

DEATH OF OWENVILLE & BIRTH OF ROSEBORO

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Roland Hall, current mayor of Roseboro, stands behind the old stage coach house in the heart of old Owenville; a front view is on the right. The stage station is c. 175 years old. The building had three levels: basement, main floor and third floor sleeping quarters. A peek hole in the main floor was once used to monitor the activity of slaves that were often quartered in the basement. But Owenville died and was laid to rest; this is the remains.

(Photos courtesy of Tommy Cain)

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Membership payment of \$10.00 covers the period of January through December and includes a hard copy of the Huckleberry Historian. If joining during the year you will receive all back issues of the HH for the current year. The number by your name (John Doe 2011) on the mailing label indicates the year that you are paid through. Mail payment to Treasurer Kent Wrench; address on page 16.

DEATH OF OWENVILLE/BIRTH OF ROSEBORO

BY KENT WRENCH

Owenville was the predecessor of the town of Roseboro and was located along the old Fayetteville Stage Road. It was a small country community about two miles north of the center of present-day Roseboro. Today the Dunn Road passes nearby the old ghost town of Owenville. Before the Civil War Owenville was the only village in Sampson County west of Clinton. It flourished until the railroad was built and then the trading center shifted to the new village of Roseboro.

Turpentine and tar were the earliest and most important cash crops of the area; most certainly Owenville had a river landing on the nearby Little Coharie River. The proximity to the river is a likely reason that the tiny village developed at that spot. The Little Coharie had been open for navigation for many years prior to the Civil War. Rafters from as far as a dozen miles upstream would tie up their rafts and take on needed supplies for their continuing trip to Wilmington.



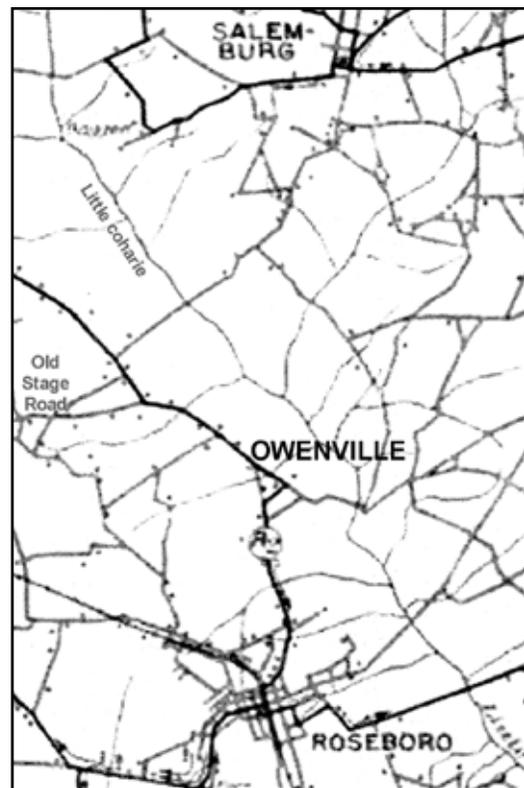
Legend has it that this hole in the floor of the old stage house was used to monitor slaves being quartered in the basement.

A stage station was operated in Owenville along the old stage road from Fayetteville to Wilmington. On July 2, 1847 the following travel schedule was posted at the Fayetteville stage station: *“To Warsaw, by way of Owenville and Clinton, and Spring Vale, in two horse coaches. Leaves every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday at two o’clock in the evening and returns at two o’clock in the morning of Saturday, Thursday and Tuesday.”*

Meals were served and fresh horses were available at the stage stations. The stage driv-

er signaled by tooting his horn to announce his soon arrival; one toot was sounded for each hungry passenger.

Governor Gabriel Holmes’ dwelling and 1700 acre plantation were once located along the old Fayetteville Stage Road just East of the Little Coharie River and near Owenville. Governor Holmes operated a turpentine plantation and had a river landing on the Little Coharie River.



The above postal map is from 1910; The bold markings are postal boundaries. Hwy. 242 did not exist at this date. The remaining streets from old Owenville were still being mapped at this date.

Cotton Hall became the first Post Master of Owenville in 1839. The post office served a huge section of western Sampson County; covering all of Little Coharie and part of Dismal Townships, according to the 1860 census report. Rural Free Delivery would come much later. Saturdays usually were bustling in Owenville. Country folks came into the village on good travel days to call for any

mail; to shop for a few staples; to hear the latest news and for socializing. Merchandising took place on a small but necessary scale in Owenville.

One wing of Sherman’s Army followed the Old Stage Road out of Fayetteville toward Clinton. After minor resistance they arrived at Owenville; according to oral history they maintained a camp in and around the village for a few days.

Owenville seemed to be the hub of the Sampson County Republican Party in the years following the Civil War; the following note is from family papers: *“Notice: The Republicans of Sampson County are requested to assemble at Owenville on Saturday the 21st day of this ___ for the purpose of selecting delegates to represent the county in the nominating conventions for the 3rd Congressional and 16th districts and select an executive committee. By order of Calton Sessoms chairman Republican Ex. Com., May 9th 1870.”*

Tom Neal Culbreth once operated a store in Owenville. When the railroad came through he saw the handwriting on the wall and was the first to purchase a lot in the newly laid out town of Roseboro. His lot was 100 by 150 feet, adjoining the railway. Due to the coming of the railroad, Roseboro became more competitive than Owenville and the village was doomed. It has been nearly one and a quarter centuries since the stage horn “toot, toot” was last heard as it approached Owenville.

Today few people in Sampson are aware that the village of Owenville ever existed.

