

The Connector

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

Fall 2005

Peggy Strickland & Billie Jo Matthews, Co-Editors

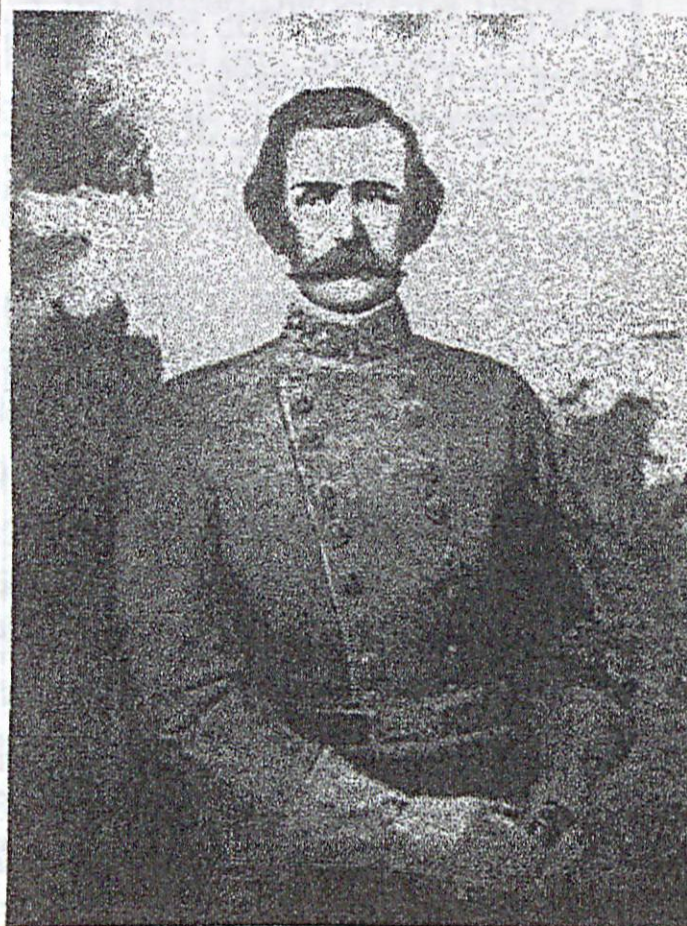
Volume 9 Number 4

William Ruffin Cox Brigadier General CSA

By HILL MATTHEWS

It was April 9, 1865 and the Army of Northern VA was retreating and ready to surrender. One final order was given to the rear brigade to turn about face and fire one last artillery volley upon the Northern enemy. These were the last shots fired by General Lee's army in the War for Southern Independence, and the orders came from North Carolina's own Brig. Gen. William Ruffin Cox.

Four years earlier the first shots



Gen. William Ruffin Cox

of this devastating conflict were fired on U.S. troops at Fort Sumter by South Carolina militia. This prompted newly elected president Abraham Lincoln to send 75,000 troops south to quash the rebellion. Thus began what is known as the Civil War, which was actually a war for Southern Independence, a war fought for states' rights to secede from a voluntary union. A true civil war is a conflict in which two or more factions fight for control of a nation's government, but the southern states just wanted independence from it.

This right to secede was

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Atlantic Coast Line Railroad

Fragments of its History

The Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, as it existed in 1950, was a consolidation of "more than 100 separate small railroads" from Virginia to Florida along the Atlantic coast and from Georgia to Alabama to the west.

The oldest part of that network was the Petersburg Railroad which was constructed to "tap for the benefit of Petersburg, VA, the Roanoke River country of NC..." The Petersburg Railroad, which opened in 1833, ran from Petersburg, VA to Blakely, NC on the north side of the Roanoke River, opposite Weldon, Halifax Co., NC

The next railroad, timewise, that eventually became part of the ACL was the Richmond & Petersburg Railroad which was chartered in 1836 and extended from the south side of the James River at

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WILLIAM R. COX

—...—

Confederate general. His brigade fought in last infantry action at Appomattox. Later Congressman; Secretary U.S. Senate. Home here.

US 64 Alternate at SR1225
(Kingsboro Road) east of Rocky Mount / 1965

Richard Hight

He was born in Hayesville Township [Franklin Co., NC] in the year 1798, 77 years ago. He married in 1821 and he and his wife hand in hand walked together over life's rugged path for 53 years, he had the misfortune to lose his wife last year. She had reached the advanced age of 70. He raised 12 children having lost one. He comes to town often, attends to all his business himself. He is a very kind and strictly honest old gentleman. He too has taken the Courier ever since we took charge of it and pays promptly his subscription.

[Sketch in the Franklin Courier, Dec. 25, 1874. Submitted by Pam Jeans]

QUERY GUIDELINES

1. Members may submit three queries annually to the address or e-mail below.
2. The query should include a time frame and as much pertinent information as you have.
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 a self-addressed, stamped envelope for reply by mail.

Tar River Connections Genealogical Society

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Let's Look Back

BY BETSY HOLDFORD HUDGINS

As far as I am concerned, no research is complete until you have read the obituary if one can be found. Sometimes the obituary gives a timeline into a man's life that tells the reader where to search for Census records and other public records when they are not found in the obvious places. The October 12, 1905 newspaper in Weldon, NC, *The Roanoke News* gives such an obituary.

"DEATH OF J. L. JUDKINS.— Mr. John L. Judkins, one of the best known citizens of Weldon, died Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock, of pneumonia, after an illness of ten days.

Mr. Judkins was in the 71st year of his age, and for the past twenty-eight years he had been a faithful, consistent and earnest member of the **Methodist Episcopal church** and a steward of the church for twenty-five years. He was a native of **Sussex county, Va.**, and came to **Halifax** when quite a young man, where he engaged in business. He moved from Halifax to Weldon. From here he went to **Norfolk [VA]** and later moved back to this place. He did business one year in **Warrenton, [Warren Co., NC]** and later moved to **Birmingham, Ala.** After about one year's residence in Birmingham he moved back to Weldon where he continued in the grocery business up to a few years ago, when he sold out to **R. M. Purnell & Bro.**, and since that time, while Weldon has always been his home, he spent a considerable part of his time with relatives in Virginia.

Those of his relatives who came here to be with him in his last days were Miss **Rosa Judkins**, and Mr. **John Judkins**, of **Richmond, [VA]** and Mr. **J. S. Clary**, of **Sussex, Va.** Messrs. **James N. Finn, William Harris, Frank Finn** and Miss **Lizzie Finn**, of **Petersburg, [VA]** came to attend the funeral. The funeral services took place Monday afternoon from the M. E. church and were conducted by **Rev. H. A. Humble**, who spoke beautifully and feelingly of the life and character of the deceased. The following gentlemen acted as pall bearers: Honorary—**W. T. Whitfield, J. T. Evans, J. L. Pair, Dr. D. B. Zollicoffer, A. L. Stainback** and **H. C. Spiers**. Active — **R. T. Daniel, E. Clark, C. H. Hale, H. L. Grant, S. M. Dickens** and **T. S. Jones**.

The interment was in **Cedarwood cemetery** and a long procession of relatives and friends followed the remains to their final resting place.

Mr. Judkins left a will, bequeathing his property of all kinds to his two living sisters and nephews and nieces of deceased sisters and brothers. The will was admitted to probate in the clerk's office at Halifax Tuesday.

His life, since his conversion in the great meeting held here in 1877 by **Rev. Charles Cook**, has been that of a true Christian and now that the autumn of such a life on earth is over it can truly be said of him, he kept the faith, and that henceforth there is laid up for him a crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous judge shall give."

Besides all the names listed in the obituary, look at all the clues that make Mr. Judkins almost alive. Can't you just see him telling his friends that he is leaving the area and the sadness each move made! By telling about his "conversion", you know that something big must have happened in the area in 1877. The will being mentioned is something that just does not happen

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Readers Choice Local Color



The Women of the American Revolution

In 1848, Elizabeth F. Ellet published a book, *The Women of the American Revolution*. It contained the stories of numerous women who had some part in the great war for independence. The North Carolina women included were: Mary Slocumb, of Wayne Co., who was forced to entertain Col. Tarleton in her home during Cornwallis's march toward Halifax; Elizabeth Steele, who had a hotel in Salisbury, Rowan Co., and who offered comfort to General Greene when he was at a low ebb; Margaret Sharpe Gaston, of New Bern, Craven Co., who watched as her husband, Dr. Alexander Gaston, was shot by the British; Flora M'Donald, a resident of the Cape Fear region, whose husband fought with the British; and Rachel Caldwell, of Guilford Co., who was subject to harassment of the Tories anxious to punish her husband, a Presbyterian minister.

The stories of three Halifax Co. ladies are also included in the book. They are Mrs. Nicholas Long, Mrs. Allen Jones, and Mrs. Willie Jones.

"Colonel Nicholas Long was Commissary general for the forces raised in North Carolina, and superintended the preparation, in workshops erected on his premises, of warlike implements, military equipments, and clothing for the soldiers. His wife was a most efficient co-operator in this business. She possessed great energy and firmness, with mental powers

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A Little More Cider

A LITTLE MORE CIDER TOO.—It happened at a speaking. The ground was thickly dotted with cider carts and melon carts. All appeared to be drawn by the gentleman specimens of the cow tribe; for their proximity to each other seemed to excite their ire, as evinced by angry bellowings. Cider guzzling became epidemic. After a while, instead of one speaker, there were at least forty.

A red haired owner of a fierce little speckled bull shouted, "I'll bet a gallon of cider my bull can butt the horns and hide off any animal on the ground."

"I'll take the bet," cried a hirsute specimen of the piney woods. "Trot out the beast."

The combatants were brought out, held by long ropes in the hands of the respective owners. At each other they plunged, bellowing, pawing and kicking up a fearful dust. They ripped and tore, up and down, round and round, jerked loose from the holders, upset the cider carts, turned over the barrels, and made "confusion worse confounded" generally. But it's an ill wind that blows no one good. Gourds, glasses, shoes and hats were brought into requisition to save the cider. No further interest was taken in the fight, and to this day, no one knows which bull whipped.

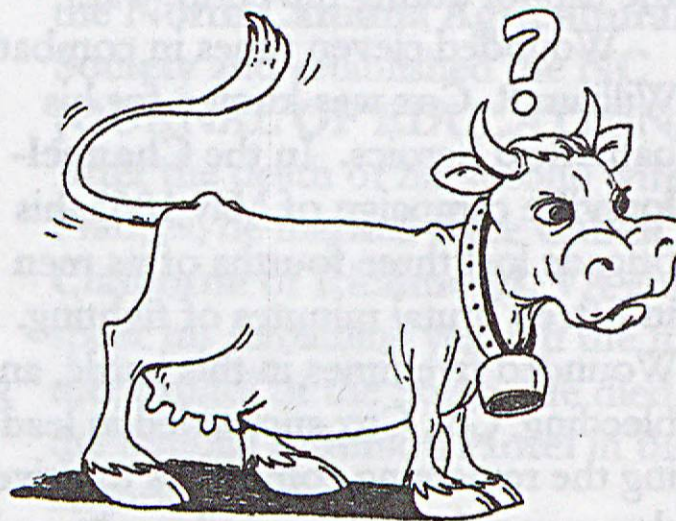
This occurred in a classic township, wherein the SOUTHERNER freely circulates.

As we left, the cider-maudlin patriots were chorusing: "A little more cider, sweet."

[Tarboro Southerner, Aug. 18, 1876]



Beds for Cows?



rheumatism have resulted from cows lying on cement floor. Experience shows that calves are much more comfortable when they lie on boards over the cement floor.

In drying off a cow it is customary not to milk her entirely dry the last few times. But one week after this her udder should be milked thoroughly dry, said a speaker at the Wisconsin farmers' course. If this is not done the small amount of milk left in her udder may cause garget. The farmers were urged to lay a floor of inch boards on top of the cement floorings for cows and calves. Garget, caked udder and

[The Enfield Progress, 8/14/1908]

COX CONT. FROM PAGE 1
 championed in the late 1850's by William Ruffin Cox. A prosperous lawyer, Cox was born in **Halifax Co., NC** on March 11, 1831. He and his mother moved to **Nashville, TN** after the death of his father, and William was educated there. Cox obtained a degree from **Franklin College** and graduated from **Lebanon College** law school in 1853. After practicing law in TN for five years, Cox returned to NC in 1857 and married **Penelope Bradford Battle**, the daughter of **James Smith Battle** of "Cool Spring" in **Edgecombe Co, NC**. The pair settled on land given to them by James Battle. Cox became a successful planter, but two years later set up a law practice in **Raleigh, NC**.

