

MARSH TOWNSHIP

Marsh Township is in the south, central section of Surry County, North Carolina. There are no established towns in Marsh Township. However, three large communities are within its boundaries. A portion of the Fairview community lies in the northeastern section of the township. The community of Crutchfield which was to be a town lies in the southeastern section of Marsh Township. The third community of Little Richmond lies in the southwestern section of this township. Maps will commonly refer to this community as Burch for Burch Station where trains pass through. It should also be mentioned that the Little Richmond community once had a portion of its land area referred to as Rusk. Apparently, there was a Rusk Post Office for a short time as well as a possible masonic lodge and some small businesses. The Crutchfield and Little Richmond communities lie along the Yadkin River Valley. Fertile "bottom land" may be found next to the Yadkin River. The Yadkin River serves as the southern boundary for Marsh Township.

Marsh Township has three important highways which pass through it. Interstate 77 passes through a portion of the northwestern section of the township. North Carolina Highway 268 passes from north to south through the middle of Marsh Township. United States Highway 601 also passes from north to south through the eastern section of this township. Along these highways, homes whether they be average or old homesteads, farms, and wooded areas may be seen and enjoyed. The rural beauty of these places form the "backbone" of Marsh Township. Creeks "snake" their way throughout the township. Bear Creek and Snow Creek are two of the more commonly known. At present, a church uses the Bear Creek name, and possibly there was a former school of the "one room" variety whose site was near the church. Milling operations could be found along Snow Creek. In fact, Snow Creek Milling Company (Dobbins Mill) still operates along Snow Creek just outside the Boundary of Marsh Township. A section of Snow Creek serves as part of the northern boundary of Marsh Township. The rest of the northern boundary is represented by land. Rivers serve as the other three boundaries of the township. The Mitchell River is the western boundary. The Fisher River is the eastern boundary. Both rivers come to their ends when they empty into the Yadkin River. As mentioned earlier, the Yadkin River serves as the southern boundary of Marsh Township.

There are no real civic organizations within Marsh Township. However, there is the private Fairview Wildlife Club in the Fairview community. This club is located in the northeastern section of the township. It was established by area residents as a recreational club. A large pond was developed for fishing, and Bear Creek may "feed" a small portion of its waters into the pond. A recreation building was built for dances and other family-oriented types of parties. At one time, hunting may even have been an option for recreation within the confines of club property. The operation of the club is not as active at present as in the past. It is mostly used as a fishing site now by club members. Located in the Crutchfield community is the Crutchfield Community Center. It is mostly used by the congregation of Mount Hermon Baptist Church. They use the center as a fellowship hall for their different activities. However, it is open for use by residents of the Crutchfield community for family-oriented activities. A former organization within the township was possibly the Rusk Masonic Lodge as mentioned earlier. I have been told that its former site was near that of the former site of Little Richmond Elementary School along North Carolina Highway 268. It remains unclear as to why the masonic lodge no longer exists. Registered voters of Marsh Township use the Jot-Um-Down Volunteer Fire Department on the Dobbins Mill Road for their voting purposes. A recently completed C.C. Camp Volunteer Fire Department Sub Station is located on North Carolina Highway 268 near the Little Richmond community. Numerous churches are within Marsh Township. Almost all are of the Baptist faith.

It is unclear to me as to where the township received its name of Marsh. There are numerous members of a Marsh family buried at Mount Hermon Baptist Church in the Crutchfield community. Most of these burial sites are older including one site where the monument indicates that the gentleman buried there was a Civil War veteran and a Mason. He may have been a member of the former Rusk Masonic Lodge. The Marsh family members buried in this cemetery may be descendants

of an earlier Marsh ancestor. This ancestor may have been a landowner of large numbers of acreage in the area. According to Mr. Dennis W. (Bud) Cameron, Register of Deeds in Surry County, NC, townships were created in each of the counties of North Carolina in 1868 as one of the policies of the Reconstruction period following the Civil War. In other words, Marsh Township came into being with the other townships during this time.

