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MICAJAH AUTRY HERO OF THE ALAMO

BY JOEL W. ROSE



"The Battle of the Alamo was a pivotal event in the Texas Revolution. On February 23, 1846, an estimated 4,000 Mexican troops launched an assault on the Alamo that was defended by only 258 Texas soldiers." Major Micajah Autry was one of the 258.

IN THIS ISSUE

Micajah Autry.....	P. 2	Resignation.....	P.13
By Joel W. Rose		Ground Breaking.....	P.13
History of Newton Grove.....	P.6	What Our Readers say.....	P.14
By Kent wrench		Query.....	P.15
Faircloth Family.....	P.10	Tom Byrd Presents.....	P.15
By Jerome Tew		Announcements.....	P.16

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MICAJAH AUTRY

HERO OF THE ALAMO

BY JOEL W. ROSE

Years ago, had someone had told me that some fellow from Sampson County by the name of Micajah Autry was one of the 258 men killed in at the Battle of the Alamo in 1836, I would have been a little surprised. Furthermore, had I been told that Autry's grandson was one of the founders of Texaco Oil, I probably would have fallen out of my chair. But, it happened, it's all true, and here is how this strange story unfolded.

Micajah Autry was born in Sampson County in 1793, the second son of Theophilus Autry (1770-1834) and Elizabeth Crumpler. Theophilus was the son of Cornelius Autry, Jr. and the grandson of Cornelius Autry, Sr., who is generally considered to be the original progenitor of the North Carolina Autrys. It appears that Micajah's family may have lived near the intersection of today's Welcome School Road and Maxwell Road in the Clement community. When he was just a young boy, his family moved to a nearby farm in Cumberland County.

At the age of eighteen, Micajah volunteered for service in the US Army. During the War of 1812, he participated in a march to Wilmington when the British threatened that city. Afterwards he joined the army at Charleston, and remained in service there until 1815.

He returned to his father's farm in poor health and suffered from chills and fever. Micajah was not then physically strong enough to do farm labor, so he turned his attention to education and became a teacher. He had an inquisitive nature and became interested in the lands to the west. What lay beyond the hills and mountains would be, in his opinion, the rugged life of a pioneer that would make weak men strong and strong men stronger.

The 1820's saw extensive migrations of young adults leaving North Carolina, heading west to seek new opportunities. Some states were offering free land as a means to attract settlers and growth. Though it may not seem like it today, places like Arkansas, Tennessee, and Kentucky sat at the edge of what was then considered to be the western frontier.

Seeking to broaden his world, Micajah Autry moved to Hayesboro, TN in 1823 where he taught school and later took up the study of law. In 1824 he married a widow, Martha Wyche Putney Wilkinson. They raised

two children of their own and Martha's daughter by her first marriage. In 1828 or 1829 Autry was admitted to the bar at Nashville. He then moved to Jackson, Tennessee, where he practiced law from 1831 to 1835 in partnership with Andrew L. Martin. Autry and Martin later started a mercantile business in Nashville but like many of Micajah's ventures, they were unsuccessful.

While in Nashville Micajah developed many close friends, including then President Andrew Jackson, and he often visited with Jackson at his Nashville home, The Hermitage. Another good friend was Davy Crockett, the legendary 19th century American folk hero, frontiersman, soldier and politician.

Even as an attorney Micajah was having a hard time making ends meet and supporting his family. He looked to the south for new opportunities. Texas, which was then a Mexican province, was seeking to separate itself from Mexico. On October 2, 1835, the Texas War of Independence began and it was well known that Texas was seeking men to join its fledgling army. Any man who enlisted would receive \$24 in cash, the rights to 800 acres of land, and instant Texas citizenship.

Micajah's friend Davy Crockett was an ardent supporter of Texas independence and he himself had already decided to join the cause and fight. He convinced approximately 30 men to join him, and one of those was Micajah Autry. From then on, Crockett's men were known as the "Tennessee Volunteers."

On November 1, 1835, Micajah officially volunteered for the cause in Texas. He left his family and slaves in the care of his stepdaughter's husband, and set out for Texas. Crockett's men took different paths to Texas. Micajah traveled by steamboat from Nashville to Memphis. From there he wrote to his wife on December 7, 1835: "On the steamboat Pacific, I have met a number of acquaintances bound for Texas...I am determined to provide a home for you.....or perish."

The earlier Mexican War for Independence (1810–1821) had severed the control that Spain had exercised on its North American territories and the new country of Mexico was formed. Since 1821 the colony of Texas had belonged to Mexico, but many people in Texas wanted to leave Mexican rule and become a new country. In early 1835, violence erupted in that region called Mexican Texas and by the end of the year, Texan forces had expelled all Mexican soldiers from the area.

On December 12, 1835, the Texan Army was officially established. Meanwhile, in Mexico City, President Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna began gathering an army to retake Texas.

From Natchitoches, LA on December 13 Micajah wrote: "About 20 men from Tennessee formed our squad.... The war in Texas is still going on favorably to the Texans, but it is thought that General Santa Anna of the Mexican Army will make a descent with his whole force in the spring, but there will be soldiers enough of the real grit in Texas by that time to overrun all of Mexico.... We have between 400 and 500 miles to foot it to the seat of government, for we cannot get horses, but have sworn allegiance to each other."

Autry's trip to Texas was cold and wet. He was tired but in good health. On January 13, 1836, he was in Nacogdoches, TX where he met up with his old friend, Davy Crockett and the others from Tennessee. Together, they enlisted in the Volunteer Auxiliary Corps of Texas.

Micajah believed in the cause for Texas, and wrote to his wife: "I go whole hog in the cause of Texas. I expect to help them gain their independence and also to form their civil government, for it is worth risking many lives for. From what I have seen and learned from others there is not so fair a portion of the earth's surface warmed by the sun."

Later he set out for a place called Washington-on-the-Brazos with Crockett with others under the command of Captain William B. Harrison. They arrived in San Antonio de Bexar (modern-day San Antonio) on February 9 and joined the Alamo garrison under the command of Colonel William Barrett Travis. It was a cold winter and snow was still on the ground there. Having shown his leadership skills and popularity with the other men, Autry was soon promoted to the rank of Major.

The Battle of the Alamo was a pivotal event in the Texas Revolution. On February 23, 1836, an estimated 4,000 Mexican troops under the leadership of President and General Antonio Santa Anna launched an assault on the Alamo as the first step in a campaign to re-take Texas.