Birth of Roseboro

Roseboro, the second largest town in Sampson County, is a child of the railroad. It came into being when the Yadkin Valley Railroad built a line from Fayetteville to Wilmington; the railroad joined Stedman, Autryville, Roseboro, Parkersburg, Garland, Tomahawk, Kerr, Ivanhoe and other communities together.

They all sprang to life when depots were built. The town was named for Mr. John

M. Rose the Secretary of the Yadkin Valley Railroad; as reported by the Clinton Caucasian newspaper Mar. 20 1890.

FROM	Schedule.	FARE.
Lv. Sanford	6:00 a. m.	\$2.00
" Jonesboro	6:05 a. m.	2.00
" Swann	6:18 a. m.	1.95
" Rock Branch	6:22 a. m.	1.90
" Spout Springs	6:38 a. m.	1.75
" Manchester	6:55 a. m.	1.65
" Fayetteville	7:25 a. m.	1.50
" Vander	7:45 a. m.	1.50
" Steadman	7:55 a. m.	1.50
" Autryville	8:02 a. m.	1.40
" Roseboro	8:20 a. m.	1.30
" Mintz	8:28 a. m.	1.25
" Parkersburg	8:40 a. m.	1.15
" Garland	8:50 a. m.	1.05
" Tomahawk	9:04 a. m.	.95
" Kerr	9:15 a. m.	.85
" Ivanhoe	9:24 a. m.	.75
" Atkinson	9:40 a. m.	.60
" Currie	9:53 a. m.	.45
" Montague	9:58 a. m.	.40
" Richards	10:12 a. m.	.25
Ar. Wilmington	10:35 a. m.

RETURNING LEAVE WILMINGTON 5:25 P. M., ARRIVE FAYETTEVILLE 8:35 P. M. and SANFORD 10:00 P. M., Stopping at all stations to let off passengers.

Sunday excursion trip to Wrightsville and Carolina Beaches in 1910. This schedule list all the station along the route.



The depot was built in Roseboro in 1891; as a combination freight and passenger station. Its original location is identified, along East Railroad Street, on the Sanborn Insurance Map.

The railroad was built in 1889-1890 and the town grew from a tiny community with one store to what we see today. The town was incorporated in 1891 by the General Assembly. Growth was slow during the first few years. Early newspaper accounts describe it as a town with several stores and few houses.

The following people purchased lots in the first three years of Roseboro’s existence: T. N. Culbreth, H. J. Fisher, W. A. Mints, Al-

ice A. Britt and D. S. Bullard.

J. M. Sessoms and W. J. Underwood transferred land to the agent (North State Improvement Co) for the railroad.

But as small as it was, it did get its own post office May 6, 1890 with Sue D. True-love as the first postmistress. The Owenville Post Office was discontinued in 1907, yielding to the Roseboro Post Office that now had rail service which was far more efficient than the stagecoach had been.

Extracts from the history of Roseboro's Rural Free Delivery, by J. G. Melvin: "On the first day of March, 1904 I left this office with the first rural mail, with one letter addressed to W. W. Hobbs, one of my patrons, this and one circular and one story paper was my first mail. I drove a horse and buggy. Just ox-cart roads, about 24 miles long, and I had about 350 patrons and 26 boxes.

There were twenty-eight nice branches where my horse could drink nice running water those first few years, but after taking the mail 26 years and six months there was no place a horse could drink water except at some one's home.

I drove a horse and buggy 10 years and a half then I used an automobile. I owned seven horses and seven automobiles but three of the horses did four-fifths of the driving. I never failed to go when I was able, and lots of times when I was not."



Roseboro, NC, May 23 1912

The News Dispatch, May 23, 1912 had this to say: "Autos are getting so numerous in Roseboro that it is almost dangerous to cross Main Street. The last one to come in made D.W. Tart the happiest man in town.

The story goes that on Thursday, May 10, his machine arrived, and after looking it over for awhile he decided that it would not be safe for it to be alone. So Mr. Tart decided that he would sit in it all night and hold it down. But before day his eyes became heavy and he began to nod--when the auto got loose and the result was that Mr. Al Crumpler was minus a calf when he awoke. Keep your eyes open Whit or next time your machine may get a cow."

The Sampson Democrat newspaper on December 22 1921 reports on the Great Roseboro Fire: The fire was discovered at 11:00 pm; several buildings were destroyed. Most were rebuilt soon thereafter.

On the Sanborn Insurance Map dated June 1922 several business were identified: Roseboro Milling (grist and planning) Company; Thomas C. Owen Lumber Company; Howard Turlington Gin Company; Roseboro Gin and Fertilizer Company; Roseboro Light Company and Bullard Machine Works (they made pea shellers.) On the Sanborn Map the hotel is identified along East Railroad Street; it had a Delco Light Plant on its grounds.

By 1946 these manufactories were operating in Roseboro: Hill Spinning Co., (Kard-ed Yarns;) Denny Veneer Co., (veneer;) Roseboro Milling Co., (building supplies;) Crumpler Brick Co., (brick;) Edwards & Hales Brick Yard, (brick.) The oldest drug store as well as the oldest hardware store in the county were in Roseboro at one time.

Many rural Sampson families shopped in Roseboro and came for doctor visits.

Roseboro has seen industries come and go; business flourished and then declined. But it became populated with people that are proud to call Roseboro home.

Just as the "toot, toot" of the stage horn was silenced in Owenville; so was the "toot, toot" of the train's whistle quieted in Roseboro.

Sources: John Oats, History of Fayetteville; Sampson County Heritage Book; Sampson Independent; family papers; NC Maps, UNC; 1945-46 Sampson County Year Book and Register of Deeds.