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INVENTORY OF SITES, PEOPLE, AND OTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING MARSH TOWNSHIP IN SURRY COUNTY, NC

The information presented includes a list of what I consider to be historic sites in Marsh Township. The list also includes a short listing of people I believed to be of notable interest. In preparing such a list, my hope was that the people associated with these sites and persons of notable interest whether or not by relation would possess those photographs which the Surry County Genealogical Association is looking for. Along with each site or notable person, I have listed a contact person and their telephone number. This contact person may or may not have historic photographs of these sites, notable people, or any other photograph of which you are looking for. If these contact people do not have the photographs of the nature in which you are searching, they are still extremely knowledgeable about their surrounding area. They should be able to direct you to those persons possessing historic photographs. In a project of this nature, a portion of its success depends on word-of-mouth, or people speaking to others about the project. Also enclosed is a corresponding map of Marsh Township which will give you a reasonable idea as to where the historic sites are or were located in this township. Finally, I have enclosed some information describing Marsh Township. I should mention that I may have provided more information than you were looking for. However, I was hoping that the extra information may aid you in future projects that the Association may endeavor to pursue.

This symbol, *, designates people that I have spoke with about the project. They are the contact people listed after the listing of a historic site or notable person. Whereas I have spoke with some of the contact people, they no very little about the project. I was only able to tell them of the Association's plans to publish a book of the nature which was described to me. Therefore, all of the contact people which you speak with will need to be thoroughly informed of all guidelines and policies concerning participation in this project. Particular attention and courtesy should be extended to those willing to participate concerning the protection of any photograph submitted. Any name where this symbol, *, does not appear before the name probably will involve a person who is unaware of the forthcoming project. However, they should be able to help you. There are at least three people whose names have been listed several times. This was not an action in which to place full responsibility on these people. On the contrary, these people may have photographs of the nature in which you are looking. However, the most important asset that they possess is their knowledge of the area and people in which they live. These three people should be able to direct you to many people who have significant, historic photographs. Finally, it should be pointed out that if a contact person has little or no information, then they need to be encouraged to help you find other people that may be able to help.

The symbol, +, will be found before the listing of historic sites that are also mentioned in the publication, "Simple Treasures: The Architectural Legacy of Surry County" by Laura A.W. Phillips. Whereas I am knowledgeable about many of the people and sites of this township, I wanted to refer to this publication to aid me in this information. My hope was that if you obtained a photograph of one of the sites also mentioned in this book, the book would then be able to provide some historical information that may help explain about the significance of the photograph if needed.

I hope that the enclosed map will provide a reasonable idea as to where the historic sites are located. It was extremely useful to me in determining boundaries of the township as well as identifying roads where historic sites lie along. Its most important use was in making sure that a historic site or notable person was in or associated within the boundaries of Marsh Township. At this point, I would like to suggest that the Association may find it useful to contact the Surry County Tax Mapping Office (401-8103) if you obtain a photograph, and its proper location is uncertain. Even though the map I used was useful, it was not sophisticated enough to help me determine the township location of one or two sites. The information that this office holds is useful for a project such as this.

When I first learned of the Association's forthcoming project, it came to my attention that there was some speculation as to Elkin's newspaper, "The Tribune," and its willingness to help certain groups with projects such as this. Since then, I have spoke with Mrs. Judy Combs who is the Composing Manager of "The Tribune." She is also a personal acquaintance and friend of mine and my family. When we spoke, Mrs. Combs said that she would not deny that someone at sometime associated with the paper expressed an unwillingness to help someone with a project such as this. However, she

also said that "The Tribune" usually helped if they were able any group or association that was working on a project such as this for the community at large. Mrs. Combs went on to say that she would be more than willing to help the Association on this project. In fact, Mrs. Combs was responsible for a special edition of this newspaper where churches and their histories of the Tri-County areas of Surry, Yadkin, and Wilkes were showcased. As one who read this special edition, I learned about the history of many of those churches presented, and was highly impressed with the material and the attention to detail. It was an outstanding piece of journalism. The telephone number of the newspaper is 835-1513. She may be contacted there during business hours.