The Alamo, a small Franciscan mission that was serving as a fort, was initially defended by approximately 165 Texan troops. Aware that his garrison could not withstand an attack by such a large force, Colonel Travis wrote multiple letters pleading for more men and supplies, but fewer than 100 reinforcements arrived. On February 26, Travis ordered the artillery to stop firing to conserve powder and shot. Crockett and his men were encouraged to keep shooting, as they rarely missed and thus didn't waste shot. For the next 12 days the two armies engaged in several skirmishes

with minimal casualties.

Major Autry, who was an expert marksman, was chosen by his company to shoot and kill General Santa Anna should the opportunity arise, as Santa Anna often walked across the grounds near the front battle lines.

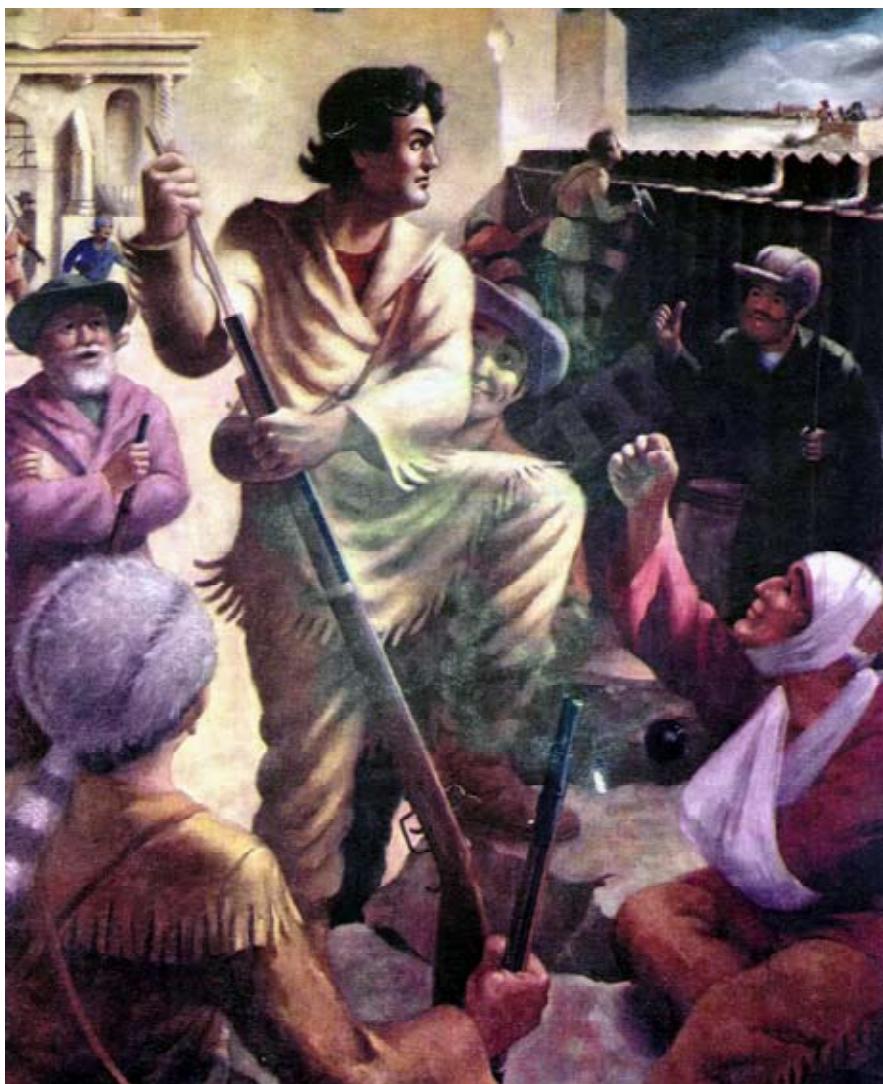
With the Mexicans now only 200 yards from the mission, the Alamo's walls were starting to chip away and the men could see Mexican soldiers building scaling ladders.

On the morning of March 5, during a lull in the nearly constant bombardment, Colonel William Travis used his sword to draw a line in the sand in front of his battered men. In a voice trembling with emotion, Travis described the hopelessness of their plight and said, "those prepared to give their lives in freedom's cause, come over to me." Without hesitation, every man, except one, crossed the line. Colonel James Bowie, bedridden with pneumonia, asked that his cot be carried over.

At 10PM that night, a sudden silence fell over the battlefield that rattled the men inside the mission. After 12 days of constant cannon fire, the quietness forced the defenders to fight fatigue and the need for sleep. It was all part of Santa Anna's plan as he had issued the order to his commanders to prepare their men for a final assault on the fortress. He wanted the Texans "to sleep the sleep of exhaustion – and wake and find Mexicans scaling the walls."

In the early morning hours of March 6, 1836, a cry of "Viva Santa Anna!" went up and thousands of Mexican soldiers advanced on the Alamo. The Texans gathered themselves and waited for the Mexicans to come into range. During the final seige, an opportunity arose to shoot General Santa Anna when he ventured almost into range. Micajah Autry raised his long rifle, took careful aim as his breathless companions watched, and fired. In that moment, the history of Texas might have been changed, but in the nervous tension and great hope of killing Santa Anna, Autry's bullet went wild and Santa Anna scampered for cover.

After repulsing two attacks, the Texans were unable to fend off a third attack. As Mexican soldiers scaled the walls, most of the Texan soldiers withdrew into interior buildings. Defenders unable to reach the buildings were slain by the Mexican cavalry as they attempted to escape. The Alamo's huge courtyard was filled with desperate hand-to-hand fighting: Mexicans with bayonets and lances and the Alamo defenders with rifle butts, pistols, knives, knees and fists. With the inevitable looming upon them, the Texans fought like they



"This painting, which once hung in the Alamo chapel from the 1930's through the 1980's, shows Micajah Autry preparing to take his shot at Mexican General Santa Anna."

never had before and delivered unbelievable carnage to the Mexican soldiers, but the army ultimately tore through the mission killing all. By 6:30AM the battle was over and the Alamo had fallen. Between five and seven Texans may have surrendered but were quickly executed. The bodies of Colonels Bowie, Crockett, and Travis, as well as every Texan dead or wounded, were then bayoneted. No Texans were left alive, though several women and children were spared. Most historians agree that approximately 258 Texans died and between 400–600 Mexicans were killed or wounded.

Micajah Autry lived through the 13 days of the Alamo siege, the prowess of his marksmanship adding to the numbers of Santa Anna's dead. He fell on that final day with his comrades at the stockade, overwhelmed by the Mexican troops, determined and courageous to the end.

Once all of the defenders had been killed, Santa Anna ordered his men to take their bodies to a nearby stand of trees where they were stacked together and wood piled on top. That evening, a fire was lit and the

bodies of the defenders were burned to ashes. Santa Anna, minimizing his losses, said, "It was but a small affair." But one Mexican officer, noting the great number of casualties, declared, "Another such victory and we are ruined."