In 1858, Cox met ardent Southern secessionist **Edmund Ruffin** who found William to be "a very intelligent and agreeable talker, whom I regret I did not know earlier. He is a distant relative of mine and a strong disunionist." Cox indeed was very active in encouraging the Southern states to secede, and began an active political career. In 1859 he was nominated for a seat in the North Carolina legislature on the Democratic ticket, but was defeated by just thirteen votes.

Cox, A Rebel

William Ruffin Cox, the quintessential southern gentleman, politician and planter, may have also been the quintessential rebel. He studied military tactics extensively and even equipped a light artillery battery with his own expenses. When war broke out he organized an infantry company and was appointed major in the **Second NC Infantry Regiment**.

Cox served most of the war in the distinguished Army of Northern Virginia. He eventually took command of his regiment as a Lt. Colonel, and in 1863 was promoted to Colonel. In

June, 1864, he was promoted to Brigadier General and soon after joined **Gen. Jubal Early** on a raid to capture the Union capital of **Washington D.C.** The southern forces got as close as **Silver Spring(s), MD** before being repelled by the far more



Penelope Battle Cox
 Broach on her collar is said to be made of
 Roanoke River, NC pearls.
 Portrait hangs in Blount-Bridgers House in
 Tarboro, NC.

numerous Union forces. This was the closest any Southern troops came to the capitol during the entire war.

Wounded eleven times in combat, William R. Cox was known for his battlefield heroics. In the **Chancellorsville** campaign of May 1863, his brigade lost three fourths of its men in fifteen brutal minutes of fighting. Wounded five times in this battle, and bleeding, Col. Cox succeeded in leading the remaining companies to drive the enemy from their earthworks and silenced their guns. Because of the injuries, Cox was absent from **Gettysburg**, but regarding his performance at Chancellorsville his brigade's commander, **Gen. Steven Dodson Ram-**

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sur had these comments. "...the manly and chivalrous Cox of the Second North Carolina, the accomplished gentleman, splendid soldier and warm friend, who, though wounded five times, remained with his regiment until exhausted. I regret his absence from the field, where he loves to be."

In 1864 Cox rejoined his regiment and took part in the battles of the **Wilderness** and **Spotsylvania**. His promotion to brigadier general came after Spotsylvania, and his old regiment remained in his brigade and became known as Cox's Brigade. The brigade consisted of the First, Second, Third, Fourth and Thirteenth regiments. After taking part in General Early's unsuccessful raid on Washington D.C., and the **Shenandoah Campaign** in the fall of 1864, Cox's brigade returned to the battle scarred and heroic Army of Northern Virginia near **Petersburg, VA**.

The brigade earned more distinction after taking part in **Gordon's Corp's** attempt to break the enemy's line at **Fort Stedman**. The raid was unsuccessful and the routed Southern troops began retreating to the west. **Gen. Robert E. Lee** was having problems organizing a line of his retreating soldiers when he became elated at the appearance of a small but orderly brigade marching with pride and precision. Lee asked an aide what troops those were and the reply was "Cox's North Carolina Brigade." As later recounted by N.C.'s **Gov. Zebulon Vance**, General Lee took off his hat, bowed his head and said, "God bless gallant old North Carolina."

Cox again led the brigade in the last charge at **Appomattox**. He had ordered his men to cover the retreat when he was recalled to the rear. It was then that General Cox gave that

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final command to turn about face and fire, and his troops responded with the steadiness of veterans and poured such an unexpected and deadly volley into the overwhelming Union forces that they temporarily abandoned their attempt to capture the Southern command. The Southern army was crushed however, and soon General Lee was at Appomattox Courthouse surrendering the cause.

Cox's Brigade's last volley were the last shots fired before surrender, but word traveled slow in those days and some skirmishes persisted for a time, some involving those stubborn tarheel soldiers. On April 26, 1865, two weeks after General Lee's surrender, **Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's** troops surrendered on a farm near **Durham**. The last skirmish in the state was fought by **NC Cherokees** on May 6, at **White Sulfur Springs**. The Cherokees finally surrendered in **Waynesville** on May 9, 1865 and that was it, the war was over.

One can only speculate the horrors and glory General Cox experienced in the war between the states. He left in unfortunate defeat but with valiant heroics, and one thing is for sure. William Ruffin Cox entered the war a gentleman, and he emerged one as well.

Civilian Life

Returning to his law practice in Raleigh, Cox also became president of the **Chatam Railroad**. He soon resumed his political career, joining other secessionists in organizing a faction opposed to the "Radical Republicans" who controlled political power in the postwar south. In 1868 William was elected solicitor of the Raleigh district. In 1874 he was selected chairman of the state Democratic committee and led the party back to political dominance in North Carolina. Two years later, with Democrats controlling most state of-

fices, Cox was appointed circuit judge of the Sixth Judicial District.

William's wife Penelope died in 1880, but he soon was remarried to **Frances "Fannie" Lyman**, daughter of **Rev. Theodore Lyman**. That same year Cox won a seat in the U. S. **House of Representatives** representing **N.C.'s Fourth District**. He was re-elected in 1882 and '84 but failed to win his party's nomination in 1886, possibly because of actions he took while serving as chair of the **House Committee on Civil Service Reform**. Cox had championed the idea that civil servants should be hired and promoted according to their merit, an idea his party's leaders apparently were not ready to embrace.

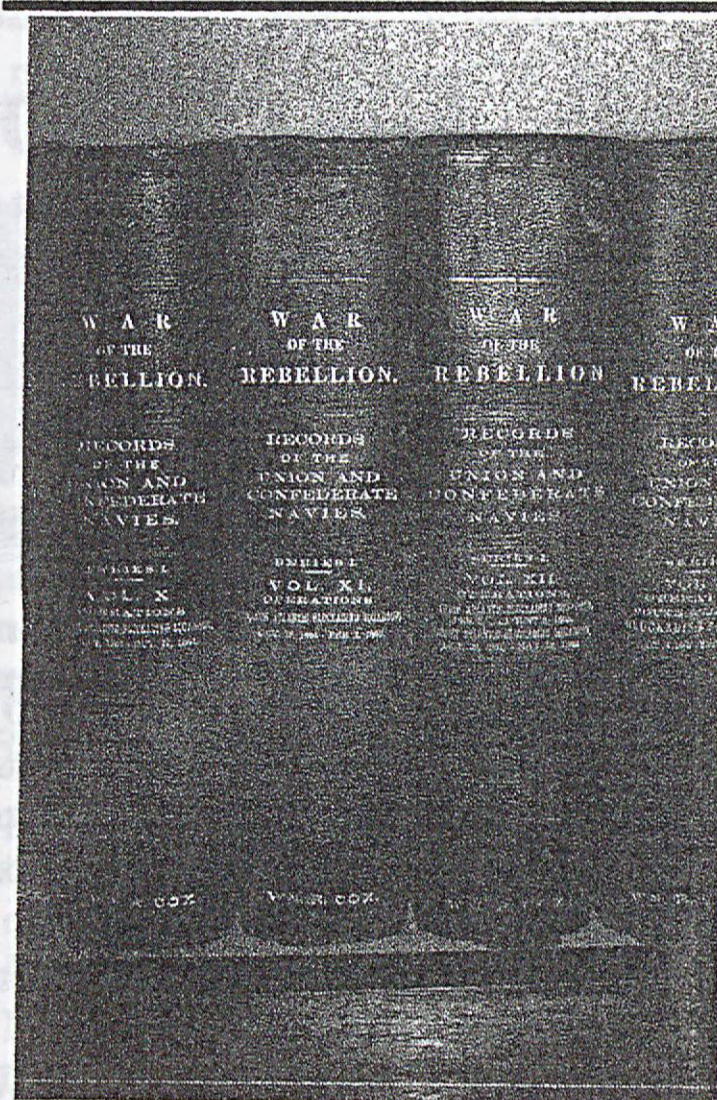
Senate Secretary

The meritorious Cox was offered a position in the **Interior Department** by president **Grover Cleveland**, but declined the offer. In 1893, while confirming cabinet nominees for Cleveland's second administration, the new Democratic majority in the senate selected William Ruffin Cox as Secretary of that prestigious body. He held the position for seven years, then returned to his plantation "**Penelo**" in Edgecombe County.

Cox lived for almost twenty more years after leaving Washington. During this time he served as president of the **North Carolina Agricultural Society** and established the **NC JOURNAL OF EDUCATION**. After the death of his second wife Frances, he married **Kate Cabell Claiborne of Richmond, VA** and spent his remaining years in the former capitol of the South. He died in the famous **Jefferson Hotel** in that historic city.

William Cox had six children, four by his first wife Penelope Battle Cox. They were **Olivia Norfleet, James Battle, William Ruffin** and **Pierre Bayard Cox**. His second wife Frances bore him two children, **Fran-**

cis and **Albert Cox**. Before his death on December 26, 1919, he earned a final distinction as one of the last surviving Generals of the noble **Confederate Army**. Today a monument commemorating William Ruffin Cox stands proudly in **Oakwood Ceme-**



Books, *War of the Rebellion*, from the personal library of General Cox. On display at Blount-Bridgers House, Tarboro, NC

tery, Raleigh, NC. The monument has four sides with writing about his life and accomplishments and resembles a small Washington Monument. Side two of Cox's monument reads as follows. "The first shot at Fort Sumter found him ready. His troops organized and from that hour to the day when his soldiers acting under his orders fired the final volley at Appomattox he was in active service."

One of the explanations for the origin of the term **Tarheel** is that soldiers from NC had sticking power in the war between the states, that we did not back down and were often the last to retreat. While our pine tar

Cont. on Page 6

OLD SOLDIERS ATE UP 900 FINE VIRGINIA HAMS

Beautifully Printed Report of Confederate
Reunion Here Last Year Recalls Some
Happy Days in Richmond



One of the prettiest and most tasteful pamphlets that have appeared here in many a day has just come from the presses of **Clyde W. Saunders**, and contained the report of **Colonel John**

W. Gordon, general chairman of the Confederate reunion, which ended in Richmond just one year ago today with the unveiling of the **Jefferson Davis** monument.

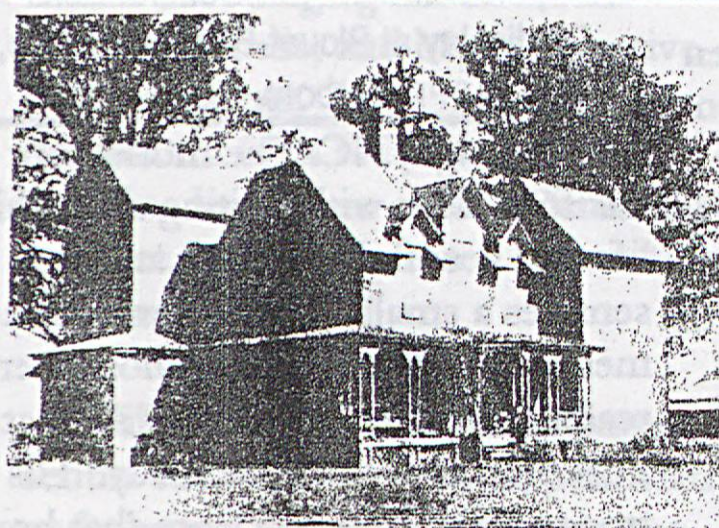
The booklet is illustrated with exquisite half tone pictures—the product of the Metropolitan Engraving Company, of this city—and contains many striking photographs showing the splendid military pageants that marked the reunion and the beautiful monuments which adorn the former Confederate capital. ...

Coming generations will enjoy this paragraph from Col. Gordon's comments on the veterans' camp established on **West Broad Street**, opposite the Home for Incurables. He says: "There were seats at tables in the mess hall for 1,000 men at a time. 79,330 good, square meals were furnished at which were consumed 4,754 gallons of coffee, 2275 loaves of bread, 11,340 pounds of fresh and corned beef, 900 Virginia hams, 1,095 dozen eggs, 127 boxes of cheese, 150 boxes of sardines, 1,500 pounds of Hamburg steak, 1,500 pounds of butter, 4,800 pies and 15,000 cigars, besides potatoes, cabbage, peas, etc."