Donald G. Davis, Jr.
Dobson, North Carolina
October 25, 1999

LISTINGS-

1. Fairview Baptist Church. Contact: Mrs. Jo Adams (386-8565).
2. Bear Creek Baptist Church. Contact: *Rev. Bob Wood, Church Pastor (374-2524). Mrs. Mildred Matthews (She has written about the church's history.) (367-3299).
3. Jesse Stanley Home. Contact: Mrs. Freddie Stanley (366-2291). Mrs. Mildred Matthews (She is a descendant of Jesse Stanley and has researched the Stanley Family.) (367-3299).
4. Cody Creek Primitive Baptist Church. (This was one of the earliest churches in south, central Surry County. The church disbanded in 1895. A brief history is given in "The History of the Fisher River Primitive Baptist Association." This book may be found in the Genealogical section of the Surry Community College Reference Library in Dobson.) Contact: *Mr. and Mrs. Ray Alberty (386-8727).
5. +James M. May / J.E. Poindexter Home. Contact: Mr. William E. (Bill) Poindexter (386-8390).
6. Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. Contact: Rev. Barlow Stanley, Church Pastor (367-7916).
7. CRUTCHFIELD.-
 - I. Sites of interest include:
 - a. Mount Hermon Baptist Church. Contact: *Mrs. Hessie Stanley (367-7660). Mrs. Maxine Stanley (367-7730).
 - b. +Sam Garner Home. Contact: *Mrs. Hessie Stanley (367-7660).
 - c. +Crutchfield Depot. Contact: *Mrs. Hessie Stanley (367-7660). *Mrs. Judy Combs, Composing Manager, "The Tribune" (835-1513).
 - d. Crutchfield Post Office. Contact: *Mrs. Hessie Stanley (367-7660). *Mrs. Judy Combs, Composing Manager, "The Tribune" (835-1513).
 - e. Yadkin River Bridge (This bridge connects Surry and Yadkin Counties over the Yadkin River on United States Highway 601. This bridge was completed in 1940. A flood in 1940 washed away an original bridge. The original bridge served at times as the site of weddings for area couples. Fortunately, the current bridge was almost completed when the flood waters washed the original one away. At present, construction of a new bridge is taking place. "The Tribune" and "The Winston-Salem Journal" have materials on what I have just described.). Contact: *Mrs. Hessie Stanley (367-7660). *Mrs. Judy Combs, Composing Manager, "The Tribune" (835-1513). "The Winston-Salem Journal" (727-7211).
 - II. Notable people of interest include:
 - a. Abram Chaney (Abram Chaney was an early settler and landowner in the Crutchfield area. According to "The Surry County Heritage Book, Volume II," Chaney was also the founder of Mount Hermon Baptist Church. Upon moving to the area, Chaney found that no Missionary Baptist church existed within a close vicinity. The closest and only church in the area at that time was the former Cody Creek Primitive Baptist Church. Other aspects of the article

present Chaney as a very interesting individual. He is buried in a family cemetery on property which possibly is still family owned off of United States Highway 601 in the northern vicinity of the Crutchfield community.). Contact: Mrs. Anndrea Phillips (367-4913). Author of article about Abram Chaney in "The Surry County Heritage Book, Volume II."

- b. Dr. W.A. Jenkins, M.D. (Dr. Jenkins was a physician who practiced and possibly lived in the Crutchfield area. His name may be found in the 1870 United States Census Mortality Schedules of Surry County, NC. The name is listed with information concerning persons dying within the 1870 Census year in Marsh Township. Mount Hermon Baptist Church history maintains that Dr. Jenkins was the first person to be buried in the church cemetery. His grave is marked by a monument that is unique in design of the Victorian era. The monument and gravesite are surrounded by an original, decorative cast-iron fence. Also, an oak tree once stood at the head of Dr. Jenkins' gravesite. This oak tree has been gone for many years.). Contact: *Mrs. Hessie Stanley (367-7660).
- c. Rev. Troy Scales (T.S.) Draughn (Rev. Mr. Draughn was probably one of the most notable persons in Marsh Township as well as in southern Surry County, NC. He was an influential Baptist minister. Rev. Mr. Draughn served not only as pastor of Mount Hermon Baptist Church, but he served as pastor of many other Baptist churches in southern Surry County as well. He provided spiritual guidance and leadership skills in these Baptist churches which positively promoted their growth and stability. Rev. Mr. Draughn was also interested in civic affairs. He may have been a Justice of the Peace for Marsh Township at one time. Rev. Mr. Draughn performed countless wedding ceremonies for couples in his home near the banks of the Yadkin River in the Crutchfield community. His wife, Mrs. Fairy Dockery Draughn would often serve as a witness. They are buried in the Mount Hermon Baptist Church Cemetery.). Contact: Mrs. Jo Dockery (386-8583). Mrs. Juanita Dockery (366-2755).