BENTONVILLE BATTLEFIELD RESTING PLACE

BY DERRICK BROWN & DEBRA WESTBROOK

It has been a common fact in North Carolina Social Studies textbooks that the Battle of Bentonville was the largest and bloodiest battle ever fought on North Carolina soil. We know that the battle occurred on March 19, 20 and 21, 1865, just a few weeks before the War Between the States would end. Because the Confederates retreated from the battlefields first as they went to Smithfield, the Union army was left with the job of caring for the wounded and burying the dead of the battle. The Federals buried their dead in identifiable marked graves and wounded Union soldiers were stabilized in makeshift hospitals like Harper House and sent to permanent hospitals in Goldsboro and in New Bern. The Confederate dead were buried in mass graves near where they fell on the battlefield since they were unidentifiable.

A group of around 50 Confederate prisoners of war were left at the Harper House under the care of John and Amy Harper after they were paroled by the Federals. According to this family's records, twenty-three of those left died for want of proper medical care. This number included young Private Willie Reid, who died in the arms of the Harper's fourteen year old daughter. Two of the dead were local and were sent home for burial. The Harpers buried the remaining 21 on their property. One of the soldiers was later reinterred elsewhere leaving a total of 20 buried on Harper property.

In the late twentieth and early 21st century, serious questions were asked about the mass grave at the Goldsboro Rifles monu-

ment. Though the monument states 360 were buried there, Confederate casualties report do not show 360 were killed outright in battle. Even though a great number died from wounds suffered during the battle, many were taken to other hospitals and did not die near Bentonville, so they were not part of the mass grave. In an old photograph at the monument dedication, one can clearly see 20 individual grave markers in the background. To find out the truth, Ground Penetrating Radar was used to try to prove or disprove the existence of a mass grave. The results of the GPR survey was aired on the Save Our History special on the History Channel which confirmed the existence of the cemetery. Soil surface archeological excavations undertaken in 2008 and 2010 were able to confirm that the area has twenty individual graves.



At the monument dedication (March 20, 1895), wooden grave markers were still visible in the background of this photo.

The Harper House-Bentonville United Daughters of the Confederacy, along with the Bentonville Battlefield staff are obtaining tombstones to mark the cemetery which was begun 146 years ago by the Harper family as they buried Confederate dead who did not survive the Battle of Bentonville. A memorial service will be held on the site on May 21, 2011 to dedicate the graveyard. Since the soldiers are unknown, the government stones are unobtainable and therefore this project is rather expensive. If you would like to contribute to the fund which will pay for these stones, please call or email Debra Westbrook at 919 934 4099 or dbassw56@aol.com. It is the hope of this group to finally give those soldiers the proper resting place. **Your donations would be most appreciated.**

THE NAMING OF LAUREL LAKE

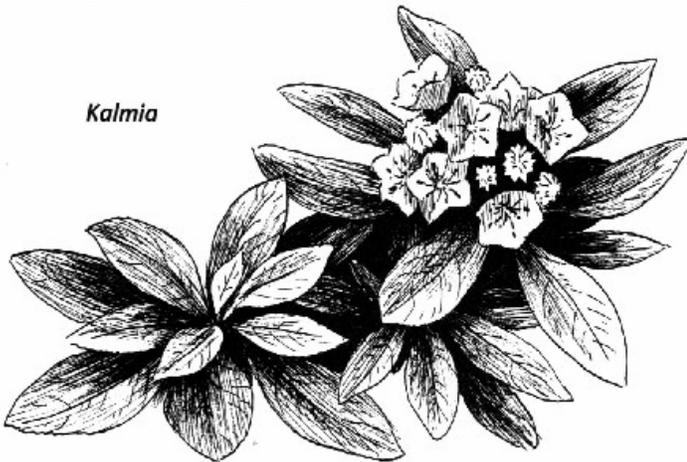
SAMPSON COUNTY'S CLAIM TO THE BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAIN LAUREL

BY A. J. BULLARD

The Mountain Laurel has one of the most beautiful flowers known, but yet it is one of the most poisonous to livestock and humans. All parts and even its smoke can be deadly to cattle, horses, sheep, and even goats.

This plant ranges from Canada to Florida and into the Midwest but is more common in mountainous or hilly regions such as the North Carolina Mountains. It is the state flower of Pennsylvania and was introduced from the wild into the nursery trade here in 1734. Much breeding and selection has resulted in a plethora of cultivars over the years.

Mountain Laurel is a member of the extensive heath family including blueberries, huckleberries, rhododendron and azaleas. These family members range in toxicity from the blueberry and huckleberry which present no toxic problem to the Rhododendron and Mountain Laurel members which can be deadly. Fatalities have been reported from Mountain Laurel honey, but skin rashes seldom occur.



Generic (genus) for Mountain Laurel is *Kalmia*

The generic (genus) for Mountain Laurel is *Kalmia* in honor of Peter Kalm a Swedish botanist who collected plants in North America in the mid 1700's. During this period a number of foreign as well as many American Botanists collected and named a

multitude of new plants. A prime example of this was John and William Bartram of Philadelphia who in their travels in Eastern North America, discovered, collected and named some 125 new plants alone. This included the Ben Franklin tree -*Franklinia*- which was propagated in their Philadelphia Gardens but was never found in the wild after this period. I have failed in my attempts to grow this tree.

This genus (*Kalmia*) with Mountain Laurel has several other species native to Eastern North Carolina including the rare and beautiful White Wicky as well as Sheep Kill (Wicky) which can also prove fatal to cattle and sheep. This Sheep Kill is a woody bush up to 5 feet tall blooming in May and June. It sports purple flowers and inhabits low boggy bay areas.

As has been described before many of these toxic plants (Yellow Jessamine, Foxglove ect.) produce poisons (glycosides and alkaloids) for their own defense against predators. Some of these poisons in very small amounts can be used by humans as "herbal medicines."