[Source; ?? Journal, June 3, 1908. Contributed by Bill Bass to TRC member, Hiram Perkinson.]

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production may be a stronger factor in our being named Tarheels, heroic characters like William Ruffin Cox prove the former theory to be no fluke. Ask me who gave the order to fire the last shots of the civil war. I'll tell you it was Brigadier General William Ruffin Cox.



Cox's home, *Penelo*, Edgecombe Co.,
later demolished.

[Sources: *Cox Portrait Presentation to NC*, Address by Hon. Frank S. Spruill of Rocky Mount, NC, 1921; *News & Observer*, Raleigh, NC, Feb 28, 1921; *Biographical History of NC*, Vol I, Ashe; *Sunday Telegram*, Rocky Mount, NC, Nov 16, 1958; *Smiths of Scotland Neck*, C. T. Smith, Jr, 1976; *Generals at Rest* by Owen & Owen, 1997; *Senate Statistics*, U.S. Senate web site, Secretaries of the Senate, William Ruffin Cox (1893-1900); *The Politically Incorrect Guide to American History*, Thomas E. Woods, Jr., Ph.D., "The War Between the States," pages 61-75; *History of Edgecombe Co, NC*, Turner & Bridgers, 1920. Picture of *Penelo* by L. Gulley, submitted by Gene Viverette, TRC member. Pictures in Blount-Bridgers House submitted by Hiram Perkinson, TRC member.]

BACK, CONT. FROM PAGE 2

100 years later. Apparently, Mr. Judkins was not an only child (some siblings predeceasing him) and I would guess he did not marry and have children. No mention was ever made of a wife or children at any time. Also, in Weldon the Methodist Church is at least seven blocks to where Mr. Judkins was buried so most of the people would have walked in the procession to the graveside. Just imagine how few would attend the graveside if

they had to walk today.

Even if you found the name on the census records, I think it would be hard to decide if it was the same person. His obituary gives you many clues about how and where he lived his life and that would make your search much easier.

I visited his grave and he is buried in Cedarwood Cemetery in Weldon. His tombstone gives his date of birth as June 2, 1835 and his date of death as October 8, 1905. His tombstone is inscribed:

Although he sleeps, his memory doth live,
And cheering comfort to his
mourners give.

He followed virtue as his truest guide,
Lived as a Christian - as a
Christian died.

His grave is not really close to other tombstones—almost alone. But please remember that without the tombstone, Mr. Judkins would probably be a forgotten piece of **Halifax County** history. Are there any graves in your family that need to be marked? Why not get members of your family to start a fund and each year mark at least one of those graves? Your family graves should not be lost to time, either.

ACL, CONT. FROM PAGE 1
Richmond to the north side of the **Appomattox River** at Petersburg. There was no physical connection to the *Petersburg Railroad*. Passengers and freight transferred from one to the other by way of ferries across the Roanoke River.

The charter of the *Richmond & Petersburg Railroad* provided that "for passengers, a charge of 8¢ per mile could be made, except where the passenger was carried 10 miles or less, when an extra charge of 50¢ could be made, to pay for 'stopping and starting' the train. The rate, or charge, for freight could not exceed 10¢ per hundred pounds per mile of haul."

The parent of the ACL was the **Wilmington & Weldon Railroad**, which was chartered in 1834 as the **Wilmington & Raleigh RR**. Constructed from **Wilmington, NC** to **Weldon** to connect with the VA railroads, it was completed in 1840, and, with 161 miles of track, was the longest continuous railroad line in the world! [See "Wilmington and Weldon Feast," *The Connector*, Winter 2001]

By 1950, the ACL had absorbed small railroads like the *Wilmington & Manchester*, the *Manchester & Augusta*, the *Charleston & Savannah*, the *Brunswick & Western* and the *Atlantic & Gulf Railway*. However, in the early days, there remained gaps in the physical connections of the various pieces. The Roanoke River had been bridged to connect the *Petersburg RR* and the *Wilmington & Weldon RR*, but it was only after the **Civil War** that other rivers were bridged. In 1866, a steel bridge was built across the **Cape Fear River** at Wilmington. Connec-

tions were made between the *Richmond, Fredericksburg, & Potomac* and the *Richmond Petersburg* railroads at Richmond and between the *Richmond & Petersburg Railroad* and the *Petersburg Railroad* at Petersburg, VA. These connections made possible the continuous transfer of passengers and freight from **New York** to points

trip made by the 5-foot gauge equipment. The roadway change was accomplished by moving one rail inward and regauging, there being sufficient forces to accomplish this work in a single day.

"Simultaneously, mechanical forces *rewheeled* much of the equipment during that day, so that the train picking up the roadway forces at the close of the day's work used *standard* gauge track and equipment. The entire change to standard gauge was accomplished without accident or interruption to service."

Fayetteville Cut-Off

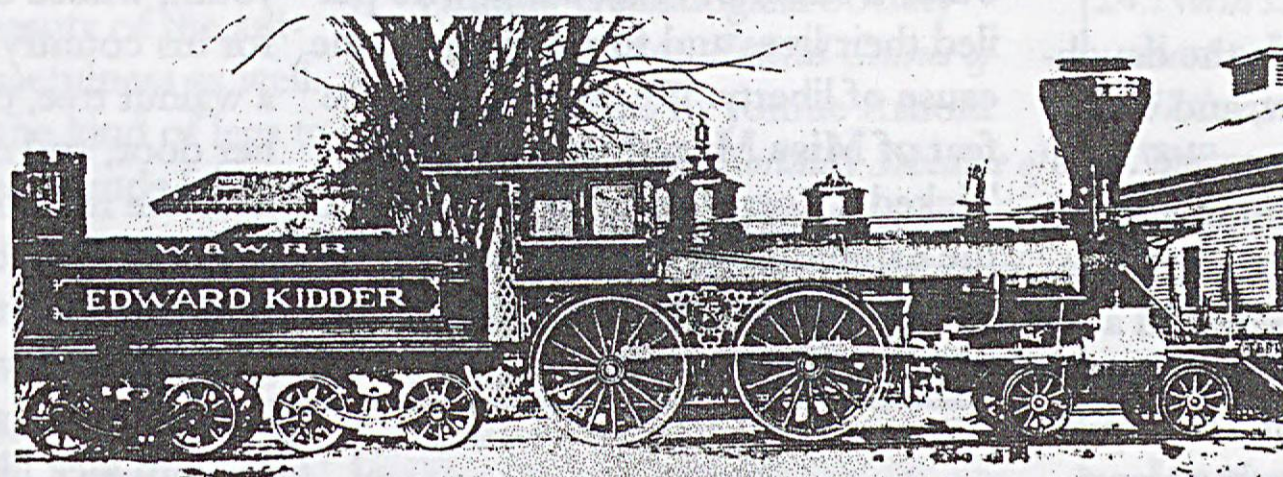
On Jan. 1, 1893, the north-south distance and running time between

points was materially shortened when the "**Fayetteville cut-off**" was opened between **Contentnea** in **Green Co., NC** through **Fayetteville, NC** to the **Pee Dee River** in **SC**. This short line was built by the *Wilmington & Weldon* and later became an important piece of the *Atlantic Coast Line's* double track main line.

Railroad Employees

Braswell Memorial Library is collecting the names of people who worked for the *Atlantic Coast Line Railroad* in the **Tar River** area. If you know of someone who should be included, please pass the information along. Come by the library, or send the information to: **Traci Thompson, Braswell Memorial Library, 727 N. Grace St., Rocky Mount, NC 27804**. Her e-mail is: tthompson@braswell-library.org

[Source: *Atlantic Coast Line: Fragments of its History During Over a Century* by Champion McD. Davis (from a speech to the **Newcomen Society in North America** in 1950). Mr. Davis began working as a messenger on the *Wilmington & Weldon RR* in 1893 and became President of the *Atlantic Coast Line RR* in 1942.]



Wilmington & Weldon RR No. 33, built in 1866. Engine became ACL No. 95 and later, ACL No. 401. [Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, by R. E. Prince]

throughout the south. The first use of the name *Atlantic Coast Line* as a trademark was about 1871.

Closing the Gap

Prior to 1886, the tracks of the southern part of the system were five feet apart, while those north of Wilmington had been built on what was known as standard gauge or rails that were 4' 8½" apart. That 3½" might as well have been 3 feet. "On traffic moving in through-cars via the Wilmington gateway, it was necessary to change trucks under freight cars, at **Union Depot** in **Wilmington, NC**."

The problem was to be solved by changing the rails south of Wilmington to standard gauge—no small task. But what was especially amazing was that it was accomplished in a single day!

Everybody who worked for the railroads involved took part. Explicit and detailed instructions were devised and distributed to all those taking part in the conversion. "Each roadway force or group was assigned to a particular segment, defined by mile posts. Those forces were detrained at their assigned locations on the last

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of no common order. ...

"Mrs. Allen Jones was a **Miss Edwards**, the sister of **Isaac Edwards**, the English secretary of **Governor Tryon**. She had the reputation of being the most accomplished woman of her day, and was remarkable for the elegance and taste shown in all her domestic arrangements. ...

"Mrs. Willie Jones was the daughter of **Colonel Montfort**, and was married at a very early age. She ... is said to have been eminent in every quality that constitutes excellence in female character. She possessed a remarkable faculty of gaining influence by the affections. One of her acquaintances says: 'She is the only person with whom it has been my fortune to be acquainted, who was loved—devotedly, enthusiastically loved—by every human being who knew her.' ... [See "British Troops at Halifax," The Connector, Summer 2000]

Book Review

The *United States Magazine and Democratic Review*, July 1848, contained a review of *Women in the American Revolution*. It began: "Mrs. Ellet should have called her new book 'Small talk about the Revolution.' It is rather a series of sketches concerning events in general, and some ladies who lived during that period, ... We had expected to read ... more of the heroic matrons who tended the wounded, or took down the rifle from the wall to arm a son or a husband for the battle. We had hoped to gain such an insight of the mysteries of humble life at that important period, as would bear out Mrs. Ellet's somewhat ambitious announcement that 'Patriotic mothers nursed the infancy of freedom.' ...

"Yet, a glance at the real difficulties of the undertaking, will more than exculpate Mrs. Ellet from the sin of omission on this score. When we consider the lapse of years, the defect

of chronicles, and the few opportunities which the actresses in that drama enjoyed or improved to speak for themselves, we should rather wonder at the persevering industry which enabled Mrs. Ellet to collect so much useful information. ...

"We read with keen interest the adventures of **Hannah Israel** and other women of that stamp, who periled their lives and fortunes to aid the cause of liberty. We are proud of the feat of **Miss Mary Jackson**, who 'kicked a Tory down the steps;' and of the exploit of the two heroines of **South Carolina**, who attacked three British officers on the road, disarmed



Elizabeth Ellet

them and took their dispatches. ...

"...Mary Slocumb, anxious for her husband's fate, repairs to the battlefield, and stops on her way to dress the wounds of some bleeding patriots. **Richard Caswell** comes up and she enquires; 'Where is my husband?'

"'Where he ought to be, madam; in pursuit of the enemy. But pray, how came you here?'

"'Oh, I thought you would need nurses as well as soldiers. See! I have already dressed many of these good fellows, and here is one... would

have died before any of you men could have helped them.'

"Just then I looked up, and my husband, as bloody as a butcher and as muddy as a ditcher, stood before us. ...

"Who can read unmoved, how **Mrs. Richardson** pleaded and begged in vain, for the life of a poor youth, whose only crime was fighting for his country. 'They hanged him on a walnut tree, only a few paces from her door, and compelled her to witness the revolting spectacle! When she complained with tears of anguish of this cruelty to herself, they jeeringly told her they would soon have her husband also, and then she should see him kick like that fellow. ...'

Elizabeth Ellet

Elizabeth Lummis Ellet, author of *Women in the American Revolution*, was born in **Wayne Co., NY** in 1818. Her first publication was a poem in the *American Ladies' Magazine* when she was just 15 years old. She married **Dr. William H. Ellet** in 1835 and they moved to **Charleston, SC**. They later returned to NY.