Santa Anna's perceived cruelty during the battle inspired many Texans—both Texas settlers and adventurers from the United States—to join the Texan Army. Rallied by a desire for revenge, the Texans, using the battle cry "Remember the Alamo!", defeated the Mexican Army at the Battle of San Jacinto, on April 21, 1836, thus ending the revolution. The conclusion of the war in 1836 resulted in the creation of the Republic of Texas. An independent nation for nearly 10 years, Texas was officially annexed to the United States on December 29, 1845.

Several children were born Micajah and Martha Autry but only two survived. After Micajah's death, his widow, Martha, moved with their young children to Holly Springs, MS. Their daughter, Mary Autry

(b.1827) later married James Greer. Their other child was a son, James Lockhart Autry (b.1830) who married Jeanne Valliant.

An 1851 letter written by James L. Autry from Corsicana, TX shows that he visited Texas and settled his father's estate. It included a patent for 1,920 acres of bounty land issued to Micajah Autry's heirs for his services at the Alamo.

James L. Autry later served as a Confederate Colonel during the War Between the States. In early 1862, Autry was in command at Vicksburg when a federal fleet under the command of Admiral Farragut steamed up the Mississippi River from New Orleans. Farragut demanded the surrender of Vicksburg. Colonel Autry's reply to this demand: "Mississippians do not know how to surrender, nor do they care to learn." On December 31, 1862, James L. Autry was killed in battle at Murfreesboro, TN. His body was returned to Holly Springs, MS where he was buried.

Had Micajah Autry lived a long life, he would have been able to see the fruits of his efforts and financial security for his family.

His grandson, James L. Autry, Jr. was born in Holly Springs, MS. Educated in Mississippi schools for most of his life, he attended the University of the South on a scholarship before moving to Texas in 1876. Autry moved to Navarro County to undertake management of a ranch given to his grandfather's heirs for his service at the Alamo. The property still remains in the family today and played no small part as capital for Micajah descendant's ability to contribute to the welfare of Texans.

Once established in Texas, James L. Autry, Jr. began the study of law. He became an attorney and later a judge for Navarro County. He was instrumental in establishing the Texas Bar Association in 1882. As a resident of Corsicana, TX, Judge Autry quickly became involved in local business affairs.

In 1894 oil was discovered in Corsicana by accident when Autry's water-well company encountered oil while attempting to drill a new water well for the city. Autry saw the future and resigned as judge to pursue private business interests. The Corsicana Oil Field eventually proved to be the first large field west of the Mississippi River.

In 1901 he partnered with Joseph S. Cullinan and William C. Hogg to establish the Texas Fuel Company, which later became the Texaco Oil Company, bringing Autry and his family considerable wealth. In 1908, the company's corporate headquarters were moved to

Houston.

In 1914 Autry, Cullinan, and Hogg then combined their capital and talents to establish the Fidelity Bank and Trust Company, Farmers Petroleum Company, and American Republics Company. Autry served as president of Farmers Petroleum Company, president of Fidelity Trust Company, and vice-president and general counsel of the American Republics Company.

James L. Autry, Jr. and wife Allie Bell Kinsloe Autry were great benefactors to charitable activities in Houston and the entire state, including early causes against mental retardation and tuberculosis. The Autry family has always had a longstanding benefactor relationship with Rice University.

Also in 1914 Micajah's daughter, Mary Autry Greer, was living on land her father's estate received from the State of Texas. According to The Alamo magazine, at that time she was the only living child of any of the heroes of the Alamo.

Micajah Autry's name is among the first of the list of names engraved upon the marble memorial erected by the state of Texas near the entrance to the capitol at Austin. The monument stands in memory of the men who gave up their lives at the Alamo so that Texas might be free. His Alamo story is well recorded in the history of Texas, movies, and author Walter Lord's book, "A Time To Stand". Lord writes, "Micajah Autry loved music, played the violin beautifully, wrote poetry, and sketched pictures.. but could never make any money".

Today during the annual Summer Frontier Festival in San Antonio, a special Micajah Autry day is observed. A full-length oil painting by John Francis Lewis depicting Autry after firing at General Santa Anna, hangs in the Alamo Museum.

The Alamo shrine is still considered one of the most sacred battle sites in American history and remains one of the nation's top tourist attractions.

Micajah Autry is best known for giving his life for freedom at the Alamo, but his legacy and that of his descendants is still visible today.

Sources: The Sampson County Heritage Book, 1984; "A Man Called Micajah", by Fred Burgess, 1985; "The Alamo: Destroy it, Save it, or Retake it", by Donald A. Jelinek, 1999; Micajah Autry, Wikipedia.org; Texas Escapes Online Magazine, Alamo Marksman, by Bob Bowman; www.tennesseehistory.com: Tennesseans at the Alamo; The Alamo City Guide; Texas State Historical Association

EARLY HISTORY OF NEWTON GROVE

BY KENT WRENCH

Early "eyewitness" descriptions of the Newton Grove community come from diaries of Yankee soldiers. In March of 1865, Thomas W. Connelley of the 70th Ohio wrote about the heart of Sampson as the XV Corps broke camp on the Goldsboro/Tarboro Road south of Newton Grove. He writes the following: "*We are passing through a well cultivated county, with rich farm lands skirting the roadside. The houses are well built, the granaries are full of oats and corn and our animals are getting their fill. We have found more forage than we could bring away.*"

Henry Wright, 6th Iowa wrote: "*As we moved to the vicinity of Newton Grove Cross-Roads oak timber was seen for the first time in many days and was hailed by the troops with shouts of joy for it was something to get out of the pine woods.*"

Capt. Brown of the 4th Minnesota Infantry Regiment gives these details about Newton Grove: "*roads better; country rolling; plantations larger and more numerous; residence better; Negroes more numerous; and bummers in clover.*"

Col. McLurg writes on March 19, 1865 at about 7:30 a. m.: "*he (Sherman), Slocum, and J. C. Davis (Commander of the 14th Army Corps) sat together on their horses at the crossroads.*"



The Dr. John Carr Monk home (above) was built in 1855. His Daughter, Catherine and wife, Euphemia, pose in 1894. Sherman and his Officers sat, on their horses, in the Newton Grove crossroads in sight of this house.

The early settlers of the Newton Grove section of Sampson County had chosen farm-land in one of the richest agricultural sections of the entire state.

Capt. Brown observed that plantations were larger, more numerous and Negroes were more numerous in the Newton Grove community. The 1850 census list the number of slaves owned by the head of a household, if any. Some larger slave holders in the Newton Grove and Westbrook District, were: Moses Cox with 42; J. Blackman Cox with 27; Archibald Monk with 13; Alexander Benton had 12 and many other plantations had lesser numbers and many had no slaves.