From Mountain Laurel; the leaves were formerly used for internal treatment of diarrhea and syphilis and externally for various skin diseases.

The hard growths (burls) at the base of the trunk were formerly used to make smoking pipes but even this wood had an unpleasant taste and the practice was abandoned.

In our area Mountain Laurel (also called laurel by locals) is usually not found abundantly and the state Botanical text does not give it credit for ever being in Sampson County but it has been found in several locations there. I haven't heard of it in Duplin County but it has been recorded in Wayne County at two locations. A colony existed at Cox Mill and now a large colony is present on Little River near Goldsboro.

In Sampson County it is a completely different story! I know of its presence in upper, mid and lower Sampson. Here its habitat varies considerably from branch head streams to moist flat-woods to bluffs along major streams, to dry upland hillsides.



The whitish-pink bloom of Mountain Laurel

It blooms around Mother's Day in May with whitish-pink bloom heads and bursts from obscurity to brilliance. In the off season this evergreen shrub blends in with a couple of "look alike" bushes Tr-ti and Horse Sugar (previously described.)

To the discerning eye the brown, shredding bark and knarled drooping branches will help identify it in the non blooming periods. Like all members of this Heath family acid soil is required and is always present where it is found.

The greatest concentration of this shrub in our general area is in central Sampson County around Salemburg extending toward Bonnettsville over a several mile span. Interestingly Laurel Lake, outside Salemburg, was named for these native bushes formerly growing around the lake. Land clearing has resulted in their demise here but there are plenty still thriving in the general area.

Mrs. Jane Price, owner, presently living by the lake, named it Laurel Lake around 1947. Many plants can be found on sloping bluffs along Rye Swamp which drains the former millpond.

An even wider range is found east of here

in the entire area east of the former Sampson Sheriff, William Hall's Pond. Here many Plants occupy a variety of habitats. Some are along streams, in low woods and on high sandy hillsides. One private homestead has 45-50 large bushes. In Sampson County, historically, these plants have been dug from the wild and planted in neighboring yards to live for years. My home place near Roseboro had such a transplanted bush.

In Clinton Mrs. Willie Warren moved one laurel from the wild to her garden some 60 years ago. Today it has spread to 25 feet across by numerous sagging limbs taking root. What a sight in spring along with her numerous Rhododendrons and azaleas. Laurels from the wild still grow in additional yards near Bonnettsville and Giddensville, both in Sampson County.

For a plant not credited with existing in Sampson County, Mountain Laurel is doing quite well, thank you!! **End**

WHAT OUR READERS SAY

I am always amazed at what a wonderful, inclusive publication you folks put out in the Huckleberry Historian. It is like reading a real history book. Its articles are varied, interesting and have some meat in them. **Emily Weil**

Please find enclosed check for \$10.00 for my 2011 renewal of Huckleberry Historian. I look forward to receiving it every quarter. **Katie**

Thank you. I have very much benefited and enjoyed from reading the HH these past years. I appreciate all your hard work. **Fran**

Bud, (Bud King) Thanks for the great piece in the HH recently. I printed it out and will study it. Hope you Christmas was great and wish you a really great New Year...thanks for your research. **Delores**

Enclosed is my check for 2011 subscription. I picked up a copy of the Huckleberry Historian at the Sampson County Museum and I have read it many times. How informative and entertaining. **Anne Pate**

Cont. P. 12

THOMAS UNDERWOOD

BY JEROME TEW AND JOHN THORNE

Thomas Underwood came from Virginia to Duplin (Sampson) about 1782. He is listed as a likely RW VA soldier in the Bizzell Book. The Bizzell Book says that Thomas may have been married when he moved to NC. Only daughters Eleanor and Rebecca and son David Underwood are listed in the Bizzell RW book.

Thomas married 10 March 1783 Sarah Thornton. Sarah was age 16 and Thomas was 40.

Based on the Bizzell book and listed grave markers, Thomas was born 1743 and died age 60 on 4 April 1803. Sarah died May 1849 at age 82. This puts Sarah's YOB at 1767. She was likely born in Johnston Co. NC. It took 18 years to settle the estate of Thomas Underwood.

Research now shows that Sarah Underwood gave an affidavit in 1845 for Tabitha Holder Royal, widow of RW soldier William Royal of Sampson. She gave her age as 90 in the affidavit. I think this age is in error and the grave marker dates are better.

Underwood researches put Thomas Underwood as a son of Sampson Underwood, Sampson as a son of John Underwood, John as a son of Thomas Underwood Jr.

More research in the estate records of Thomas Underwood show that a daughter Ann of Thomas Underwood married William Jackson Jr. The 1850 US Census list William Jackson as born 1779 and wife Sarah was the same age and born in Virginia. This puts Sarah as most likely Sarah Ann Underwood Jackson and born in VA to the first wife of Thomas Underwood. I believe that his first wife died after he moved to Duplin (Sampson).

He married Sarah Thornton in 1783. It is my thinking, and not proven, that the first wife of Thomas Underwood was also named Sarah. When she died and he married Sarah Thornton, she wanted a daughter named after her. So this family had two daughters named Sarah, named after their mothers. Sarah, the elder, went by Ann in the 1803 estate papers of Thomas Underwood. She was listed as Sarah born in VA in the 1850c. See attached copy.

Sampson deed book 13 page 74 in 1805 list three of the sons of Thomas Underwood, as Josiah Underwood, John Underwood, and David Underwood. Thomas Underwood is also mentioned. This transaction might have been started by their father as all his sons were

under age. They were getting land, not selling it. They bought 84 acres for about 11 pounds.