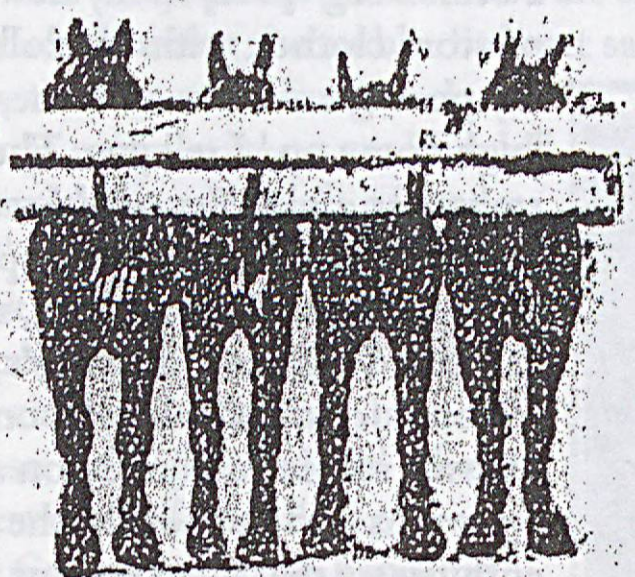
Ellet became a member of **New York City** literary circles. While on a visit to the city in 1845-46, she became involved in a notorious scandal. According to one version of the events, she met **Edgar Allen Poe**, then at the height of his fame after publishing "The Raven." The two spent time together discussing poetry and she sent him letters, possibly romantic ones. After visiting Poe, Ellet claimed to have seen a letter from **Frances S. Osgood**. She told Osgood she should ask Poe to return her letters, implying that she had been indiscreet for a married woman.

"As a gesture of insult, Poe instead returned to Ellet her own letters. Ellet responded by sending her brother to collect the very same letters Poe had already given her. When

LOCAL, CONT. ON PAGE 9

Points in Horse Buying.

The feet and legs of the horse are all important, but many farmers do not understand this, or else are indifferent to the fact that they not only add to or mar the beauty of the animal, but affect his usefulness as well. The picture shows the kind of legs to avoid. The first horse stands fairly



well on his legs; the knees and toes are square to the front, and about the same distance apart at the arms and ankles. The second horse will strike the hind shoes against the front in trotting. The third horse's feet are much too wide apart and denote a bad stumbler. The fourth horse will interfere at the ankles because the toes are turned out.—*Home and Farm*.

[*The Enfield Progress*, 8/14/1908]

Braswell Memorial Library

Local History Collection Acquisitions

BY TRACI THOMPSON

1. *Lasting Gift of Heritage: A History of the North Carolina Society for the Preservation of Antiquities, 1939-1974* by David Brook

2. *Sketches in NC, USA, 1872 to 1878: Vineyard Scenes* [History of Medoc Vineyard in Halifax County, NC] by Mortimer Heath
3. *The Historic Architecture of Pitt County, NC* by Scott Power
4. *Silversmiths of North Carolina, 1696-1860* by George Cutten
5. *Virginia Land Office Inventory* by The Virginia Genealogical Society
6. *Index to the 1860 Federal Census of South Carolina* by Jonnie Arnold
7. *Index to the 1860 Mortality Schedule of South Carolina* by Jonnie Arnold
8. *Marylanders to Carolina: Migration of Marylanders to North and South Carolina prior to 1800* by Henry C. Peden
9. *More Marylanders to Carolina* by Henry C. Peden
10. *Bible Records Book: Collected in Cumberland County, NC* by Cumberland County Genealogical Society
11. *Abstracts of Deeds of Cumberland County, NC* by William C. Fields
12. *Cumberland County Cemetery Survey* by CCGS
13. *Martin County Heritage* by The Martin County Historical Society
14. *Martin County, NC 1800 Census* by Barbara Revels
15. *Martin County, NC 1810 Census* by Barbara Revels
16. *Marriage and Death Notices from the Hillsborough Recorder: Hillsborough, Orange County, NC* by Barry Munson
17. *The News Dispatch: Clinton, Sampson County, NC Obituaries* by Barry Munson
18. *Chronicles of Pitt County, NC Volume II* by The Pitt County Historical Society
19. *Obituaries: North Carolina Civil War Soldiers and Veterans* by Barry Munson
20. *Hard Times: The Beginnings of the Great Depression in North Carolina, 1929-1933* by John Bell
21. *North Carolina and the War of 1812* by Sarah Lemmon
22. *The Prehistory of North Carolina: An Archaeological Symposium* by David Phelps
23. *Family History of the Joseph Taylor, Jr. and Sarah Best Family of Tyrrell/Martin/Edgecombe Counties, NC* by Shari Humphreys Franke
24. *North Carolina Troops: 1861-1865, A Roster, Volume 15 (62nd, 64th, 66th, 67th, and 68th Regiments)* by Weymouth Jordan
25. *The Whitehurst Family of Princess Anne County, VA and Pitt County, NC* by Dianne Collins

LOCAL, CONT. FROM PAGE 8

Poe could not comply with the brother's request, the brother threatened him, and Poe went off to borrow a pistol to defend himself.

"While Poe never obtained a weapon, tongues wagged and most of literary New York sided with Ellet, and Poe, prone to nervous instability, claimed to have been suffering from temporary insanity. Ostracized from the salons at which Ellet was prominent, Poe soon moved out of Manhattan to the suburb of Fordham. Osgood's husband threatened Ellet with a libel suit, and Ellet made apologies to Osgood and quieted her remarks."

Throughout her life, Mrs. Ellet was a prolific writer of both articles and books on a number of subjects. She died in 1877.

[Sources: <http://digital.lib.msu.edu>;
<http://cdl.library.cornell.edu>;
<http://www.americanrevolution.org>]

TIDBIT

Old copies of newspapers were called back numbers long before the invention of bustles.

[*Franklin Courier*, October 24, 1873]

Black Jockey/Trainer

One of the Best

Charles Stewart was a well-known jockey in the early 1800s. He rode for **William Ransom Johnson**—not just the nags, but some of the best! Stewart was a slave until he was freed by the **Civil War**. In 1884, **Annie Porter**, a neighbor, asked him to tell her all he could remember of his past. The oral history, "My Life as a Slave," was published in *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* later that year. The following is taken from that story.

Stewart's first memories were of **Pocahontas, VA**, an island in the **Appomattox River** across from **Petersburg**. His mother, **Sally**, belonged to **Col. Enoch Vaughn**, but his father, also **Charles Stewart**, was free and a sea-faring man. Young Charles lived part-time with his father, part-time with his father's sister, **Mary Stevens**, and part-time with his mother on **Col Vaughn's** place. When he was with his mother, he heard the white "gen'lemen" talk about the **Revolution**. When he was with his father, he heard wonderful stories of the sea and exciting whaling voyages.

When **Enoch Vaughn** died his daughter **Lizzie Vaughn Pace**, inherited **Charles Stewart**. It was an opportunity for Charles' father to try to buy him, as other fathers had done, but **Lizzie** turned him down. However, a little later, hard times hit the **Vaughns** and young Charles was sold to the well-known **William R. Johnston, Napoleon of the Turf**, when he was about 12 years old. Charles didn't know it then, but it was the opportunity of a lifetime for him. [See "Napoleon of the Turf," *The Connector*, Summer 2005]

Jockey in the Making

Johnson welcomed a light-weight to help at his **New Market** stables where he would work under trainer **Arthur Taylor**. When **Johnson** asked **Stewart** if he knew a horse when he saw one, **Stewart** replied, "Yes, sir. I knows a horse from a mule just as far as I can see them both walk."

Stewart's first job was rubbing down horses. He described the stables under the command of **Arthur Taylor**, "Though he only had eight horses in trainin' at that time,

there was a big force of boys an' men at work on them, two boys to each horse,"

Young **Stewart** had a way with horses from the beginning. He described the experience this way, "How I did love them horses! It appeared like they loved me too, an' when they turned their rainbow necks, all slick an' shining, around searching for me to come an' give them their gallops, whew-e-e! How we did spin along that old **New Market** course, right after sunrise in the cool summer mornings!"

Charles Stewart was soon sent to **Warrenton, North Carolina** to ride for **Peter Davis**. He described the trip.

"That was the first journey [I] ever took. I went all alone, an' when I got up on the stage at **Petersburg [VA]** in my new suit of store clothes, with ten dollars in my pocket an' more to come, I was 'high come up,' I tell you. The stage was a high flyer, an' I was sorry enough when she stopped at **Warrenton**, where I got out, right at **Mars' William Faulkner's**, **Colonel Johnson's** sister's son." **Stewart** stayed in **Warrenton** about 6 months and he recalled the race enthusiasts that lived nearby: **Major Dancy**, **Bob Ransom**, **Judge Jones**, and **Marmaduke, Heyward and John Johnson**.

After that, **Charles Stewart** was a regular jockey on **William Johnston's** horses, traveling with him from place to place, wherever there was a race going on. He remembered the famous race in 1823 between *Sir Henry* and *American Eclipse*. "Me an' marster an' all of us was there. ... What a crowd an' noise an' screechin' an' hollering When the third heat come round, **Arthur Taylor** rode *Sir Henry*, " Of course, *Henry* lost to *Eclipse*. **Stewart** also rode in another race at that same time: "... for **John C. Stevens** on his *Young Sir Archy*, an' lost it by just eighteen inches; but I made my three hundred dollars an' the finest suit of clothes you ever see. I tell you, I walked around like a old gobbler with a red flannel tail tied on to his hind-leg when we got back home again."

Promoted to Trainer

Stewart was about 20—**Van Buren** was president—when **Johnson** promoted him to trainer. He sent him to a nearby stable and put him in charge. **Stewart** was very successful at his new assignment, working with horses that came to be well known in racing circles.



In his new position, Stewart had plenty of money and a fine cabin. He felt it was time for him to find a wife. He chose **Betsey Dandridge** who belonged to **Maj. Puckett**. When Stewart approached Puckett in **Richmond, VA**, offering to buy Betsey, Puckett replied, "Why, Charley, you can have her just as she stands for three hundred and fifty dollars."

Stewart describes his reaction: "I tell you I was pleased. Before a mule could kick, I jumped round to Mr. **Jefferson Ball's** office. ... He was the money agent for Colonel Johnson, an' that's how come he was my agent too." Stewart could easily afford to purchase Betsey. He was making plenty of money and Johnson was giving him clothes.

The couple married and Stewart carried her to his house adjoining the stable. Stewart said, "... you never saw the like of all the grand things as was give to us. I hauled home three cart-loads of weddin' presents. ... Lord when I look back to them days an' think about all the money, an' dogs, an' chickens, an' ducks, an' geese, an' pigs I had, an' whole chests full of fine clothes, ... an' the Colonel ready to hand me out a hundred dollars every time I asked for it,"

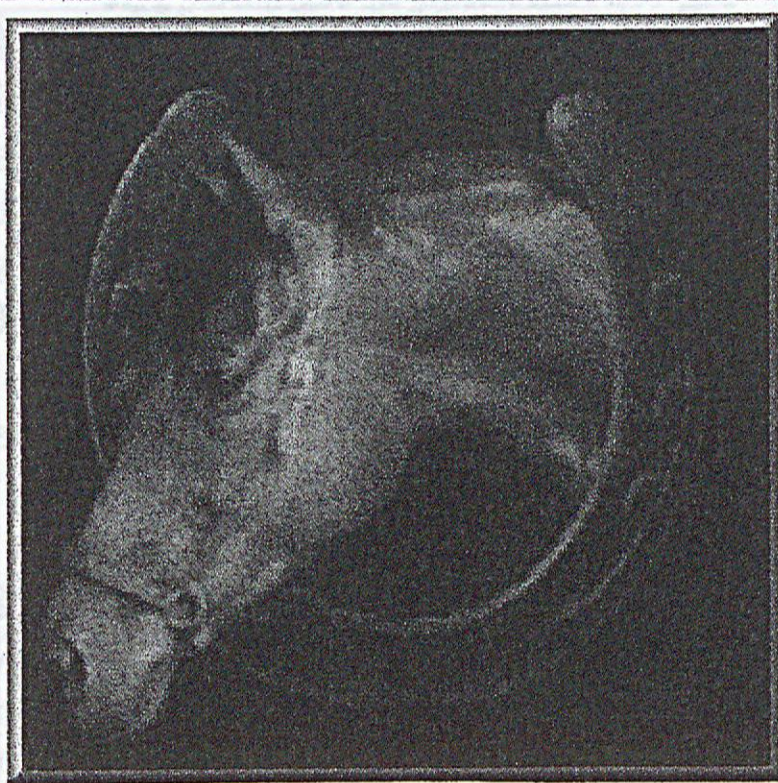
The marriage was not successful. Stewart said of Betsey, "... a woman ought to tell some of the truth once a day, if it's only to limber up her tongue." He thought he could cure her of her bad habit. "I tried persuasion an' finery, birch rods split fine, an' a light hickory stick about as thick as my littlest finger, an' I tried making her kin an' my kin that had religion pray for her at the big camp-meeting. But it wasn't no use." Betsey had other good qualities. She was a good cook—biscuits, hoe-cake, bacon fry, hominy mush, and coffee—and she had three sons in quick succession, but the lying was her undoing. Stewart wanted a horse, *Brown Jim*, that was priced at what he paid for Betsey, so offered her back to Puckett for the same price he paid for her. He added, "Allowing for the wear and tear of the four years I had done kept her, I would throw the boys into the bargain." The deal was made and Stewart bought a horse in place of his wife.