Most plantations were self sufficient, growing their meat, grain, forage, wool, cotton and geese for warm bedding. The pine forest was worked for tar and turpentine on many plantations. Oxen were the draft animal of choice before the civil war and a fine horse and carriage were equal to today's fancy new car. The antebellum period was a prosperous era in the history of Newton Grove.

Quoting from the book *Slavery in The State of North Carolina*: "*In 1800 North Carolina was, in the grasp of the small farm system." "Slave-owners had but few slaves. With these they mingled freely. They worked with them in the fields, ploughing side by side. The slave cabins were in the same yard with the master's humble home. The majority of them were Christians, mostly of the Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian Churches. Their wives superintended the making of the slave clothing, the cooking of the slave dinners, and the nursing of the slave patients.....This class of men has received but little attention from those who have written of Southern society, and yet it was the backbone of that society.*" Editors note; Sampson County had a few large plantation with numerous slaves. The above general description from the book can be applied to the Newton Grove community.

But, following the Civil War a trail of destruction led from the community in all directions. A way of life disappeared from society.

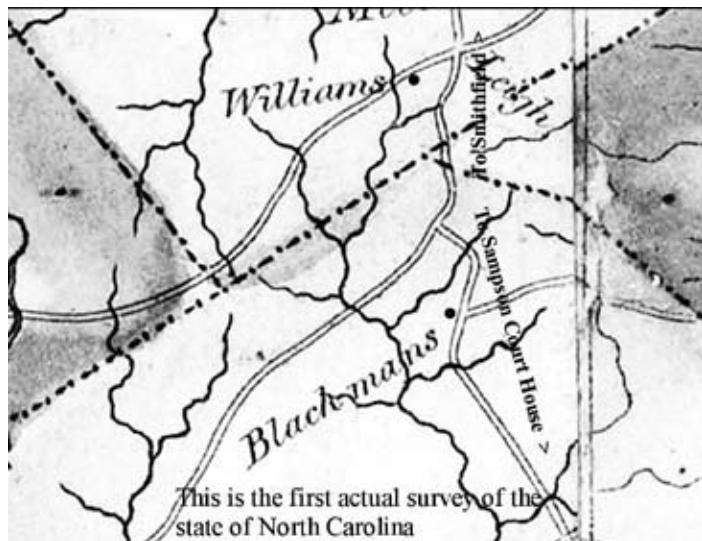
Before it became a town, the Newton Grove

community was identified by various post offices. A list of its' early post office follows: Williams; Blackmans Store; Coxes Store; New Town at the Grove which was later shortened to Newton Grove all served as post offices in their turn.

The location of Williams is shown on an 1808 map of NC; it was near the old Raleigh Road along the Johnston/Sampson line (see map.) Richard Williams was the first postmaster, in 1817; postal records are incomplete for this era.

Blackmans Store was authorized as a post office February 27, 1824; John Fellow was the early postmaster of this post office. Blackman's Store was located along McLamb Road (see map.)

The third Post office was Coxes Store; William Cox Sr. inherited the Blackmans Store and



In this 1808 survey of NC there was no crossroads at what would become Newton Grove.

changed the name to Coxes; he was appointed postmaster May 6th 1825. The Coxes son became postmaster when his father died in 1834; he served until June 15 1849.

Thomas L. Vincent, a medical doctor, and his brother John Vincent from Orange County moved to Newton Grove. Thomas married, purchased land, and built a doctor's office and a general store in a large oak grove on his property along the old Tarboro/Goldsboro stage road.

The Sampson court granted Thomas Vincent liquor license. The village boomed. People began calling it the New Town at the Grove; this

distinguished it from the Coxes Store community just down the road a bit to the south.

The Vincent brothers petitioned the government for a post office to be called Newton Grove, a shortened version of the New Town at the Grove. The petition was granted and the post office was established a mile or so north of Coxes Store. On Jan. 28, 1848, John Vincent was appointed first postmaster.

John Vincent violated antebellum laws about trading with slaves, when charged he made a hasty departure and his brother, Dr. Thomas Vincent, was appointed postmaster in his stead. A year after the new post office at Newton Grove was established the Coxes Store post office was closed.

There are two versions of the naming of the town: One to the effect that Blackman Lee, a large landowner in that section, said he was going to build a "new town." Consequently several store buildings were erected, one in a large grove, hence "Newton Grove." The other story is to the effect that Lewis King was an ardent admirer of Sir Isaac Newton and that the town was named in his memory.

Archibald Monk established a post office at Monks Store and Crossroads, a few miles south of Newton Grove along present day 701. It was opened Feb. 7, 1848 and closed Oct. 15 1872. It opened the same year that Coxes Store closed.

Miss Margaret (Maggie) Robinson came to



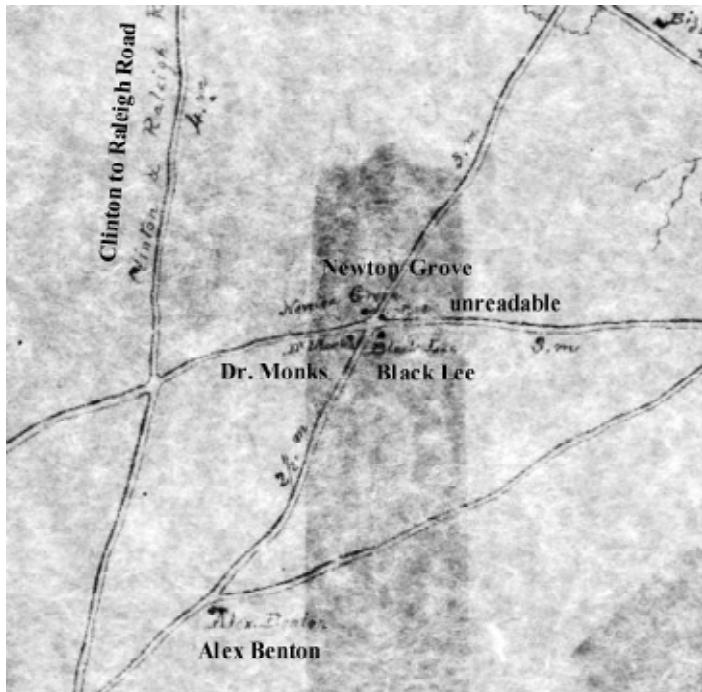
Mrs. Margaret Cox is poised on the front porch of her home which served as the Newton Grove Post Office. She was postmistress from 1899 until 1933.

Newton Grove in 1875 as a teacher in the new Parochial School. She later married William W. Cox of Newton Grove. In 1899 she became

Postmistress of the Newton Grove Post Office. She held this position until her death in 1933; she was 83 years old when she died.