8. +Abraham Phillips Home. Contact: Mrs. Wendell Phillips (366-2222). Mrs. Alma Alberty (386-8893).

9. +Abraham Phillips Store. Contact: Mrs. Wendell Phillips (366-2222). Mrs. Alma Alberty (386-8893).

10. BURCH STATION / LITTLE RICHMOND / RUSK.-

I. Sites of interest include:

- a. +A. Burch Home.
- b. +Vance Burch Home.
- c. +Joe Greenwood Home.
- d. +Rufus Key / Corder Family Home.
- e. Joe Layne Home.
- f. +Joe Layne Mill.
- g. Little Richmond Baptist Church (It should be noted that a possible article on the Joe Layne Family in "The Surry County Heritage Book, Volume II" tells of the Surry Baptist Association being organized out of Little Richmond Baptist Church. If the article is not in "Volume II," it may then be found in "Volume I.").
- h. +Little Richmond Elementary School.
- i. +John Martin Home.
- j. Rusk Masonic Lodge.
- k. Rusk Post Office.
- l. +Carl E. Wallace / Lee White Home.
- m. +Jonathan Jehue (Gee) Wallace Home.

II. Notable person of interest includes:

- a. Ima M. Chappell (Mrs. Chappell was one of the first female administrators in the Surry County School System. She served as one of the first female principals within this school system at Little Richmond Elementary School. Mrs. Chappell is a distinguished and respected retired educator. In the recent past, she has been actively involved in civic affairs. Due to declining health, Mrs. Chappell is a resident at the Elkin Healthcare Center in Elkin, NC.).

The contact person for the sites of interest and for the notable person of interest in the Burch Station / Little Richmond / Rusk area is Mrs. Doris Michael. She is a resident of this area. A retired teacher, Mrs. Michael has written a book, "Life Behind the Potted Plant." In this entertaining and informative book, she not only writes about her life but about the people and places, past and present, in which she

lives. The book contains photographs of the places which hold significant meaning to her. Photographs of family members are also portrayed. Mrs. Michael recounts the history of many of the sites of interest that I have noted above. I have been told that Mrs. Michael may be contacted at 366-4489. This telephone number is listed next to that of her son, John T. Gabbard in my telephone book.

11. +Hughs Cockerham / Ham Moseley / John Marshall Home and Outdoor Buildings, Cockerham Family Cemetery. Contact: *Mrs. Emily Southard (366-4483).
12. Mulberry School. Contact: *Mrs. Emily Southard (366-4483).
13. Mulberry Primitive Baptist Church. Contact: *Mrs. Emily Southard (366-4483).
14. Bessie's Chapel Baptist Church. Contact: *Mrs. Emily Southard (366-4483).
15. +Charlie Dobbins / John E. Stanley Home. Contact: Mr. Harold Stanley (366-4883).

After speaking with Mr. Dennis W. (Bud) Cameron, Register of Deeds in Surry County, NC, he suggested that I list the following two people as notable persons of interest in Marsh Township. I do not know where in Marsh Township that they lived during their lifetime. These two people, and some information about them include:

1. Thomas F. (Tom) Anthony (During Mr. Anthony's lifetime, he held several important posts. Mr. Anthony was Register of Deeds in Surry County, NC at one time. He was also a Justice of the Peace, Enumerator of the United States Census for Marsh Township, and schoolteacher. Apparently, Mr. Anthony lost one of his hands in an accident prior to the Civil War. He used a silver hook in its place. Mr. Cameron related that he was told that Mr. Anthony could use this hook proficiently in his daily activities.). Contact: *Mrs. Emily Southard (366-4483). *Mr. and Mrs. Clyde L. Anthony (366-2164).
2. John Settleff (I am unsure about the spelling of the last name. Mr. Cameron seemed to be unsure of the spelling, and he recommended this one.) (Mr. Settleff was a Register of Deeds in Surry County, NC at one time. He was also a minister. According to Mr. Cameron, both Mr. Settleff and he have been the only two Register of Deeds in Surry County, NC that held this position and the position of minister as well. Apparently, Mr. Settleff also had a large number of children.). Contact: Mrs. Jo Adams (386-8565).

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The communities of Crutchfield and Little Richmond are boxed in.

This map only notes sites of interest. 10/25/1999

