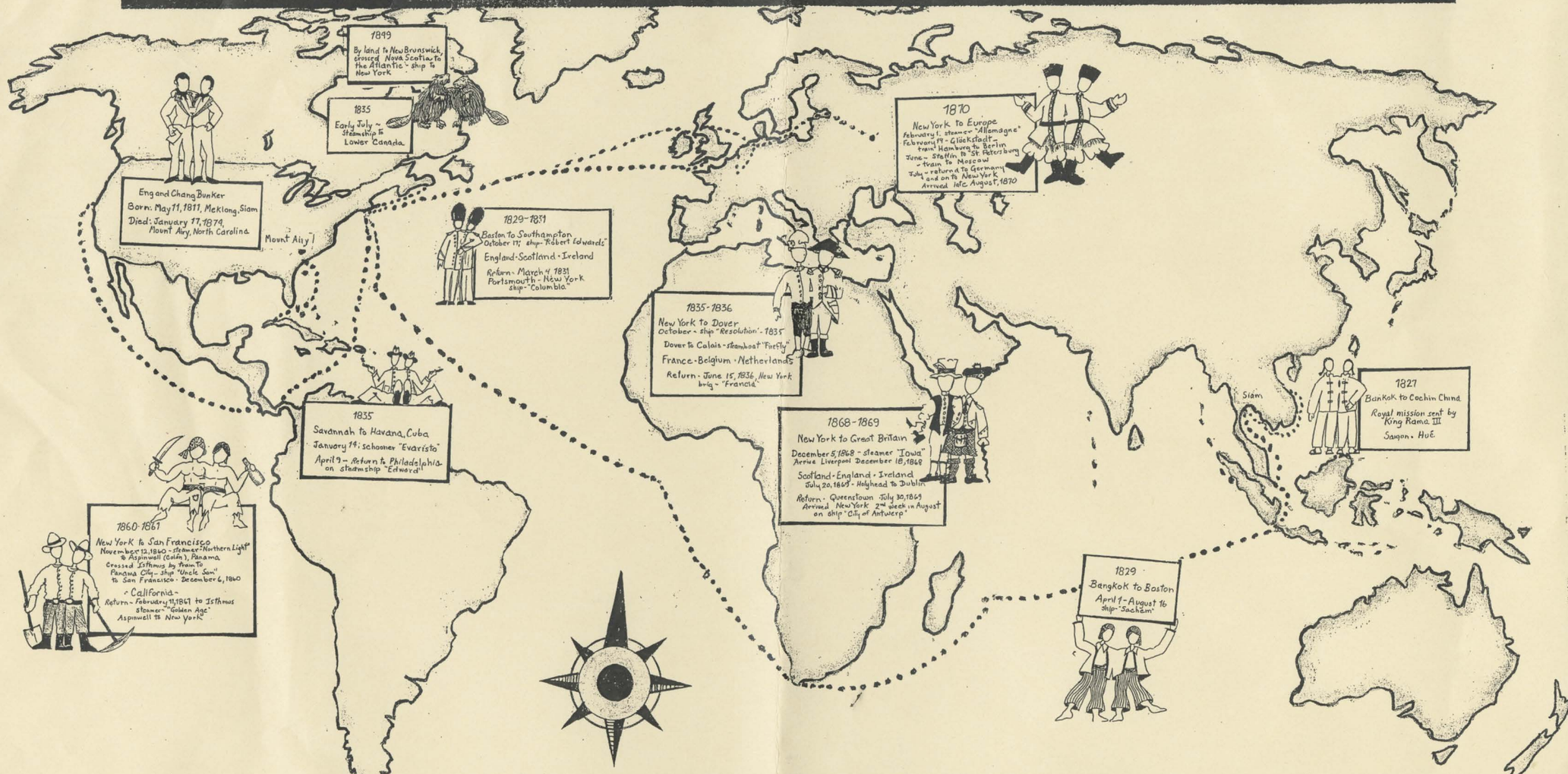
VOYAGES OF ENG & CHANG





The 22nd Annual Reunion of the Descendants of the Original Siamese Twins

July 30, 2011
First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
714 North Main Street
Mount Airy, North Carolina

This Reunion marks the 200th Anniversary of the Birth of the Siamese Twins (May 11, 1811)

Eng and Chang Bunker were born May 11, 1811 in Malong, Siam (Thailand) to Nok and Ti Eye. They died in 1874 at the age of 63. Other than being a medical miracle, they were more well known during their time than Abraham Lincoln and more famous throughout the world than Michael Jackson is today according to a May 15, 2011 article in the Charlotte News and Observer.