Sampson deed 18 page 11 list all five sons of Thomas Underwood in 1817. Josiah Underwood, John Underwood, and Timothy Underwood sold 484 acres to David Underwood and Sampson Underwood for \$1000. Timothy Underwood here was likely underage and had to sign the deed. Since, this is a family deed, no one cared.

Sarah Ann Underwood born 1780 to Thomas and his first wife and married 1805 William Jackson Jr. 1775-

known issue:

Wiley Bryant Jackson 1810-

Sampson David Jackson 1812-

Elizabeth Jackson Ingram 1814- m: Lovet

Penelope Jackson Norris 1816- m: Robert

Note: Sampson David Jackson is named for two of Sarah's brothers.

William Jackson Jr. was the son of William Jackson Sr. 1741-1830 and grandson of Thomas Jackson 1695-1751.

Josiah Underwood born 17 May 1786 married Sabra ___ 1790- and this family is listed in the 1850 US Censes for Sampson. Josiah was the son of Thomas and 2nd wife Sarah. Josiah had 11 children, wrote his will in 1854, and died 7 July 1854. In an 1830 deed 23:357 Josiah sold his son Thomas 277.5 acres for one dollar. This Thomas 1812-1875, married 1 Dec 1846 Mary Ann Royal 1 May 1828-1888 and later was elected Sheriff of Sampson and by 1860 had moved to Johnston Co. NC. This Thomas and wife Mary had 13 children. Mary Ann was the daughter of Whitney and Sarah Martin Royal.

Sarah Underwood was born in 1788 and married Dickson Jackson 1785-1838.

Sarah was named for her mom. She is listed in the 1850 US Census for Sampson.

There is a deed that ties this family all together. It is an 1840 deed book 27 page 94 from John Underwood to Sarah Underwood Jackson, widow of Dickson Jackson and it named her three sons. Sarah purchased five slaves on credit from her brother.

John Underwood was born in 1791 and married Janie Marie Boykin 8 Sep 1795-1858. John was well-to-do in 1850 and is listed in the 1850 US Census for Sampson. He wrote his will in 1860 and died in March 1860 of liver problems. John wrote a 13 page Will and left his seven children with money and much land.

Janie Marie was the daughter of Tobias Boykin

1747---22 May 1812. In Bizzell's book, John was giving credit for inventing the cotton plow.

David Underwood was born in 1793 and married Sabra Stephens 1800-1855.

David and family are listed in the 1850 US Census for Sampson. David's five daughters are listed in his mom's 1847 Will. Four of the daughters of David were named Sarah Ann, Margaret Ann, Eliza Ann, and Mary Ann.

Sampson Underwood was born in 1795 and died in 1828. He had married Ann. Sampson left three sons: Daniel Joyner Underwood 1820-, Benjamin Thomas Underwood 1824-, and John Ingram Underwood 1828-. All are listed in the 1850 US Census for Sampson.

Timothy Underwood was born 1798 and died about 1845 and married Elizabeth Wright 1797-. Elizabeth Underwood was living with her son Lucian Underwood in 1850.

Rebecca Underwood born 4 Feb 1802 and married 1822 in Sampson, Charles Butler 15 May 1795-11 Dec 1865, moved to Decatur Co. GA, and Rebecca died there 6 August 1865. Issue:

<u>Nancy Jane</u> Butler	6 May 1823
<u>John Robert</u> Butler	30 Dec 1824
<u>Charles Quincy</u> Butler	17 Nov 1826
<u>Nathan Williams</u> Butler	3 Jan 1829
<u>James L.</u> Butler	25 Dec 1831
<u>Thomas</u> Butler	25 Dec 1831
<u>Elizabeth Ann</u> Butler	16 Feb 1833
<u>Sarah</u> Butler	1 Nov 1835
<u>Josiah Blackman</u> Butler	25 Oct 1836
<u>David King</u> Butler	17 Nov 1838
<u>Rebecca Eliza</u> Butler	4 Jan 1840
<u>Thomas Jefferson</u> Butler	4 Nov 1844

Charles was the son of Robert Butler 1777-1839 and Robert was the son of Charles Butler Sr. 1748-1819.

Eleanor Underwood born Nov 1803 married Rueben Reynolds. Eleanor died about 1843 and is buried with her mom.

With what we have now, it is impossible to say that Thomas Underwood did serve in the RW in Virginia. We do know that Thomas was born in 1743 and could have served. He died in 1803 and did not live to apply for a RW pension. However, his wife Sarah Thornton Underwood did live to 1849 and did not file for a widow's Pension. Six months service was required to get a RW pension. However, to get approved by the DAR, any militia or Patriot Service can be used. We do

not know where in Virginia that Thomas Underwood came from.

We do know that he may have come from Goochland Co. Virginia and there was a John Bradshaw who gave an affidavit in a RW pension application of Susannah Lacy, widow of Mathew, and stated that Lacy got a bull from Thomas Underwood to be used by the Virginia Army.

Stephen Clarke also lived in Goochland Co. VA, when he entered service, he mostly substituted for others during the whole RW. In 1781 he served for three months as a substitute for Thomas Underwood in the militia. It was a normal thing for an older man with a family to hire a younger person to serve his time. At that time, daughter Sarah Ann was just an infant.

In 1781 in Duplin, Marmaduke Royal hired Henry Holland to serve one year for him. Marmaduke gave Henry 100 acres of land. See Sampson deed 7-394.

The estate records of Thomas Underwood, ties William Jackson Jr, 1779- and wife Ann, Charles Butler 1795- and wife Rebecca, John Underwood, David Underwood, Josiah Underwood, Sampson Underwood, Sarah Jackson, Eleanor Underwood, and Timothy Underwood to Thomas Underwood 1743-1803. Deed Book 27 page 94 ties Dickson Jackson and sons to Sarah Underwood and this family. Copies of these documents are available.