From 1817 until 1945 the post offices had been in a business establishment or the private home of the appointed postmaster/postmistress. On March 1, 1904 RFD mail was implemented and the first horse and buggy rural route was established at Newton Grove. In 1945 the Newton Grove Post Office received its first official US Post Office building.

Dr. John Carr Monk, son of Archibald



Newton Grove had a Crossroads at the time of the Civil War....map was used by Sherman's Army.

Monk, was born February 19, 1827. He practiced medicine in Newton Grove before and after the Civil War. Based on a Civil War era map his practice was located at the cross roads of the original site of Newton Grove. Other stores were located at the same cross road. It appears that Dr. Monk may have taken over Dr. Thomas L. Vincent's practice.

By 1874 a Catholic Church building had been constructed on land donated by Dr. Monk. This church was consecrated on August 11, 1874 by Bishop Gibbons. Father Mark Gross was the first regular visitor to the parish, coming monthly from Wilmington.

St. Mark's school, an integrated school, was established at the parish in 1877, and was

closed in 1954. Miss Margaret Robinson was the first teacher; eventually she was relieved by the



St. Mark's Catholic Church, Newton Grove, NC c. 1909. Dr. John Carr Monk, a Newton Grove physician, converted to Catholicism and founded the church. He received a package wrapped in a newspaper; that had the article "The True Church." The church was constructed in 1874 on land donated by Dr. Monk.



St. Mark's school, an integrated school, was established at the parish in 1877. The above building was said to have been built c. 1900. The school was closed c. 1954. Miss Margaret Robinson was the first teacher. In its later days this building served as a movie house. The upstairs had space where civic events took place.



Pictured is Newton Grove's old Glenwood High School. The school was along Hwy 50 near the Sampson/Johnson line.

Joel Rose's (president of SCHS) grandfather, John Rose, is in the very center wearing a large black hat and black coat. John's older brother, Jasper Rose is kneeling, second row, left side beside student with a open book and black hat. Jasper served as principal there at some point. In the lower front right are three girls with an open book. The one on the left is Joel's great aunt, Dona Rose. In the center is another great aunt, Georgia Rose.

Dominican Sisters of Newburgh, New York.

In 1882 Isham Royal (superintendent of schools) writes about private schools in Sampson County and had this to say about Newton Grove's Glenwood High School: "*at Newton Grove, near the line between the counties of Johnston and Sampson is a beautiful school building known as Glenwood High School projected and supported by citizens of both counties, under the leadership of Mr. S. E. Spence.....Mr. Isaac Williams of Sampson is chairman of the board, and Mr. Hannibal Newton Bizzell of Johnston is secretary treasurer.*"

The following comments come from a sketch of Mrs Annie Warren McPhail's life; she attended Glenwood: *When I was about ten years old our teacher was Dr. C. W. Carriher of China Grove. I went the first day he taught we had eight month terms. He taught 8 hours per day. He taught several years. Willie Carver was music teacher. We had Mr. R. C. Cravens, J.E. Spence and D. L. Ellis as principals. Miss Katie McDonald, music and French teacher. I took French and Latin and read Caesar and Virgil. There were boarding students from other counties. Dr. Frank Highsmith and sister boarded with Dr. Carriher while attending this school. Our commencements were in May. We had one day and night with recitations declaimations and music. We had a big speaker. At night we had plays, ect. Our commencements were held under a big tent in front of the building. The porch was used for a stage. We were not given diplomas.*

In 1899 a new high school was opened in

Newton Grove this wood frame school burned abt. 1927. Newton Grove area schools were consolidated in a brick building in 1928. Both school buildings were located along present day US Highway 13 on the south side of town.

The routing of roads changed many times over the history of the Newton Grove area; in the early eighteen hundreds there was no cross roads at what became Newton Grove but by the Civil War a crossroad existed. After the end of World War 11, roads from six surrounding towns were brought to a point in the southeastern part of Newton Grove. A traffic circle was constructed and most all the businesses moved to the circle. The New Town at the Grove would die within a few years; a few old vacant buildings remain at the grove, as of this writing.

Newton Grove was incorporated as a town by the NC General Assembly on March 6, 1879. William Washington Cox was the first Mayor of Newton Grove. There were ten families inside the corporate limits. The town's government became inactive after a few years and remained so until 1935. At that time the limits were extended to one mile from the post office; the incorporated area is about 565 acres. Its government has functioned ever since.

Sources: Sampson County Heritage Book; 1850 Census; Civil War diaries; Slavery in the state of North Carolina by John Spencer Bassett; NC Archive maps; Albert and Ann Herring photos.

FAIRCLOTH FAMILY

A MAN WITH NO NAME

BY JEROME TEW

In doing research on Haburn Jackson and Rice Matthis I found children listed selling family land but no ID on where the land came from. This is the case with the Faircloth family.

I believe that most of the Sampson Faircloth families came from Edgecombe Co. NC. A William Faircloth and son had moved from Edgecombe to Dobbs and they are listed in the 1769 tax list. This William was likely born near 1715 and William Jr. was born in 1740. This William Jr. is the officer that served in the RW in Dobbs Co. NC.

In an 1826 Faircloth heirs deed, It is easy to see that a Faircloth family were selling family land. Arthur Faircloth, Wilson Faircloth, Arsey Butler, Betsey Ellis, Isaac Sessoms and his wife Nancy Sessoms, and Sabra Faircloth sold 150 acres in two tracts to Raiford Faircloth. Here are seven siblings and no ID in the deed as to the parents.

In looking at the Sampson County Court Minutes I found this entry for 1819. FAIRCLOTH GUARDIAN: Ordered that Robert Butler Sr. be guardian to Sabra and Wilson Faircloth. Bond was \$200. Security was Gabriel Holmes, Esquire. This entry list two of the siblings. This means that one or both parents are dead and both of these two siblings are under 21 years of age.

Then I found this: ESTATE: Raiford Faircloth, administrator, returned an account of sales of the estate of Elizabeth Faircloth dec'd. (F1819) I think it is safe to say that, this is the mother of these children.

However, we still need more proof.

I then looked at Sampson wills and found some Faircloths, but none of the above siblings. In the John Johnston 1814 will, he list three daughters that married Faircloth men...namely....Elizabeth, Hannah, and Milliy. Isham Faircloth was one of the Faircloth men...It does appear that Isham married Milliy and had a daughter Mary. John Johnston was born near 1743 and he died soon after 1814.