Move to Kentucky

That autumn Johnson sent Stewart to **Paris, Kentucky** with some of his best horses. He was happy there, in charge of the stables, with helpers, jockeys, grooms and stablemen under his supervision. Someone was al-

ways around to read Johnson's letters to him. "I never had no book-learning myself, cause I never was willing, for I knowed my brain was too smart for to stand it. When anybody has got as much sense in the head as I had, they must take great care not to be foolin' around trying to stuff more in, or the first thing they'll bust it open. I left all that for folks that wanted filling up an' patching on to."

Stewart mentioned some of the gentlemen in the area including **Henry Clay**. "Old Henry Clay was always around, and mighty pert and polite the old man was ... an' knowed a horse when he seed him ... His son, **Henry Clay, Jr.**, ... thought that much of me he offered Colonel Johnson \$3500 for me himself, but the Colonel he told him money couldn't buy me; an' he made just the very same answer to **Wade Hampton** ..."



While Stewart was living in Kentucky, he became acquainted with **Mary Jane Mallory**. She was "genteel an' handy, an' such snappin' black eyes an' coal black hair ..." Her owner, Mr. **Robertson**, gave permission for the two to marry. Stewart took her to his home near the stables where she "clear-starched an' sewed an' embroidered an' worked with the hand-loom ... She paid her master, of course, regular, so much a month for her hire, but Lord, she never touched her earnings for that. I had plenty of money to hire as many wives as I wanted, but this one was the only one I ever did want ..."

"I can see that little house now, with the big white bed, all clean and sweet and hung with ruffled curtains, in one corner, the cupboard full of flowered china an' shining metal an' glass opposite, an' the bright wood fire piled up with hickory an' ash logs, blazin' on the hearth, an' Mary Jane settin' in front by the candle with her fine white sewing an' her pink calico dress ..." Stewart and Mary Jane had a son, **Johnny**, named after Mary Jane's father and brother.

Stewart was looking forward to carrying Mary Jane back to Virginia with him when he was recalled. But about six months after Johnny was born, Mary Jane developed a cough and stopped eating. Less than two years after the wedding, Mary Jane died. "... I never grieved so over anybody in all the world."

Unhappy then in KY, Stewart had someone write to Johnson, "... tell him I wanted to go to some strange place, an' master he wrote back that if I could find an

Search and Research

Paleography Resources

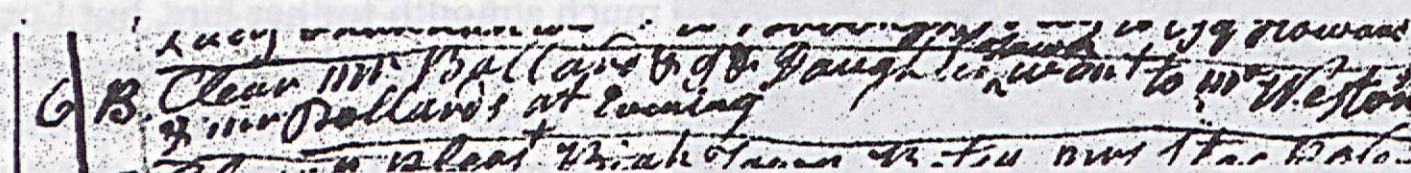
BY GEORGE G. MORGAN

Jack Nicol! Matth...

Paleography is the art of analyzing and reading handwriting, particularly old handwriting. Older documents are challenging to read and decipher. Some understanding of paleography is helpful. There are several resources that can help you learn and understand the older writing styles, characters, and languages.

Resources

The National Archives in **Kew, England** has on its website a brilliant interactive tutorial about Paleography. www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography/



English Documents Employing Latin provides excellent visual examples of the ancient handwriting and translations. www.bibliographics.com/PALAEOLite/HECTOR.htm

Old Handwriting: Deciphering Old Handwriting in Genealogy has some interesting examples. amberskyline.com/treasuremaps/old-hand.html

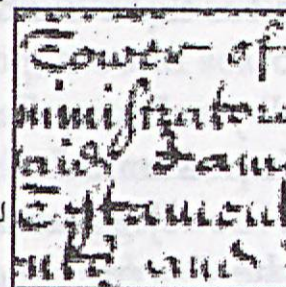
How to Read 18th Century British-American Writing can be found at: http://www.dohistory.org/on_your_own/toolkit/writing.html

Martha Ballard's Diary Online is a visual and content rich story of a midwife's life and career and offers great examples of handwriting.

www.dohistory.org/diary/index.html

The excellent book, *Palaeography for Family and Local Historians*, by Hilary Marshall is available through Amazon, and special order at many bookstores.

Latin for Local and Family Historians: A Beginner's Guide, by Denis Stuart is also available.



There are two excellent books, both written by Kip Sperry that can help you with deciphering and reading old American documents. The first is *Reading Early American Handwriting*. The other is *Abbreviations and Acronyms: A Guide for Family Historians*. **It's an Eyeful!**

Deciphering and reading old handwriting involves a great deal of visual comparison of the handwriting you are studying with samples from the geographical area and the era when it was written. It may be beneficial to

use tracing paper and form the letters and words yourself. Your tactile sense of writing may give you hints and clues, or may actually translate the text for you.

Note

If you have not experimented with a computer, why not give it a try? Someone at your local library or community college, or a friend, will be happy to show you how to get to one of the sites mentioned in this article and you will see what a great tool a computer can be!

[Taken from the internet newsletter, *Ancestry Daily News*, 8/19/2005.

George Morgan, the author, is president of the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors. Contributed by Jim Stallings, TRC member.]

A Reunion

Dear brother Temple:

I have to say to you, my health is not good, though my family are in good health—thank the Lord for his goodness to me and mine; and hope you and all of yours are in good health, and in the enjoyment of the riches of God's grace, and have his reconciled countenance to rest upon you and the Spirit to guide you in all truth.

Our next Union will be held at **Sparta, Edgecombe County, N.C.**, to commence on Friday before the fifth Lord's day (27th) in Nov., 1857, where we should be pleased to see you. We have the promise of brother **Josiah Smith** at that time; so come along and let us have a Union indeed.

I must close by saying, Farewell at this time.

Yours, in hope of eternal life,

E.W. COX

Edgecombe, N.C.

[Source: *The Primitive Baptist*, May 23, 1857]



JOCKEY, CONT. FROM PAGE 11 owner to suit me, that would pay his price for me, I could go, though he had never expected to part with me by sale."

Judge Porter, a senator from **Louisiana**, was looking for a head trainer, and Stewart agreed to go with him for a six month trial. The two men hit it off, and Charles Stewart remained in Louisiana for the rest of his life.

[Sources: *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, October 1884, p. 730-738; *The Great Black Jockeys*, by Edward Hotelling c1999]

A STATEMENT

*Showing the financial Transactions of the Board of
[Edgecombe] Co. Commissioners from the 1st day of September,
1874, to the 31st day of August, 1875.*

This is the list of individuals paid by the **Edgecombe Co.** Commissioners. They were paid for various services to the county and for support, possibly in the poor house.

McD Mathewson, RS Taylor and others were paid \$1 a day for services as Township Trustee. **Willis Bunn** received \$60.54 for building a bridge across **Campo creek** and **W.H. Odom** was paid \$400.54 for building a bridge across **Swift creek**. Various other bridges were built.

WA Quinerly, Sheriff of **Pitt Co.** received \$14.80 for 23 days board in jail for **Rich'd Brown**, and for conveying him &c.

EG Hales received \$4.59

for lumber to build a temporary bridge, and \$12 for hauling lumber.

CG Peale and **BJ Keech** both provided supplies for the Poor House in September 1874. **Smith Woodard** received \$18 for cooking at the Poor House for 3 months.

Morgan Hart hauled and made coffins for paupers at a cost of \$9 and **Buck Moore** was paid \$92 for working 92 days at the Poor House.

Calvin Griffin was paid (belatedly) \$23.30 for his services as Teacher, year 1860.

If your ancestors are in the list, contact TRC to find out what they were paid for and how much they received.

[Tarboro Southerner, Oct. 1, 1875]