THE MACPHAIL FAMILY

BY CLAUDE MOORE (DECEASED)

It is believed that all the MacPhails in the United States stem from the ancient MacPhails of Scotland. In Scotland there were three branches of the family. One group were septs in the MacIntosh Clan in Perth County.

I have known members of the MacPhail family all my life and I have taught several descendants and once I spoke at the MacPhail family reunion when it met at Herring School in Sampson County.

Duncan Campbell MacPhail and his brother came directly from Scotland to Cumberland County, North Carolina, prior to the American Revolution. Duncan MacPhail Jr., received grants of land in Sampson County near Coharie Swamp as early as 1797 and in 1806 he bought a plantation near Beaman's Crossroads from Bedrodon Carraway. In fact, this tract included the old Carraway Museum which was consid

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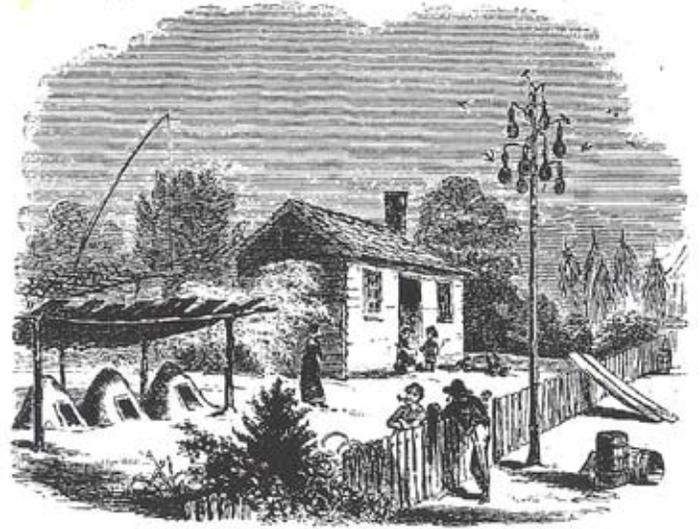
THE PURPLE MARTINS ARE BACK

BY KENT WRENCH

These social chattering little sojourners have entertained the Indians, early settlers and present day martin enthusiast. As they fill the sky darting about with the greatest of ease performing amusing antics.

Martins have been nesting in human-supplied gourds for hundreds of years. Long before Europeans first arrived on the North American continent, Native American Indians were attracting these purple swallows to their villages using hollowed-out calabash gourds. The tradition of putting up gourds for martins continues to this day. While martins once nested in old woodpecker cavities and hollow trees, in the eastern United States they are now entirely dependent upon man for nesting sites.

When the European colonists arrived in the new world they too adopted the Indian custom of hanging gourds for Purple Mar-



Early planters copied the Indians practice of providing nesting sites for the Purple Martin.



The Indians were providing gourds for nesting sites for the Purple Martins long before European settlers came to the new world.

tins, but they also supplemented them with artificial gourds and wooden martin houses. Eventually, by the early 20th century, the entire eastern race of Purple Martins nested only in human-supplied housing, and the tradition shift was complete.

Quoting John Lawson, 1674-1711 from his book *A New Voyage to Carolina*; printed in 1709. "Martins are here of two sorts.... The Planters put Gourds on standing Poles, on purpose for these Fowl to build in, because they are a very Warlike Bird, and beat the Crows from the Plantations."

Purple Martins are voracious insect eaters and undoubtedly impacted on Colonial insect populations, primarily bees, dragonflies, moths, butterflies, flies, beetles, and stink bugs. For decades Purple Martin "authorities" spread the word that an individual martin would eat up to 2,000 mosquitoes per day but fecal analysis shows this is far from true; martins may eat a few, but they almost always go for bigger prey and leave the 'skeeters for bats and dragonflies to con-

sume.

Their annual arrival at breeding grounds in Sampson County normally starts in early March. Early arrivals, typically adult males, show up first. Female and sub-adult, or first year, martins soon follow. Their inland migration to local nesting sites may extend into May.

Research has also shown that cavity-nesting birds lay larger clutches of eggs in larger nesting compartments. For all these reasons, martins probably have higher reproductive success in gourds than they do in houses. Many purple martins return to the same nesting area they used previously. In fact, some will even nest in the same room of the bird-house they used the preceding year.

Adult martins generally begin nest construction during late March and early April. Sub-adult martins may delay nesting until late April or early May. Nests are constructed of stems, leaves, and mud. Once complete, three to eight (most often four to five) off-white eggs are laid. Incubation lasts about 14 days and is performed solely by females. If the first nesting attempt fails, purple martins will re-nest. Nesting efforts are usually complete by early June.

Both sexes share parental care of young martins and may feed them hundreds of insects each day until the young birds leave the nest or fledge. Young usually remain in the nest for 3 to 4 weeks before fledging. They sometimes return with their parents to the nest cavity during the first few nights after fledging, but become entirely independent soon thereafter.

Most purple martins, except a few late nesters, leave their nesting areas before August. By October, almost all have migrated across the Gulf of Mexico to wintering grounds in South America. Brazil harbors the largest wintering concentration. Literally millions of martins are found there during fall and winter months in North America.

After our Martins leave and their chirping ceases there is a bit of sadness for a few days. But when they return in the spring excitement fills the air.

My martins are back!

Cont. from p. 7

I thoroughly enjoyed your article on huckleberry picking. We have a lady in our Greensboro church that grew up along 421 in Plainview. She says her husband married her just to see if she actually had a hook in her belly on which to hang her huckleberry bucket.

