the tower of the main building was pumped full of water each day and drawn out to all cottages and buildings. A weight hanging outside indicated the quantity of water in the tank, but it did not always function and we either had no water at all or an overflow. The pump could be stopped or started by sending word to the shop, which took time. In the meantime, sometimes water would be pouring over the top of the tank and running down the stairways from the fourth floor to entrance hall through sitting room and book room before we discovered there was trouble.

"Can't you see the indicator as you pass from the office to the pump?" we said to the engineer.

"Yes, but I did not notice," he said.

"Well, please look."

Evidently he did not look, for twice more the girls and I mopped the ice cold water from the floors and placed pans to catch the drip from the ceilings. The last

time was just as the girls were going to church one Sunday morning. Called back to help, we decided that should be the last time. Monday morning I went to the office and said we were not going to mop any more floors because of an overflow. The engineer and his boys could do it.

Did an overflow come? Yes, and Mr. Pump-man came very pompously to perform the task. We handed out buckets and mops and then withdrew from the scene. The tank never overflowed again.

The school rooms had very poor lighting and heating. We had small old style coal stoves that held only about a shovelful of coal. The stoves had to be watched or someone would fill one above the brim and the door would open to spill the live coals. [When that happened] we would have to take shovels and tongs to remove the overflowing coals to the yard and pour water on them.

The mending and repairing of clothing each week took time. Clean clothes sent up from the laundry had to be looked over, repaired and returned to cottages, dining rooms and hospital. A visitor asked, "Why cannot girls do their own mending at the cottages?"

[Oxford, Cont. On Page 18]

Help for the Orphans!

Grand Entertainment at Orphan Asylum.

Thursday Night, June 21st, 1877.

GOV. VANCE TO BE PRESENT.

THE LADIES OF OXFORD WILL REPEAT, AT THE ABOVE PLACE AND TIME for the exclusive benefit of the Orphans, their **VARIED AND ATTRACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT**, together with many new and interesting features, embracing Dazzling Fairy Plays, Pantomimes, Statuary, Tableaux, Vocal and Instrumental Music, &c., &c.

This Entertainment was received with unbounded applause at its late rendition, and the Managers have added much that will increase its beauty and interest.

His Excellency, Gov. Z. B. VANCE,

Has accepted an invitation to be present and is expected to address the audience on that occasion. The veritable MRS. JARLEY will again introduce her

FAR-FAMED WAX-WORKS,

Having lately procured many valuable additions to her wonderful collection. The Programme is one of the richest and most varied in character ever presented to this public abounding in everything calculated to please the eye, delight the ear and instruct the understanding.

ICE CREAM, CAKE and other delicacies will be for sale at the close of the Entertainment.

COME ONE! COME ALL!

Don't forget that GOV. VANCE will be present.

Let everybody come and, while securing for yourselves a fund of amusement, aid in sustaining a great charitable institution.

Remember, Thursday Night, June 21st, 1877!

The Masonic Fraternity of the County commemorate their Anniversary at the Asylum, on the following day—Friday, June 22d.

Admission to Entertainment. 25 Cents

Tickets can be procured at the different Stores in Oxford.

Davis, Blackwell & Co., Job Printers, Durham, N. C.

[Oxford, Cont. From Page 17]

"Children have to be taught to mend," I said. In those early days, the one in charge of a cottage had to attend to the housework, also the bathing and training of thirty-six to forty boys or girls, besides teaching a half day in school and often being called up at night for a sick child. "Tell me, what time had she to see to mending?"

One thing the girls did have to do, however, was to mend their own stockings. But the boys! That was a different matter. One hundred and fifty pairs of hose to be darned each week! As I look back it is unbelievable how we ever did it, but it was done for years in the boys' sewing room, besides making the clothing the boys wore. Imagine the relief when the hose darning and patching machines were installed years later.

One day a visitor on the grounds chanced upon a boy walking on his hands, feet straight up in the air, "Boy, come here, here's a penny for that."

Another boy was soon seen doing the same stunt. "Here, boy, here's a penny for you, too."

Continuing his walk whichever way he turned boys were walking upside down as if it were the easiest and natural thing to do. Soon the visitor made a trip to the office as his supply of coins became exhausted. Several bills were changed for him to the amusement of the treasurer. Upon his departure many boys were a penny richer and the visitor had learned the resourcefulness of the small boy.