Alexander, Sarah	Boyd, Nathan	Clark, Mathew	Duggan, Dr. WA	Griffin, Calvin	Little, JC	Shurley, Silvy
Alsbrook, BF	Bradley, Bettie	Clark, WS	Duggan, Lucy	Hagan, Bennett	Little, Priscilla	Simmons, JE
Anderson, Jas	Bradley, Matilda	Cobb, Jos	Earl, Rebecca	Hales, EG	Lloyd, Jim	Speight, Wilson
Armstrong, Ned	Braswell, Isaac	Cobb, Wm	Edward, Phillis	Hales, Sally	Locust, Nancy	Spicer, Maria
Austin, CJ	Brinkley, Louisa	Cook, William	Edwards, Britton	Hall (Hill?), Ellen	Loyd, Jennie	Stancil, Susan
Baker, Ben	Brodie, Dr. Walter	Council, Josiah	Edwards, Franklin	Hargis, JJ	Loyd, Jim	Staton, Dr. LL
Baker, Winnie	Brown, Sally	Crisp, WS	Edwards, George	Hargrove, Rufus	Mabson, WP	Staton, JL Jr
Barfield, HE	Bryan, Battle	Dancey, Agnes	Edwards, WF	Harrison, Coffield	Maner, John	Stokes, Nathan
Barlow, Nancey	Bullock, HC	Dancey, Caroline	Edwards, WL	Harrison, Hannah	Maner, Patience	Summerlin, Nancy
Battle, Maria	Bullock, LD	Dancey, Cornelia	Exum, M	Hart, Anaky	Manley, Jerry	Summerlin, Wealthy
Battle, Nellie	Bullock, Lewis	Dancey, Lucy	Fellow, Eli	Hart, Morgan	Marshborne, Samuel	Sutton, Masses
Battle, Nelly	Bullock, Louis	Dancey, Violet	Felton, Eli	Haws, GS	Martin, JJ	Swaner, Mary
Battle, Roanna	Bullock, Olive	Dancy, Charlotte	Fleming, Milley	Hicks, Le__?	Mathews, Judy	Talston, Mary
Battle, Sarah	Bullock, Peter	Davis, RA	Flemming, Chacey	Hilliard, Clara	Mathewson, McD	Taylor, RS
Batts, JB	Bunn, Willis	Davis, RH	Flemming, Milley	Hinton, Guy	McCabe, A	Taylor, Silvy
Bealand, Major	Burgis, Ann	Deal, Hettie	Foxall, Briget	Hopkins, Charlotte	McNair, Dr. AH	Tedder, Emily
Belcher, Charlotte	Burroughs, Mary	Denton, Emaliza	Fulford, B__?	Hopkins, Edith	Meaws, Mary F	Tedder, Noah
Belcher, Collin	Bynum, Amanda	Denton, Nancey	Gardner, Eli	Horne, Charlotte	Mills, Bettie	Thomas, Mary
Belcher, Willis	Camper, Clem S	Deveraux, Sally	Gardner, MS	Hoskins, Malenda	Mitchell, Mary	Thomas, Theo
Belchere, Collin	Carson, Richmond	Deveraux, Sally	Garrett, Clarissa	Howard, William	Moore, Buck	Tolson, Mary
Bellamy, Harry	Chamberlain, L	Dew, Frank	Garrett, Harry	Hussey, Judy	Moore, EL	Toole, Lucky
Bembrey, Dempsey	Cheek, Aaron	Dicken, Ofy	Gatlin, TH	Hussey, ML	Moore, IO	Treeford, Burney
Bottoms, Bryant	Cherry, Fannie	Dixon, Edith	Glover, Sally	Jenkins, BP	Moore, Jim	Vick, Esther
Bottoms, Delia	Cherry, Jno K	Dowd, HA	Godwin, Elizabeth	Jenkins, DA	Moore, Polly	Vick, Laura
Bourne, HC	Cherry, Patev	Draughon, JW	Godwin, WT	Jenkins, Ephram	Mooring, Edith	Wade, Lucy
				Jenkins, Isham	Morgan, SE	Wadkins, Nancey
				Jenkins, Jeam	Morthit, Jno B	Walker, Elcy
				Johnson, RJ	Nettie Walker	Walker, Rosa
				Jones, Ansey	Newton, Hans	Waller, Catharine
				Jones, Mary	Norfleet, Benj	Waller, Cherry
				Jones, Nancy	Norfleet, Judy	Waller, Lucy
				Keech, BJ	Norville, JBW	Waller, Nettie
				Keel, Eunice	Norville, Peter	Walston, Robert
				Keel, Louise	Odom, Ella	Webb, Sally
				Killibrew, Cassey	Odom, Polly	Webb, Wiley G
				Killibrew, John I	Odom, Tony	Whitley, Barbara
				Killibrew, Joshua	Odom, WH	Whitted, FU
				King, Ed	Peale, CG	Whitted, WW
				Knight, Jacob	Peebles, Rafe	Wilcox, EW
				Knight, Lettie	Pennington, Ed	Williams, Adam
				Knight, Lewis	Pippen, JH	Williams, Ann
				Knight, Solomon	Porter, Julia	Williams, DS
				Knight, WH	Powell, Susan	Williams, Guilford
				Lancaster, Ann	Powell, William	Williams, JH
				Lancaster, John	Price, Eliza	Williams, John
				Landing, Tempie	Price, Martha	Williams, Orren
				Lane, David	Quinerly, WA	Williams, Reddin S
				Lane, Della	Redmond, Harry	Williams, Zadie
				Lane, Lawrence	Robinson, TW	Wimberly, Maria
				Lawrence, Bettie	Rodgers, Buck	Wimberly, Mark
				Lawrence, Elizabeth	Ruffin, TH	Woodard, Smith
				Lawrence, Louisa	Savage, Mathew	Worrell, Mary
				Lee, Ellen	Savage, Nancey	Zoeller, Ed
				Lewis, Nancy	Shaw, HH	
				Lewis, TE	Sherrod, Jack	
					Sherwood, Sarah	

1888 Washington, N. C. A Good Place to Die A Good Place to Live

The following description of **Washington, Beaufort Co., NC** was written by **Geo. I. Nowitzky** in 1888 and published in the **Norfolk and Raleigh papers**:

On the north bank of the **Pamlico river**, just thirty-five miles from where it loses its identity by mingling its waters with those of the sound bearing the same name, is situated a little city containing about 4,000 inhabitants, which to-day exhibits the busiest water-front, with one exception (**Wilmington**), in the State of North Carolina. She is the fortunate possessor of a number of well-constructed, cleanly-kept wharves, to which are tied in great numbers every conceivable craft that registers 500 or less tons, in fact, any vessel that can come over **Hatteras bar**, which means anything below a square-rigger (ship or bark), can tie up at the wharves of Washington, N. C., and besides the hum, the din and the refreshing activity of an active port, the eye is gratified by the vision, on a small scale, of that—to America—almost lost art, ship-building, for at the time of my visit on the stocks of one of its three ship-yards (**Capt. Styron's**) the largest steamer ever built in North Carolina was under construction. She was to be of four hundred tons burthen and to be owned by a local transportation company.

This little city owns six large sea-going vessels, engaged in the **West India**

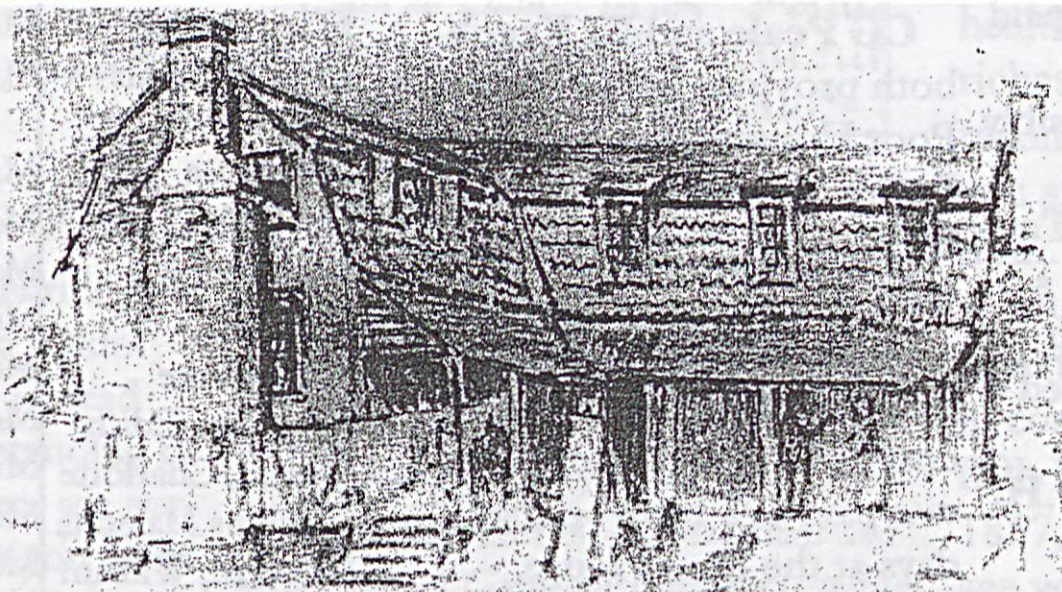
trade, eight steamers and a large fleet of smaller craft. These facts, coupled with the following, I am satisfied will convince the reader that its future is indeed assured, for the steamers of five transportation lines dot every navigable sound and stream on their way to or from this active mart; one line of railroad connects it at **Jamesville** with the **Roanoke river**, and a new line is projected, which will take her out of her former seclusion and connect her with the railroad system of the entire nation.

Her public buildings are just three in number, and all are situated on Market street; the court-house at one end, the town hall at the other end; sandwiched in between the two, with a small vacant lot between each, is the combined county and city jail. This is exceedingly convenient, as courts are held in both the municipal and county buildings and the jail

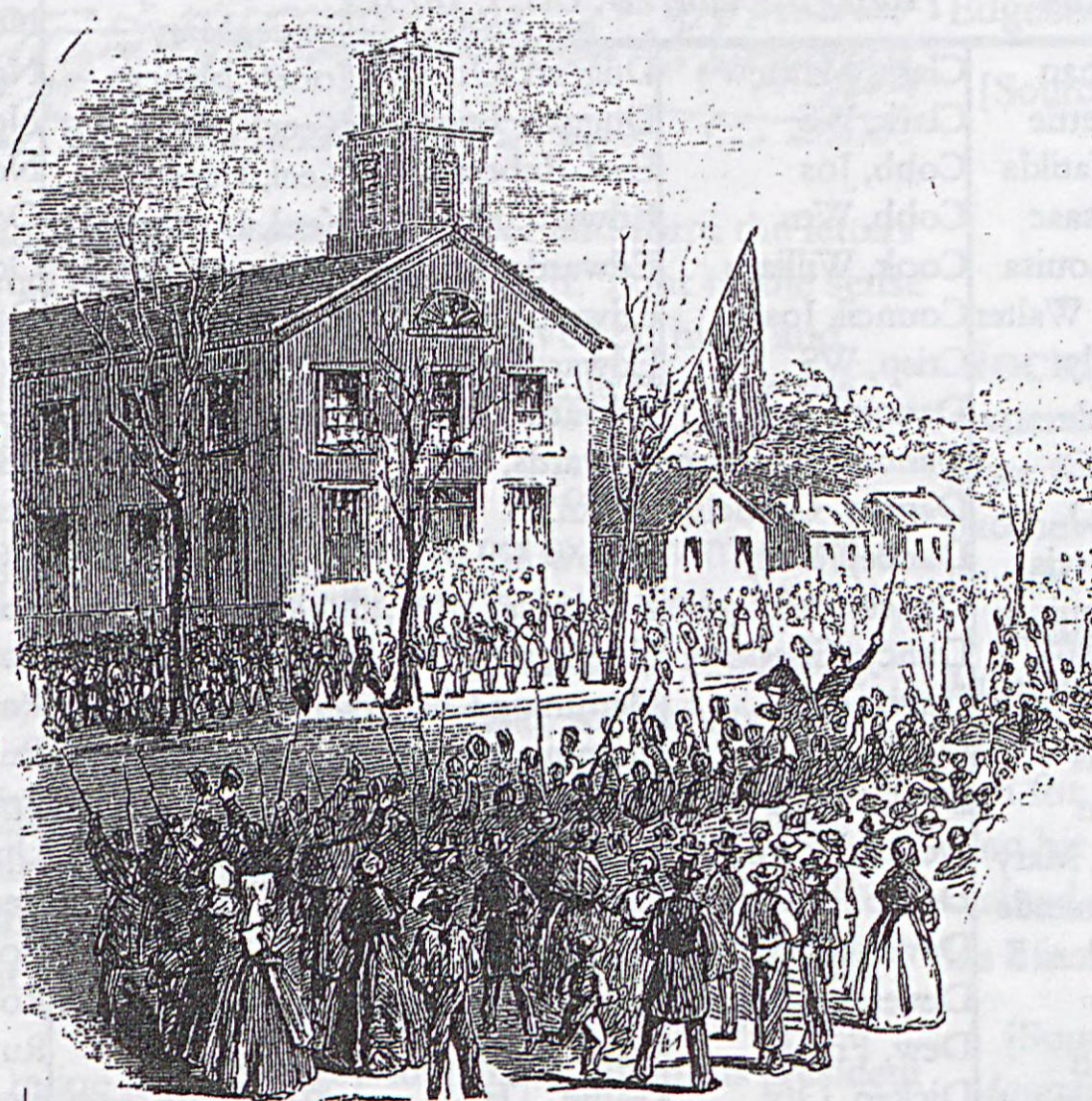
can be kept full by having prisoners 'fired' in from two different directions.

The court-house is a well-constructed two-and-a-half-story brick building, ornamented at one end with a high tower, in which is placed the clock which apprises the good citizens that time never tires, unless the clock gets out of repair. At the other end prominently hangs the worst sounding bell that ever summoned a juror or embarrassed a witness. Its horrible tintinnabulation is sufficient to throw into convulsions judges made of less stern stuff than those that grace North Carolina's Bench.

I wrote these lines in the hotel office and read them to the judge, two resident attorneys and a number of other citizens that were seated around the stove and informed them that if in their judgment they would



Mulberry Tavern. Said to be the first house built in the original Washington. (Courtesy Lee A. Wallace, Jr.)



Town's people watching Stars and Stripes raised over Court-house, Mar. 21, 1862. (Sketch by Angelo Wiser. Harper's Weekly, April 19, 1862.)

CONT. ON NEXT PAGE

LOCAL AFFAIRS

MARRIAGE LICENSE. Mr. **Griffin**, the Register of Deeds of **Nash County**, requests us to say that during the continuance of the Small-pox panic, parties wishing Marriage License can obtain them by mail, the full name and age of both parties being sent by a known responsible party. When either party is under 18 years of age, the written consent of the parents or guardian will be re-

quired. License fee \$2.50.

RETURNED.—We are glad to welcome back to this county Mr. **B.F. Drake**, who has been residing in **Wilson** for some time. He intends making Nash his future home.