Phyllis

I do enjoy the newsletter and would like to attend the meeting if my schedule would permit. I spoke to SCHS probably twenty-five or thirty years ago concerning my great-great-grandfather John Fowler born about 1740 and died about 1845, who was a Patriot at Moore's Creek.

Richard

By the way, I loved your article on huckleberries. How well I remember picking them in the woods. I'm happy to say I don't miss the "red bugs."

Larry

In the October 10 issue of the HH (article by Phyllis Kelly) I found where my children's great, great grandfather was in Dismal Township. No one ever knew where the family came from. Reading the huckleberry story brought back memories of going into the woods (when a little girl) with my Aunt Leola Young.

Geranium

I have certainly enjoyed reading every issue of the HH this past year, not once but several times. I put them away and then pull them out to reread.

Barbara

Your article on huckleberries brought back a lot of memories. See the article in a 1925 issue of The Mount Olive Tribune titled "Sampson Blues."

Here is what it said: CLINTON, June 21 (1925). The crown of the Sampson Blue has a saucy tilt to it these days. The huckleberry is surely king in these parts. At the end of the 60 days of his reign, most of which is now past, the income from the huckleberry at this point alone will have been between \$250,000 and \$300,000. In addition to this will be shipments from a half-dozen or more shipping points that will increase the grand total by \$100,000. The other day one farmer bought in 102 crates that sold for \$8.50. Sampsonians are seeking a yell leader who will head them in whooping, "Long Live the King."

Happy New Year, Tom Byrd

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ESTABLISHED 1885 WAYCROSS, SAMPSON COUNTY, NC

BY KEITH THROCKMORTON

Today, as I recall those wonderful childhood trips to Waycross, I would be remiss if I did not share a memory; memory of a life-long and permanent place in the Waycross community that has been and will always be a part of my life. That place is Trinity Methodist Church, established 1885 and located on Trinity Church Road approximately one mile from Waycross. Trinity Church, after all, was a house of worship when there was actually a small town at Waycross. Back then it was simply Trinity Methodist Church.

The movement that would become the Methodist Church began in mid-1700 within the Church of England. The "United" Methodist Church was created in 1968 when the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church joined together and the birth of a new denomination evolved as the United Methodist Church.

For 125 years, families of the Waycross community have worshiped there. This church has been the site of many weddings and funerals, including those of my loved ones' from Waycross. It had witnessed the once thriving Waycross community, which were a number of small businesses, become for the most part, a memory. The only business that remained was J.W. Merritt's Grocery, Established 1919. The other stores had long since disappeared. My childhood visits are just special recollections to me now. However, Trinity Church is still a reality to me now as it will be always.

I have attended several churches in my adult life, and there are only two that hold such an extraordinary place in my heart. One is Stukeley Hall Baptist Church, Established, 1947, in Richmond where I attended as a child. The other is Trinity United Methodist Church, where I attended with my family, on those summer vacations to the Merritts' at Waycross. No two churches or members could be any more different than

Stukeley Hall Baptist and Trinity Methodist Church however; the presence of the LORD could be equally felt in both.

I recall the summer heat at Trinity during services; there was no air conditioning until later years. Uncle Buster (John Wright Merritt) served as an Elder there. I remember Uncle Buster sitting in his chair on Sunday mornings, dressed up in his navy blue suit, studying his Bible...preparing for Sunday worship. My parents, Aunt Bonnie (Uncle Buster's wife), Cousins' Oakelee, Dorian Jay, and Althea would go to worship there. Never could I escape the constant teasing from Cousin Althea about Patricia (Watson) as she attended church there also. I reflect on Uncle Buster's tales of family rides on Sunday afternoons after church in the horse drawn John Deere Wagon and how great that must have been.

Stukeley Hall Baptist Church in Richmond, on the other hand, was a small brick structure with several class rooms. The interior was plain with no ornate features. There were no trees and a grass lawn surrounded it. The community was rural and a number of homes surrounded the church. All of the roads were paved and there were no farmlands. Our food was purchased from grocery stores. The women of the church stayed home, for most part, to work as homemakers. The men worked for various employers in Richmond. Their only association was at church on Sunday. We children had no chores to perform. Our time from school was spent playing.

On the other hand, Trinity Church was a single large, white, wooden structure of the 1885 period. There were no additional classrooms or attached buildings. The pulpit area was separated from the church with rustic pickets and railings which were very dark in color, probably stained in a Mahogany color as were the benches. About half

way down the center isle on the right, two of the benches were quite a bit shorter than all the others. This was necessary to make space for the large pot-bellied wood burning stove that provided heat in the winter months. I can still see that black stove pipe going up through the ceiling and roof; the scent of wood smoke is just a memory now.

Beautiful trees on the grounds and a very old cemetery separated the church from the sandy road in the front with forests and farmlands on the sides and rear. The cemetery dated back to long before the church was built as evidenced by the dates on the tomb stones. Trinity Church was a reflection of those wonderful, hard working people of the Waycross community. The members of this church all worked together as farmers during the week.

They grew tobacco, corn, peanuts and cotton. The children worked equally as hard, during their out of school times, with their parents. Their survival as farmers required hard work from every one in every family; on Sunday, they would worship together.

They grew most of their food; chickens for eggs and later chicken and pastry when they could lay eggs no longer. Milk cows for milk, cream, butter, buttermilk and clabber and as meat for the table. Pigs strictly for food were plentiful and little of the pig was discarded. The lard rendered from the fat of the pig was a precursor to all the fancy oils we now find on the shelves at the food stores. Fresh vegetables were grown in abundance during the warmer months. For winter Irish potatoes and sweet potatoes were stored in a "Potato Hill," vegetables and meat canned in Mason jars; meat was preserved as salt or sugar cured.