Also James Faircloth was another in the Will but, the Will does not ID who he married. The Will does ID Susannah Faircloth as the daughter of James and his wife. The Will also list daughter Elizabeth Faircloth and no hint as to who she married. The Will also list sons as Matthew, Mark, and John Johnston Jr. It may be logical to assume that James Faircloth married Eliza-

beth Johnston, but that would not be smart.

I then found this 1828 deed that list one of the siblings. Deed 29:431 shows that Matthew Johnston and Elizabeth Ellis jointly sold 56 ¼ acres of land to John Faircloth for \$50. This deed does not ID the mother of Elizabeth Ellis as she owned half of this land during her lifetime. Some deeds do ID the prior owner.

1. This proves that this land had belonged to John Johnston, who died in 1814, and John was the father of Matthew Johnston.

2. This shows that the mother of Elizabeth Faircloth Ellis (Elizabeth Johnston Faircloth) was the sister of Matthew Johnston and daughter of John Johnston.

3. This shows that the mother of Elizabeth Faircloth Ellis was dead.

4. This shows that Faircloth Sr. married Elizabeth Johnston, daughter of John Johnston.

5. This deed and Will also proves that James Faircloth married first Hannah Johnston and one child Mary was born before 1814.

6. This 1828 deed also shows that Elizabeth Faircloth Ellis' husband left her and Sampson before 1825.

Elizabeth Johnston Faircloth was born about 1765 and died in 1818. The 1790, 1800, and 1810 US Census leave no doubt that her husband was John Faircloth Sr. who was born about 1753 and drew six RW pay vouchers.

To add to the complex nature of this puzzle, John Faircloth Sr. in 1816 gave to James Faircloth 100 acres of land. James therefore was his son and since this was his share of the Faircloth estate, James was not listed with the other siblings in the 1826 Faircloth heirs deed. Wilson Faircloth in 1826 sold to Mary Faircloth Campbell 200 acres for \$200. Mary likely married John Campbell.

This then is who I have as 10 children of John Faircloth Sr. 1753-1825 and Elizabeth Johnston Faircloth 1760-1818.

1. John Faircloth Jr. 1778-
2. Elizabeth Faircloth Ellis 1780-
3. James Faircloth 1783-1847 m: Nancy Royal 1800-1850+
4. Raiford Faircloth 1786-1848 m: Martha Jones 1800-1850+
5. Arsey Faircloth Butler 1790-
6. Mary Faircloth Campbell m: John Campbell
7. Nancy Faircloth Sessoms 1796- m: Isaac Sessoms
8. Arthur Faircloth 1798-195x m: Katherine Fisher

Report We the Committee Consider that the stain
 goes of the Cabin Branch to the fork where
 the South prong to the upper line shall be the
 Dividing line between Arthur Faircloth and Wilson
 Faircloth heirs of Samuel Faircloth D. D.
 Arthur Faircloth to hold the North side and
 Wilson the South Side certified by us
 this 16 Day of April 1819

Solomon Sampson
 Charles Butler
 Robert Butler

From estate papers of Samuel Faircloth; dated April 1819.

1835-

9. Wilson Faircloth 1800-m:18xx Jane ____ 1800-
Moved to GA

10. Sabra Faircloth 1802-

After the death of his wife in 1818, John Sr. sold most of his land to Daniel Tew, my ancestor. John Sr. died between 1820 and 1825.

The children of Raiford Faircloth 1788-1848 and Martha Jones. See deed 63:216

Wilson sold his 404 acres of Sampson land to brother Jacob Faircloth in 1851 for \$404.

1. Lucy 1821-
2. Jane 1823-
3. Wilson 1823-
4. *Mary 1825-
5. Jacob Faircloth 1827-1855
6. James Faircloth 1829-
7. Nancy 1831-
8. Wilson 1823-
9. Sylvania 1827
10. Levi Faircloth 1837-
- *Eli 1844- mu

Samuel Faircloth was born c1752 and died near 1805. There is no estate record on him in Raleigh. There is part of one page on file. Caleb Faircloth purchased 400 acres of family land in 1808 from sisters, Elizabeth, Nancy, and Jonah Faircloth. Caleb sold 624

acres of land to Alex Culbreath and left Sampson about 1811.

Issue:

1. Caleb Faircloth 1775-
2. Elizabeth Faircloth
3. Nancy Faircloth
4. Jonah Faircloth

Benjamin and Solomon Faircloth sold to John Fisher 250 acres for 100 pds in 1810. See deed 15:219

This proves that Benjamin Faircloth and Solomon Faircloth were brothers. However, this deed does not say where this land came from. However, Benjamin Jr. in 1800 sold 100 acres of land to Benjamin Sr. This is proof of father and son.

In 1817 James Faircloth and wife Nancy sold to Noah Royal 26 acres for \$130. This Nancy is listed as a Royal by some researchers. She signed the deed and so this was land from her family. Nancy was born in 1800 and could not be a daughter of Noah Royal. He being 13 in 1800. Nancy could be a sister of Noah and daughter of Willis Royal, who in 1817 had just moved to GA.

This same James Faircloth was in the 1814 Will of John Johnston and this James had married Milliy Johnston by 1814. James and Hannah Johnston Faircloth had at least one child, Susannah Faircloth as listed in the Johnston 1814 Will. Documents and US census do

not support two men named James, however a document is the estate file of Samuel Faircloth does appear to say that Arthur and Wilson were heirs of Samuel. However, Wilson is proven as an heir of John Faircloth Sr. However, Samuel could have had sons named Arthur and Wilson and they moved from Sampson. See top of page 10.

FAIRCLOTH ESTATE: Administration on the estate of Zachariah Faircloth was granted to James Faircloth. He entered into bond of \$100 with Mark Johnston and Matthew Johnston as his securities. (1820)

Zachariah was likely a brother of Benjamin Faircloth c1747. Benjamin Faircloth Sr. died about 1805. In 1810, Benjamin and Solomon Faircloth jointly sold 250 acres of family land to John Fisher for 100 pds. In 1807 Solomon Faircloth sold to Elizabeth Lucas 100 acres for 15 pds. It was not proper to sell land to a woman unless they are close kin or are an older widow.

ISSUE:

1. Benjamin Faircloth Jr. 1770-
2. Solomon Faircloth 1774-
3. Elizabeth Faircloth Lucas.

Samuel Faircloth sold 100 acres to Benjamin Faircloth Jr. for 20 pds in 1791. Wit. Benjamin Faircloth. This puts Benjamin Faircloth Jr. as born by 1770.