HERE'S OUR —We are pleased to learn that our friend **W.L. Thorpe** will be associated with **Mr. Stilley** on the *Rocky Mount Mail*. We wish our neighbors every imaginable success

CONNECTOR
and congratulate Mr. S. on securing so competent and efficient an ally.

CORRECTION.—We inadvertently did Mr. **P.V. Renfrew**, the wide awake and energetic jailer at **Nashville**, injustice in stating that **Albert Patterson** made his escape from **Nashville** jail. Albert made his escape before he was placed in the custody of the jail-

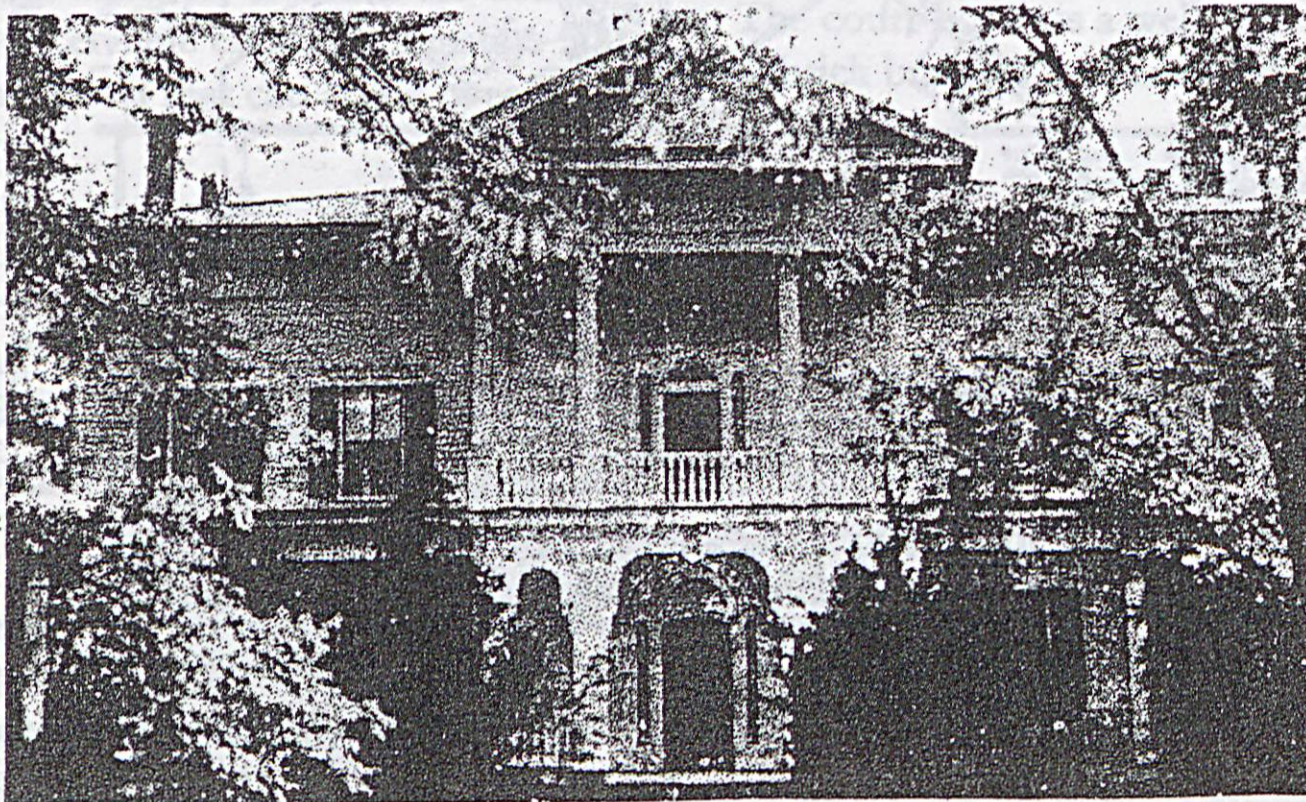
[The Battleboro Advance, Jan. 3, 1873]

WASHINGTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

wide-spreading mulberry trees quietly repose some monster, formidable-looking masses of iron, which, although neatly painted and picturesquely placed, look so grim and forbidding that they are liable to deceive a stranger into the belief that they are intended to hurl missiles of destruction in time of war, but that is a mistake, for a closer inspection will show that instead of monsters for destruction they are designed to be warning angels, and to show confused mariners where danger in form of sunken shoals and treacherous reefs exists.

She also has an opportunity of constructing still another park at little expense, which would unquestionably be the most striking and pleasing in the State, for opposite the town is a pretty little island well adapted by nature for park purposes. At the present time its natural beauties are disfigured by a number of wretched looking sheds, and the aroma from the foliage that shades it gives way to the effluvia emanating from the guano stored within their frail sides. ...

The following is a list of the leading houses of Washington on January 1st, 1888: Banker, **C. M. Brown**; Commission Merchants, **John Myers & Son**, **J. R. B. Havens** (Miller), **J. M. Gaskill**; Confectioneries, Toys and Fancy Goods, **C. H. Sterling**; Dentist, **Dr. H. Snell**, Main street, (Gas administered); Drugs, Patent Medicines, Perfumery, &c, **D. N. Bogart** (under Opera House), **Dr.**



Elmwood. Built about 1820.

D. T. Tayloe, **Dr. S. T. Nicholson & Bro.**; Dry Goods and Clothing, **A. W. Thomas**, **D. T. Swindell**, **H. Morris & Bros.**; Furniture, **J. A. Burgess**; General Merchandise, **W. B. Morton & Co.**, **S. Spencer Bros.**, corner Market and Main streets, **M. T. Archbell**, Main street, **J. F. Buckman**, **C. W. Tayloe** (Cotton Buyer); Groceries (Wholesale), **S. R. Fowle & Son**; Groceries (Wholesale and Retail), **John B. Sparrow**, **E. K. Willis**, Water street, east of Market, **B. W. Bergerson**, East Market Square, **D. R. Willis**, East Market Square; Hardware, Stoves and Tinware, **W. C. Mallison**; Harness,

Saddles, Whips, &c, **T. E. Warren**; Insurance, **R. C. Montgomery**, General Agent (Life and Fire), Mutual Live Stock Company; Jewelers, **John Bell, Jr.**, **J. C. Morton**; Livery, Sale, Feed and Exchange Stables, **S. H. Bailey**, **J. G. Chauncy**; Machinery (General Agent), **O. K. Stilley**; Marble Monuments, Fertilizers and Baled Cotton, **W. J. Crumpler**; Marine Railway,

"Pamlico," **J. Myers & Son**, Proprietors; Manufacturers, **Myers' Cotton Seed Oil Mills**, **Jno. Myers**, Proprietor, **E. M. Short**, Lumber, **W. N. Archbell**, Lumber, **Geo. W. Kugler & Son**, Lumber, **B. F. Rodman**, Iron Works and Foundry, **C. W. Phillips**, Carriage Factory, **Ed. Long**, Carriages, Buggies, &c, **D. S. Lidden**, Ship-builder and Contractor; Tobacco, Snuff and Cigars (Wholesale and Retail), **S. H. Williams**; Towing Company, **Pickles Bros.**, Proprietors; **W. Pickles**, General Manager.

Letter from Mary Clark Bell [Battle]



Mary Clark Bell Battle was the wife of **Dossey Battle**, editor of the *Tarboro Southerner*, lawyer, and judge. [See "Tarboro Southerner Editor, Dossey Battle," and "Dossey Battle, Attorney," *The Connector*, Summer 2005]

An 1864 letter from Mary Clark Bell, when she was 15 years old, to her uncle, **Benjamin Litchfield Alexander** reflects some of the hardships brought about by the Civil War.

Middleton, Hyde Co. NC.
Sept-30th, 1864

My dear Uncle

No doubt the reception of this letter from your only niece that used to be little Clark but great big Clark now will surprise you a little at first but when you think awhile how fondly I used to love you when a child it will not surprise you when you think I still retain some of the love of old. Yes Clark still loves her Uncle Ben who has been so kind and indulging to her and forever will. Uncle Ben you do not know how sadly changed times are with us we do not have half the comfort that we used to. ...O Uncle Ben if I could see you aunt Liza Grandma or rather, granny and the children I would be delighted... We live in Hyde County as you will see at the head of my letter, are situated very comfortably. Pa carries on farming & Ma spins and dyes cloth and I go to school. I ought not to grumble at the hard times for we have not seen any hard times yet to what we will see in future I fear. Tell Grandma I have to nurse the children and give them biscuits and butter but not

light bread butter and, sugar on the butter like she used to give me. I often think how kind she used to be to me and how I used to carry Jack around the table suspended to a stick and the night I knocked off her spectacles. I shall never forget it as long as I live and when this cruel war is over I hope to be able to repay granny for her trouble she had with me.

We heard that you were at Ocracoke the other day. Jody passed you in a small boat but did not know that it was you until he went to Ocracoke Uncle Ben please excuse this short letter I have not time to write any more as the gentleman that carries this from here is to leave this afternoon. All join me in much love to you and family. Please excuse this bad writing and if you can leave a letter in Portsmouth write us all about the family and yourself!

Your affectionate niece

M. Clark Bell

Genealogy

Benjamin Litchfield ALEXANDER was born c.1830 and died Apr. 2, 1868 in **Elizabeth City, NC**. His parents were **William Alexander** and **Dorcas Litchfield**

(Grandma/granny in the letter) who were married in **Tyrrell County, NC** on June 13, 1818. Ben married **Ann Eliza Lewis** on 2/16/1858.

[<http://www.rootsweb.com/~nchyde/LETTER14.HTM>]

Mary Clark Bell Battle

Dossey Battle and **Mary Clark Bell**, b. 12/15/1849 and daughter of **Joseph Nash Bell** and **Ann Elizabeth Alexander**, were married in **Washington, NC** on Sept. 28, 1876.

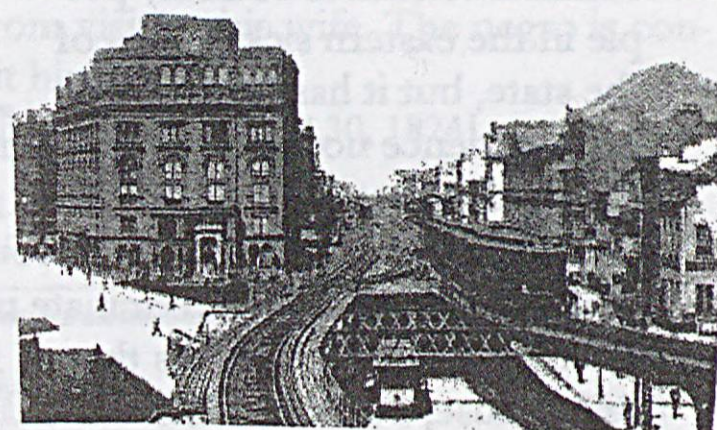
In 1873, Mary Bell graduated from **Cooper Union Art School** in **New York City**.*

The couple had 3 children who survived infancy: **Dossey Battle II**, **Helene Battle Willingham** and **Richard Battle**.

Mary Bell Battle died in 1929 and her obituary mentions her "many

friends in North Carolina and the South where she was well known." It has been said that, while Dossey was an editor and an attorney, Mary was proficient portrait painter.

*Cooper Union School was founded in 1859 by **Peter Cooper**, an inventor and entrepreneur from a humble background, to provide educational opportunity to poor people in the neighborhood. Cooper is said to have wanted to offer "education that was as free as the air we breathe and the water we drink." In the beginning, Cooper Union offered adult education in night classes on the subjects of applied sciences and architectural drawing, as well as day classes for women on the subjects of photography, telegraphy, typewriting and shorthand.



Cooper Union School in New York

Early board members included **Horace Greeley** and **William Cullen Bryant**. **Abraham Lincoln** gave a speech there in 1860 that has been called "The Speech That Made Lincoln President."

The school is still thriving today. **President Bill Clinton** gave an economic address there in 1993.

It would be interesting to know how Mary Clark Bell came to graduate from there so soon after the end of the war.

[Peter Cooper, founder of Cooper Union, was an inventor with many patents to his credit, including the famous "Tom Thumb" prototype locomotive. His best know invention, however, is probably **JELL-O!**]

Dismal Future for Raleigh, NC

March 12, 1798: Letter from an English Gentleman, on his travels through the United States, to his friend in London.