The subject of spending the few pennies the children had earned or

that had been given them was of great interest. A penny burned a child's fingers until spent, usually for candy. Colonel Hicks decided we must have candy where children could purchase it. Supplies could be sold for less money than the children were now paying and they could be taught to buy and pay for their own candy.

The place decided upon was a corner in the Lady Supervisor's office in the main building where a large receptacle was placed with a counter and tiny cupboards underneath. Now for a name! What should the place be called?

"Well, it really is a candy corner,

ing to decide what to buy. Brown sugar was a best seller for some time. The institution bought it by the barrel and allowed Candy Corner to have it at a discount. The girls weighed out a nickel's worth and sold it in tiny paper sacks. Stick candy with spirals of pink, red and yellow were attractive to the little ones and were in demand for years. The older girls wanted spools of cotton for crocheting and tatting, so these articles were added to the "Corner."

Earning Spending Money

Pieces of plank, hammers and nails were often missing from the woodshed near rabbit hunting time.

They were used to make a rabbit "gum." Many an Uncle Wiggly out for an adventure was caught. The boys sold some of their rabbits and others were prepared and taken to the kitchen where an obliging matron had them cooked and placed at the boys' plates for dinner. Boys often treated their special girl friend to a dainty dish of stewed rabbit.

In the spring the woods and fields were full of blackberries to be had for the picking. Colonel Hicks and the boys agreed on a price per quart and at dawn each morning they

were out with buckets and cans. At the rising bell, 6 A. M., they returned with quantities of the luscious berries which the matron measured and recorded for each boy.

When the acorns began to fall in the autumn another pay season was on. Acorns were used on the farm for pigs, so when a price per basket full was settled, the campus and groves were alive with boys and girls hard

[Oxford, Cont. On Page 20]



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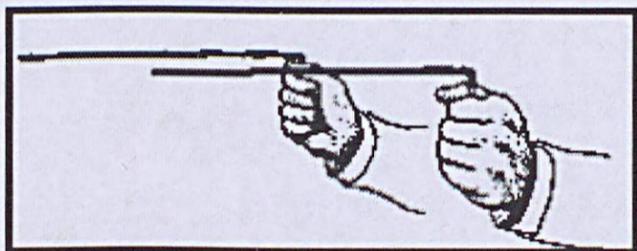
isn't it?" I remarked.

"Yes," said Colonel Hicks, "and that's what it must be, Candy Corner." Candy Corner immediately became popular. Older girls were selected to take charge with instructions not to advertise business or urge sales, but to wait on all customers courteously and help any little ones if necessary.

It was interesting to watch the little ones scanning the shelves try-

Dowsing for Graves

Terry Bryant, TRC member, took my husband and me (Peggy Strickland) on a grave dowsing expedition in a local cemetery. Dowsing is a method of finding something underground and is performed with two bent metal rods. No one seems to know how dowsing works, but one explanation is that the rods detect disturbances of the soil. Another explanation is that they react to magnetic variations. However it works, I have been converted from skeptic to believer.



Dowsing rods, which can be of any length convenient to handle as long as they can easily cross in front of you, are usually made of steel, about one-eighth inch in diameter. Coat hangers which have been straightened or small welding rods work well. The rods are bent about 3-4 inches from one end to make handles that fit into your palms and do not extend below your hand. This allows you to grip the handles lightly without obstructing the movement.

When you are looking for a grave, the rods are held lightly in your hands with your elbows bent and forearms and rods parallel to the ground. The rods are held parallel to each other. The rods **must** be held very lightly without putting the thumbs on top. This allows the rods to move freely.

To detect a grave, walk very slowly toward the suspected spot. If a body is present, the rods will cross in front of you as you move over the

grave. When you step off the grave, the rods will uncross. To become proficient at dowsing, you will need to practice your technique in a graveyard where the graves are marked so you will know whether you are doing it correctly or not.

In most cemeteries, people are buried with their heads to the west and feet to the east. If you are looking for an unmarked cemetery, walk north to south and you will usually cross over the graves. Once you locate a grave, if you walk east/west, you will determine the approximate length of the body. This will give an indication of whether an adult or child is buried in the grave.

Grave dowsers determine the gender of the person by standing over the center of the grave and holding one rod balanced on the index finger with the rod straight down. The rod will begin to move in a circular motion. It will rotate clockwise for a male and counterclockwise for a female.