FAIRCLOTH, Hardwick (Hardy), Private Duplin Militia

Soldier drew 1 RW pay voucher and lived in Sampson in 1790 and had five young males in his household. Soldier was born about 1754 to William and Sarah Faircloth and is also listed in Sampson in 1785 tax list. Soldier married Sarah Suggs. Issue: 1-Reason, 2-Isham, 3-James, 4-Thomas, 5-Jacob, 6-Benjamin, 7-Elizabeth or Betty, 8-Achsah, 9-Sabar, 10-Hardwick (Hardy) Jr., 11-Nancy, 12-Jonah, 13-Arthur, 14-Wilson, and 15-Jonathan.

Soldier's brothers were John and Zachariah Faircloth. Soldier died about 1810.

Some time back I obtained the above RW file on Hardy Faircloth. After doing the research that I have done, I believe that the children listed above are not accurate.

I shall now list the senior Faircloth men in early Sampson.

1. Benjamin Faircloth is listed in Edgecombe Co. in 1761 as a chain bearer and I put his YOB as 1747. Benjamin Sr. died about 1807.

2. Robert Faircloth is also listed with Benjamin Faircloth and likely these two men were brothers.

3. John Faircloth is first listed in Sampson in 1779

as he patented 300 acres of land on the east side of the Little Coharie. I have him as born in 1753 and he died c1825.

4. Zachariah Faircloth first purchased land in 1773 from Benjamin. Likely they are brothers.

5. Samuel Faircloth is listed in the 1784 tax list and owned 200 areas of land. I have him born in 1752 and he died c1807.

6. Hardy Faircloth is listed with 300 acres of land in 1784 and he had five sons by 1790 and I put his YOB at c1757. He patented land in Sampson in 1779. Hardy died after 1810. No estate records exist. One son is IDed as Hardy Faircloth Jr. 1792-1850+.

7. Isham Faircloth is listed in the 1814 Will of John Johnston as married to Milliy Johnston and had a daughter named Mary. There is an Isham Faircloth born 1790 in the 1850 US Census with wife Mary born 1820. I think this is the same man with his 2nd wife. All his children listed in 1850 are likely from his wife Mary.

8. William Faircloth born 1740 in Dobbs and served in the RW and battle of Moore's Creek Bridge and is listed in the pension application of Thomas Cook. William Faircloth lived in Sampson in 1784. See below for the RW service.

"That in the year – month of January in the year – 1776 and the then County of Dobbs in the State of North Carolina (the day of said month is not precisely remembered but it was before the 15th day of said month) he volunteered as a private soldier in the service of the United States in the revolutionary war in the Militia of the State of North Carolina in a company commanded by Captain John Sheppard Lieutenant William Faircloth and Ensign Samuel Pope in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Abram Shepherd and the whole troop to which he belonged was commanded by General Richard Caswell that he served until the 10th of March of the same year is not positive as to the precise day of the month but believes it was the 10th when he returned home having been discharged by Colonel Sheppard, during this service he was in the Battles of Black River and Moore's Creek bridge."

Sources: Sampson deeds online at: <http://www.sampsonrod.org/>; RW Pensions online; Southern Campaign Revolutionary War Pension Applications & Rosters; John Johnston will online at: <http://www.familysearch.org/>

RESIGNATION



Nadine Strickland/Book Sales/Treasure of book com.

A letter of resignation to the Sampson County Historical Society from Nadine Strickland:

I will resign my position of Book Sales/Treasure of book com.; at the next quarterly meeting, April 14, 2012. I have known for some time that my health and family obligations were more than I can do. I have always had good support from everyone and I will continue to support the Historical Society.

Editors Note: Nadine began assisting Virginia Bizzell after Oscar became ill. She received orders and mailed the requested books. When Oscar and Virginia died the Bizzell twin daughters, Loretta and Lynda, transferred their parents work to the Heritage Book Committee, which Nadine was treasure of.

I thank Nadine on behalf of the society for the many years of hard dedicated work she gave freely to the society. Nadine we wish you the best.

Below is a new address for Book Sales: Sampson Co. H. S., P.O. Box 1084, Clinton, NC 28328

GROUND BREAKING



David King is standing near the site of the future building for the Sampson County History Museum. A building will be erected for the "Sports Hall of Fame." It will be named the Henry Burlington Sports Hall of Fame; which was always a dream of Mr. Burlington's.

Publications Available From Sampson Co. Historical Society

Duplin / Sampson, NC Revolutionary Records..	\$42.00
Sampson County Heritage Book (2 Vol. Set).....	\$70.00
New Sampson County Heritage Book (Vol 11)..	\$40.00
Sampson County Court Minutes, 1784-1800.....	\$38.00
Sampson County Court Minutes, 1800-1810.....	\$33.00
Sampson County Court Minutes, 1810-1820.....	\$35.00
Sampson County Court Minutes, 1820-1830.....	\$38.00
Seventh Census of Sampson County, NC-1850..	\$22.50
Eight Census of Sampson County, NC-1860.....	\$22.50
Ninth Census of Sampson County, NC-1870.....	\$28.00
The Five Civilized Indian Tribes of Eastern NC...	\$7.00
A Mixed Up Sampson County Family.....	\$5.00
Sampson County Child Life By O. J Peterson....	\$10.00

**The Huckleberry Historian from July 1979/April 2006
(on CD in Word Format or PDF Format)**
To Order \$25.00

WHAT OUR READERS SAY

Enjoyed the article on how to speak Southern. I could add some stories to that one. I was made fun of and laughed at over and over when I came all the way to Greensboro to go to school – all because of the way I talked. Believe it or not, I passed the speech test before classes began, but then NC changed the law and decided that all education majors were required to take speech. My instructor had no larynx and you should've seen her eyes roll when I spoke in class (a rarity after being laughed at a few times). Ditto for my French professor.

Just finished reading your article about kayaking the Black River. I really enjoyed it and it brought back some good memories of my own. Now you and your kin folks should go to Wilmington and take the Black River cruise that begins at the battleship and goes up the Cape Fear and then the Black River for about two hours. It's not nearly as exciting as getting baptized again, but its fun nonetheless.

Phyllis Hall Kelly

Hey Kent, I received my Jan issue and have read your article on the Black River. Super article and I felt like Tom Sawyer while reading it. My yearly payment will be in the post today for the 2012 year. Happy New Year.

Regards, Forrest Jackson

Brother, what another great issue of the HH. Loved it all, and your article on Black River had a great meaning to me. My wife's family property backed up to Black River. I have seen the hull of the "A. J. Johnson." Great writing and story.

JC Knowles

Kent, we enjoy the Huckleberry Historian.
Snookie and Carolyn Jackson.

I enjoy reading the Sampson County history articles in the Huckleberry Historian Thank you and other members for writing these articles. Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$10.00 for membership in the Sampson County Historical Society for 2012.

Sincerely, Ed Harrison

Thanks for a great read. Roger's father (Roger is my husband) was born on Black River, so that brought back memories. Check enclosed for 2012. **Sarah Rogers**

Thanks for a great job-enjoy ever issue.