You already are apprised that the place from which I write is the capitol of North Carolina. ...

Raleigh is situate more than a hundred miles from any seaport, and nearly thirty from any boatable waters, has no stream of water capable of making it a manufacturing town; has therefore no prospect of becoming anything more than the solitary residence of a few public officers, containing a few ordinary taverns, gaming houses and dram shops, and that is in fact what the metropolis now is. It might probably have been expected by the founders, that being in a hilly country, it would become the summer residence of many people in the eastern sickly parts of the state, but it has been found on experience not to have the degree of healthiness, which its elevated situation would seem to promise. ...

The ground is divided into four quarters by as many spacious streets, which terminate in the public square, in the center of which stands the state house, a clumsy brick building, built without any regular design of architecture, and totally devoid of taste or elegance.

Disgraceful as the appearance of the state house is at best; they have contrived to place it yet in a more disadvantageous point of view, by erecting the court house, the palace of the governor, and most of the other buildings, on one of the streets which has only an end view of the statehouse, which makes but a forty(?) appearance.

At the four corners of the public square are groves which might have been made agreeable walks; I thought this was their design, and seeing a small house in two of them, I took them for summerhouses, and began in my mind, to applaud the state for constructing such charming places for the recreation of the people in a warm climate, and going to visit one of them, was arrested in my progress by a terrible stench issuing from four doors, which informed me it was a temple of Cloacina [sewer].

The streets of this city are honored with the names

of some of the great men who have distinguished themselves in the service of the state ... and to do them justice the state ought, in imitation of the ancients, to place statues of them in their favorite temples.

June 4, 1798: A Response.

Mr. [Abraham] Hodge [NC Journal editor],

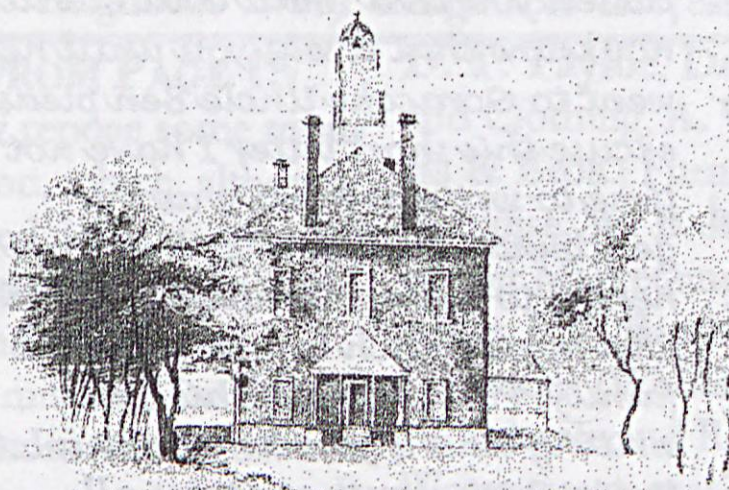
Your No. 295 contains much entertaining matter, particularly the curious piece pretended to have been written by the English gentleman on his tour through the United States. ... We contend he has offered a high affront and gross indignity to the state; and if he is in fact an Englishman, in return for his civility we can but advise him through you to return to the Nabobs of his own country, where the appearance of public and private buildings is more pleasing to an English eye, and the fare of their tables better suited to an English stomach. ...

He suggests that nothing short of monarchy and priest craft (after the manner of the Eastern countries) can ever make this a place of importance independent of commerce and navigation - We will in return ask the gentleman, what the seat of government in any country has to do with commerce and navigation? - Unless he could construct a state house that should

float on the water, and send it to London and show it to his correspondent there. The people of this country in establishing a seat of government consulted their own convenience; they fought for that purpose an eligible position in or near the center of the state to make it equally convenient to the citizens thereof - and why should an Englishman or any other busy their brains about it?

"Raleigh has no steam of water to make it even a manufacturing town." -- True, it has not much water about it; and the gentleman is right in his conclusion, because he had been raised with manufacturing animals of the amphibious kind that cannot do without water, of course Raleigh does not fit him.

He approves the plan of our city, but it wants water, power and superstition to complete it, and of course it cannot be done without a cottage of the Lord's anointed, and a coffin of a departed saint. ... "The



Original State House, 1811

Drawing by J.S. Glennie, Princeton University



Enlarged State House, Late 1820s

Painting by Jacob Marling, NC Collection

RALEIGH, CONT. ON PAGE 20

African-American Genealogical Resources

The following list is taken from an article in *The Virginia Genealogical Society Newsletter*, June 2005, "Tis He Who has Endured," by Shirley Stertz Hawn.

1. *Library of Congress*: <lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml> Over 2000 slave narratives.
2. *Bibliographic Checklist of African-American Newspapers*, by Barbara K. Henritze: List of over 4,000 African-American newspapers.
3. *Black Roots*, by Tony Burroughs.
4. *African American Genealogical Sourcebook* by Paula K. Byers.
5. *Slave Ancestry Research—It's Something Else*, by Mary L. Jackson Fears: Gives tips on locating African-American ancestors when the name of the slave owner is not known.
6. *Buffalo Soldiers at San Juan Hill 1898* <www.army.mil/cmh-pg/documents/spanam/bssjh/shbrt-bssjh.htm>
7. *Web Sources for Military history* <tigger.uic.edu/~rjensen/military.html>
8. *African American Mailing List* <www.rootsweb.com/~jfuller/gen_mail_african.html>
9. *The Roots of American Slavery* <www.stratfordhall.org/schwarz.html>
10. *From Slavery to Freedom: The African American Pamphlet Collection, 1824-1909* <memory.loc.gov/ammem/aaphtml/aapchome.html> There are 397 pamphlets, most written by African American authors.
11. *First-Person Narratives of the American South, 1860-1920* <memory.loc.gov/ammem/award97/ncuhtml/fpnashome.html>
12. *African-American History and Culture* <lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/guide/african.html>
13. *Africans in America* <www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/home.html> Has link, "Resource Bank Index," which leads to numerous stories of former slaves, images, documents and biographies.
14. *The Afro-American historical and Genealogical Society* <www.aahgs.org>
15. *Freedman's Bureau* <http://www.freedmensbureau.com>

[Contributed by James M. Allen, TRC member.]

Bargain on Postage

July 1, 1885—Postage on letters was to be reduced from 2 cents per half ounce to two cents per ounce. Newspaper postage was reduced by one-half current price.

[25 April 1947 "Fragile Bits and Pieces" by Ida Haywood Vick, *Roanoke News*, Weldon, NC]

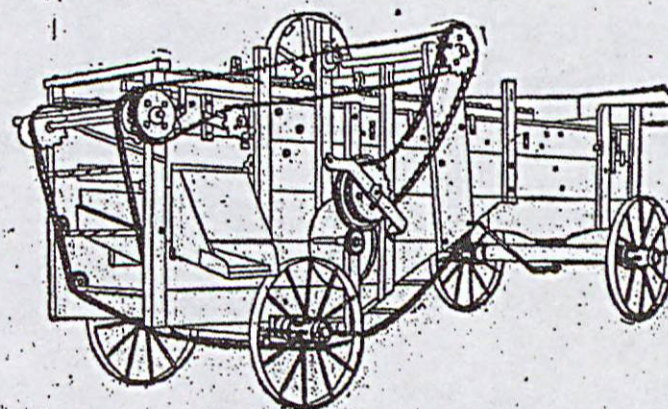
Granville County Fire

Fire. -The dwelling house of Mr. James Peace, in Granville county, was entirely consumed by fire, with all its contents, on the 17th inst. While the family were at church. Owing to some circumstance, a negro fellow, the wife of whom Mr. Peace had hired, was suspected as the author of the foul deed, and he was consequently arrested. The negro confessed himself guilty of the charge and stated that he had done it to vent his ill-treatment, in being prohibited from visiting his wife. The negro is confined in jail to await his trial.

[*Halifax Free Press*, April 30, 1824]

Just received Carload Land Plaster for Peanuts.

Place Your Orders Now
for the
BENTHALL PEANUT PICKER



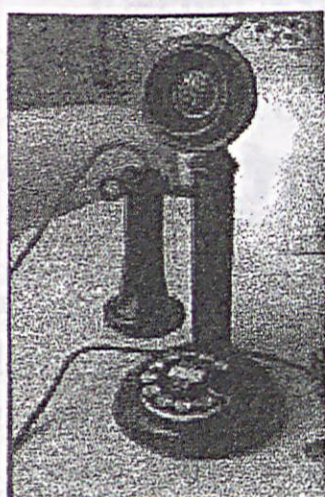
The Picker that Makes Your Peas Bring
More Money.

KIMBALL HARDWARE CO.

[*Enfield Progress*, August 14, 1908]

Answer the Phone!

BY JOHN H. MCNEELY.



The telephone bell jingled joyously. Mr. and Mrs. Newlove were seated at the pretty mahogany table, reading.

"Nellie, dear, will you answer the 'phone?" warbled the benedict.

"Now, Charlie, you know I never like to answer," she replied.

"But it's some member of your family. they generally begin telephoning about this time every evening."

"It is not so."

"Probably your mother."

"No, it isn't, Charlie."

"Or your father."

"No, not father."

"Maybe your brother, Willie."

"The truth about the matter is that some member of your family is calling."

"How absurd. They never call."

"I suppose they want to tell you how to crush my spirits."

"Rather, it is your mother with some instructions on how to work me for my money."

"It is untrue."

"Well, the 'phone message isn't for me."

"It isn't for me, either."

"But your family are always calling up here."

"They never do."

"Are you going to answer."

"What's the use when it's your mother or father trying to tell us how to manage our affairs."

"I will say the same thing about your family."

"Nellie, I want you to distinctly understand that you cannot abuse my mother and father to my face."

"And, Charlie, I want you to understand that you cannot talk about my family to my face, either."

"Well, I'll end this by answering the 'phone. Of course, I will have to call you, but what's the difference as long as we have peace. ..."

"Hello! ..."

"No. this is not B 134. You have the wrong number."

[*The Enfield Progress*, 9/25/1908]

Sale!

Nash Co., NC
Census Transcriptions
by Joan Howell Waddell:

Nash Co. 1860 Census ... \$25 \$10

Nash Co. 1870 Census ... \$25 \$10

Nash Co. 1880 Census ... \$25 \$10

OR

All 3 Volumes, \$25

If you are researching in Nash Co.,
you need these volumes!

Order from:

TRC, P.O. Box 8764
Rocky Mount, NC 27804

OR

Traci Thompson, Librarian
Braswell Memorial Library
727 N. Grace Street
Rocky Mount, NC 27804

QUERIES

1. Seeking parents, siblings, other relatives of DAVIS YOUNG (1791-1866) and MATILDA ARENDELL (1796-1862): married Dec. 19, 1815; had 12 children (b. 1816-1837), each with 3 given names; lived in Franklin Co. and Louisburg (at least 1830-1858).

CONNECTOR

2. Were DAVIS and MATILDA ARENDELL YOUNG descended from or related to EDWARD YOUNG (1742/3, received patent for 100 acres in Edgecombe Co.) and WILLIAM ARENDELL (1749, received patent for 95 acres in Johnston Co.)?

Corinne Giannitrapani
634 Glenwood Village Ln.
West Chester, PA 19380-5702
Tel.: 610-436-1848

RALEIGH, CONT. FROM P. 18

Lord's anointed, and the corpse of a departed saint, we consign to the gentleman for his ingenuity and labor in writing our history we know not his meaning by the necessities of the government, for we believe it is as well supplied here as if the metropolis had been planted on the water side, except with crabs and frogs. It is to be lamented that there are too many dissipated people among us, but they are running away fast, and our hope is, a better race will take their place. ...

Excuse scurrility - It is diamond cut diamond - and we must meet the gentleman on his own ground. We are, &c.

THE CITIZENS OF RALEIGH

[*NC Journal*, Halifax, NC; March 12, 1798,
June 4, 1798]



New Postal Cards, Views of Enfield. Big line of Drugs, Toilet Goods, Stationery, Brushes, Combs, Etc., Etc.

Prescriptions a Specialty.
Only the purest drugs used.

W. E. BEAVANS, - - Druggist.

We both lose money if you do not trade with me.

Enfield Progress, 14 August, 1908