Bryant has had many interesting experiences dowsing for graves, particularly those of Confederate soldiers. He is a member of the Sons of the Confederacy and the group is responsible for marking the graves of over 200 confederate veterans. However, the most interesting story he told us was about a grave in a Vick family cemetery that was being moved. In one of the graves, there was a picture between two pieces of glass. You could see through the picture unless it was held against something opaque. This type of photography was invented in 1850 and became popular in the 1870s. It was used in a "magic box" and was the forerunner of the slide projector films.

The picture was very dirty. When it was cleaned it showed a woman wearing a necklace made from blown glass beads. Those same beads were found in the bottom of



the casket where they had fallen after the string holding them disintegrated. The pendant she had on was also in the casket.

There was another picture in the grave beside her, but water had gotten in it and messed it up. You could only see enough to tell that it was a man.

After our field trip with Terry, my husband and I visited the cemetery where his ancestors are buried. We wanted to test our dowsing expertise on our own. Sure enough, it worked! Whenever we moved over a grave, the rods crossed and as we moved away, they uncrossed.

If you want to enjoy a few hours outside on a nice fall day, try grave dowsing for yourself.

Query

Can You Help Jim?

"I am at a dead end with my **Jordan Winston** and **Delaney Walker**. She was born 12 Dec 1813 in **Franklin Co.** and married Jordan 12 Dec 1832 in Franklin Co. They moved to **Alabama** and I find them in the census there. I can find nothing on their parents.

Jim Winston
_piper965@aol.com



Photo courtesy Mrs. Tommy Thompson

Students at Oak Ridge School pose in this undated photo. The school was in Nash County about 10 miles northeast of Stanhope. It was torn down within the last 20 years.

"Back Then,"
Rocky Mount
Telegram,
7/24/2005

Braswell Memorial Library Programs

Finding Confederate Ancestors

Saturday *Oct. 25th*, 1-4 p.m.

Presented by
Bethel Heroes Chapter UDC.

An Evening With Matthew Brady

Tuesday, *Nov. 18th*, 7-9 p.m.

Wayne Ritchie portrays famous Civil War-era photographer Matthew Brady in program on Brady's life and work.

Tar River Connections Genealogical Society

PO Box 8764
Rocky Mount, NC 27804

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

—e-mail—
trcgs@braswell-library.org

Annual Dues - \$20.00

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The Connector-Published Quarterly

[Oxford, Cont. From P. 18]

at work. All kinds of containers full of acorns were taken to the dairyman or baker to be measured and names recorded. Payday came at the end of each season and many happy boys and girls could be seen walking to the office for their pay.

Also in the fall, leaves were wanted at the barns and the farmers were too busy to gather them. The farmers delivered sacks to each cottage for all who wanted to gather. When filled, the bags were placed in rows and the cottage mothers counted the filled bags and credited each child with the correct number. Toward the end of the season the farmers took their crowds of boys and swept through the grounds taking all that was left, and "Leaf time" was over.

Trapping was an important sport in winter for the boys. Quite a brisk business was carried on in mink and muskrat skins. Terms of sale were arranged and the boys received good prices.

Black walnut trees were plentiful and as the season of nuts drew near woods were scoured and sacks full of nuts were brought to the cottages. Campus and porch roofs were covered with patches of nuts spread out to dry. When ripe the nuts were

sold, but many were sent to the girls by generous donors.

Catching squirrels was a pastime that called for some ingenuity, but trust a boy to be equal to the task. The trees with squirrel nests were located, but getting them out of the trees was difficult. The method of catching squirrels was to have one boy climb the tree to the nest with a stocking to fasten over the hole. When all was ready, the boy on the ground started drumming and beating the tree trunk and out popped the squirrel to investigate the extra commotion. It went right into the stocking which would be quickly caught by the boy above.

One time a wave of tatting making swept the institution. Every girl old enough to hold a shuttle wanted to learn. Even tiny girls, using only a piece of string, learned to get that special turn which makes a full stitch. Those who had no money borrowed enough to buy a spool of thread, then sold the tatting and got more than enough to buy more cotton to continue in the business. Yards and yards were made and sold.

...

[The entire book, *Life at Oxford* can be found at
[http://www.ncgenweb.us/ncgranville/other/
orphan-1.htm](http://www.ncgenweb.us/ncgranville/other/orphan-1.htm)]