Gladys Wilson Star

Thank you so much for your dedication to the Huckleberry Historian. I appreciate all of you that donate your time as officers. I feel such a strong connection to Sampson County being descended from so many of the families that settled there. The: Tomson, Faison, Murphy, Williams, Hollingsworth, Grice, Beaman, Robinson, Matthews, Lee, Haralson families. I just wanted to tell you how much the Sampson County Historical Society/the Huckleberry Historian and North Carolina mean to me.

**Page Steele, 4310 Lake Kemp Ct., Richmond, TX 77406-7945
pagetsteele@yahoo.com**

The best \$10.00 I spent all year. I was born on the banks of the Big Coharie near Blackman's Williams& Bryan's millpond, so I enjoyed reading about a lot of people I'm familiar with.

Patsy Royals Riffel.

Still loving the HH! Wish I could make the meetings. Thanks,

Jo Anne Britt Paulin

I enjoyed your article, "Mail Order Catalog." It brought back many fun memories.

Larry Draughon

Thank you so much for all that you do for the Sampson County Historical Society.

Richard Wright

I would like to pay my dues to the Sampson County Historical Society. My personal check for \$10.00 is enclosed. Thanks for all the good work you do for the SCHS.

Max R. Peterson Jr.

Enclosed is a check for \$100.00-\$10.00 for a subscription and the remainder is to cover any expenses the Historical Society may have. While researching the Sampson County Carter family I have met the nicest people in Sampson County and appreciate all of the help on my search.

Cindy McMasters

QUERY-TAYLOR WARREN

Enclosed are my dues for 2012. I really enjoy reading the Huckleberry Historian. I would love to see articles on slave owners and how they acquired the slaves, were they US born, did they have different surnames than slave owner, etc.

Below is an article I found on a Taylor Warren in The Sampson News dated September 17, 1930. The last paragraph tells me that he was one of the first members of the church and that it was founded before 1890.

Does anyone have any information on this Taylor Warren, a former slave of Isaiah Warren. I am a descendant of former slave Hessie Warren McPhail, the daughter of Jonas and Sarah Warren. Jerry Warren is also another name that I am researching to tie into these Warrens. Jerry Warren once own land behind Point Level Church on Vann Road. **Linda McLamb Owens, 1333 Stapleton Dr., Garner, NC 27529-4669**

Uncle Taylor Warren Dies At An Old Age

(Reported)

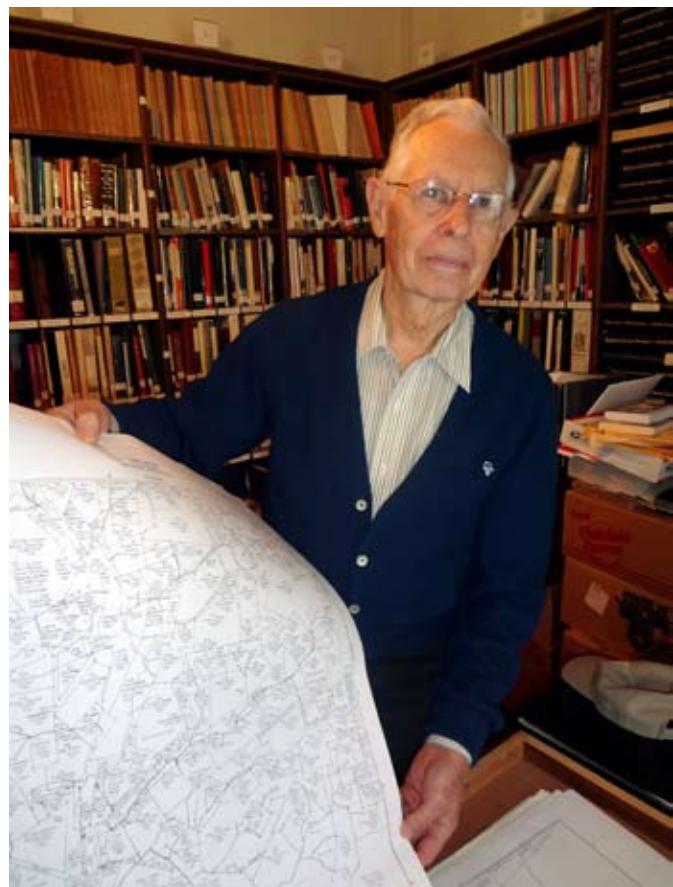
On Friday morning of last week, September 12, the Death Angel called to the Great Beyond old Uncle Tailor Warren. Old Uncle Tailor was born in slavery times, even before the Civil War, about 1845.

Uncle Tailor was the property of the late Isaiah Warren until about 1860. Mr. Warren gave Uncle Tailor to his daughter, Sally Jane McLamb, the wife of Daniel McLamb, with whom he made his home all her life until around 1900. When she died he made his home with her children until about six months ago.

Infirmities of old age made Uncle Tailor an invalid and he was taken to the county home where he stayed until the time of his death.

He was a faithful member of Pine Level Disciple church and had been a member there ever since the organization of the church, 40 or more years ago. Uncle Tailor was brought back near his old home and laid to rest near his old mistress. A host of his white and colored friends were present for the last rites over the body of this faithful old servant.

TOM BYRD PRESENTS LAND GRANT MAPS TO LIBRARY



Tom Byrd (pictured above) of Cary, NC grew up in Duplin County, NC. He is a member of the Duplin County and Sampson County Historical Societies.

Tom developed a fascination and love of maps in grade school and later in life, when he came across the plat (map) of a 560 acre land grant drawn by Surveyor William Dickson, he was hooked. He mapped his first land grant nearly forty years ago and has mapped land grants off and on ever since.

On February 4, 2012 he presented a set of his plats for Duplin County to the Dr. Dallas Herring Library in Rose Hill.

This work is invaluable to those searching land records. One can find the original owners of a land grant and the location of the land, from his work.

Tom has done similar mapping for much of the county of Sampson. And hopes at a future time to make it available for researchers.

On a personal note, I have a copy of the Mingo quadrangle map that Tom mapped; it has added greatly to my understanding of the area.

Thanks from all researchers and congratulation to soon to be octogenarian Tom Byrd for 40 years of research.

Editor

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NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING
SATURDAY, APRIL 14TH , 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.

DONNY TAYLOR
SPEAKER FOR APRIL 14 MEETING OF SCHS

Our speaker for the next meeting will be Donny Taylor, the Historic Site Manager for the Bentonville Battlefield. Donny will discuss some of the schedule events to take place at Bentonville in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, as well as plans for expansion and battlefield preservation.