It was obvious to me these farmers realized in a special way that their survival depended on worship, prayer, and closeness with the LORD. The human bonds that are formed by a community that lives together, works together, survives together, and worships together is how I believe God intended all of us to live. As I think back, this is probably the greatest lesson I have learned in my life. The values learned in life's struggles of those farmers with their love and dependence

on their LORD for survival was such an example to me; and one that I will never forget. A lesson such as this must be experienced...it cannot be taught from books.

Some changes in the church building have taken place over the years. The original multi-paned glass windows

have been replaced with twelve beautiful stained glass windows that allow a breathtaking display of light to filter into the sanctuary; the dark mahogany benches have been replaced by light stained Oak pews that are softly rounded and with carved detail; the pulpit is separated from the pews by a handsome ornately carved Oak balustrade. The entire pulpit area is carpeted in a color, most likely named "Crimson Folly."

However, to me the most moving and inspirational addition is this. On the wall behind the pulpit and between two stained glass windows hangs a breathtaking oil painting of Christ at prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane...it must be at least 10 feet by 14 feet in measurement! Other changes that have taken place at Trinity Church is the addition of an educational building of which the floor plan was drafted by my wife, Patricia; the addition of white vinyl siding, central heat



Trinity United Methodist Church Waycross, Sampson Co.

and air. Trinity Church Road is now paved but there have been no other changes in the surrounding area.

Trinity United Methodist Church continues to hold a special place in my heart and be a special part of my life. My wife, Patricia is a lifetime member there. We were married at Trinity Church on June 15, 2002. We continue to attend family reunions and the annual fundraiser that includes dinner followed by an auction of crafts and baked goods. We attend weddings and funerals of loved ones. I always enjoy seeing the members and their families on those occasions. A few still remember me from those long ago years.

I have always found time to stop at Trinity Church in my travels, even when I have been alone. I visit the church cemetery where my loved ones' have been laid to rest. On those occasions, I can almost hear the quiet voices of my departed loved ones speaking softly to me and blending with the gentle breezes as they pass through the leaves on the trees surrounding the church. I find a particular peace with myself when I leave.

Patricia and I have vowed to live to be 106 years old and die in each others' arms. When that time comes, for each of us, we will be laid to our final rest in that cemetery in the shadows of Trinity United Methodist Church.

The numbers are fewer now, the tithes and offerings are less and the hymns are not as loud. Yet the heart of Trinity Church remains the same. I can only say thank you Lord for making Trinity United Methodist Church and the Waycross community a unique part of my life with a special place in my heart. **end**

Cont from P 10

ered one of the finest old plantation houses in North Sampson. The second generation spelled the name McPhail. In 1810 Duncan McPhail was married to Pheroby Warren (1777-1876), the daughter of Isaiah Warren, who was a soldier of the American Revolution and the ancestor of the large Warren Clan in

Sampson County.

Duncan and Pheroby had the following children: Mary (b.1812), who married Wiley Herring; Ann Eliza who married Benett Warren (1807-1889); Duncan Campbell (born 1818); Catherine who married Anthony Currie; and Isaiah McPhail (1824-1903) who married Ellen Sophia Parker (1829-1907) and had 14 children and a foster son. Isaiah McPhail bought large tracts of land, operated a watermill, and had a prosperous turpentine business. He was also one of the founders of Hopewell Methodist Church.

The 14 children of Isaiah and Ellen Parker McPhail were: Margaret Ann MacPhail (1846-1934) who married William Daughtry (1833-1904) and had one foster son; Duncan Campbell McPhail (1848-1928) who married Isabella Tart and had 10 children: Joseph R. McPhail (1850-1933) who married Martha Ann Westbrook, lived in Mount Olive, had eight children, the youngest being the late Harvey McPhail of Mount Olive; Marcellus McPhail (1852-1930) who married Sara M. Warren and had several children; Mary E. V. McPhail (1853-1893) who married P. C. A. Tart and had six children; Pheroba Catharine McPhail (1857-1938) who married Winslow Tart and had nine children; Sarah Elizabeth McPhail (1859-1939) who married Marshall Newman and had 13 children; Mattie J. McPhail (1861-1929) who married Henry B. Culbreth and had one son; James A. McPhail (1864-1952) who married William Blake Warren (1862-1934) and had seven children; Fannie L. McPhail (b.1866) who married Henry E. Brewer (1860-1934) and had four children; Ada R. McPhail (168-1952) who married Jasper C. Weeks and had eight children; Minne E. McPhail (1871-1922) who married William Repton Herring (1866-1922) and had 10 children; Portia Ida McPhail (b.1873) who married Arthur Vann, lived at Beaman's Crossroads and had 11 children; Bertha P. McPhail (b. 1875) who married Rufus A. Herring and had 10 children; and a foster son, James Henry Vann (1868-1913) who married Cordellia Warren and had six children.

A host of the McPhail descendants served in World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. Lawrence G. Wilson and Mrs. Fannie Vann Simmons did an excellent history of the McPhail family and I am indebted to them for the data in this article.

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NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING SATURDAY, APRIL 9 , 2:00 PM

We meet at the Piggly Wiggly Restaurant
Located in the Jordan Shopping Center (bus. 701) Clinton, NC.
The meeting room is upstairs.

Speaker For April Meeting Tim Whitfield

Our guest speaker for the meeting will be Tim Whitfield of Mount Olive. Tim is retired but in recent years has become a treasure hunter, using a metal detector to search and locate buttons, coins, rings, and various other relics from the past. He'll bring with him a collection of some of the items he's found and will share a few secrets of his unique hobby.