Program

11 a.m.	Gather, Register, and Socialize	
12 noon	Lunch / Welcome	Melvin Miles
	Blessing	.Gary York, Honorary Bunker
1 p.m.	Program Resumes.	.Melvin Miles

Roll Call of Descendants (by family)

Eng & Sallie (Yates) Bunker	**Chang & Adelaide (Yates) Bunker**
Katherine (Birth – 1844)	Josephine (Birth – 1844)
Julie (1845)	Christopher (1845)
Stephen (1846)	Nancy (1847)
James (1848)	Susan (1849)
Patrick (1850)	Victoria (1852)
Rosalyn (1852)	Louise (1855)
William (1855)	Albert (1857)
Frederick (1857)	Jesse (1860)
Rosella (1859)	Lizzie (1862)
Georginia (1863)	Hattie (1868)
Robert (1865)	

Memorial – Recognition of Family Members who have passed since the last reunion — Jesse Bunker Bryant

Financial Report of Reunion Committee — Zack Blackmon Jr.

Recognition of:
1) Descendant Traveling Greatest Distance to Attend Reunion
2) Youngest Descendant Attending Reunion
3) Descendants of Yates's Family
4) First Time Attendees
5) Oldest Descendant of Eng/Chang

Plans for Next Reunion (Last Weekend in July) / Wrap up and Closing

In December 1990, family members were invited to the Wallburg Baptist Church located in Wallburg, NC, which is between Winston-Salem and High Point. The purpose was the filming of a documentary by the Kantana Company, a television production company located in Bangkok, Thailand. The documentary was about the lives of the Twins and included their life in America and the families that followed.

Since that time, descendants from both families-- Sarah and Eng and Adelaide and Chang-- have come together for a reunion to get to know their extended familybetter and to learn more about their unique heritage. The Yates Family, who are related and connected to the Bunker Family, has now joined our reunion gathering.

The reunion has become a large event where new relationships are born and long lost cousins have been found. Additionally, researchers have used this occasion to meet and interview descendants of the Twins.

Please share your stories and experiences so that our remarkable heritage will be kept alive for future generations.

We hope you have enjoyed the 22nd Annual Bunker Reunion.

Special thanks to all of those who assisted in making this reunion celebrating the 200th Birthday of the Siamese Twins a success this year.

Have a safe trip home. We look forward to seeing you again next year.

The Siamese Twins with their Wives and 18 of their 21 Children
How many can you name?



The Mount Airy News – 10 June 1909

Mr. J. L. Bunker Dead.

Prominent Farmer Killed by Lightning.

The people of this part of the country were shocked when they learned of the tragic death of Mr. Jesse L. BUNKER at his home two miles west of this town at 5 p. m. Wednesday evening. He and his son and a hired man were in the field at work and went into a tobacco barn out of a thunder shower. Mr. BUNKER was sitting near the center of the barn where he was struck by lightning and death was in a moment. The over two men were shocked senseless but recovered in a short time. The electricity appeared to have passed entirely through his body or his hat and one shoe were torn to pieces but the body was in no way bruised or mutilated.

Mr. BUNKER was 48 years old at the time of his death and leaves a wife who was Miss Emma DAVIS before her marriage, has been critically ill for some weeks and it is feared that she will not survive this shock. He was a son of Mr. Cheng BUNKER, well known as one of the famous twins. He was a good citizen and one of the best farmers in the country and owned a fine farm with all modern improvements. From birth he had been deaf and dumb and yet he was an intelligent and entertaining man and enjoyed conversing with his friends even if he was forced to resort to pencil and paper.

The interment will be this afternoon at the DAVIS family burying ground near his home.

NOTE: In 2005, John EDWARDS found out that the DAVIS family burying ground was the cemetery beside Calvary Church on S. Franklin Road.

Submitted by: John Edwards, 451 Nurse Road, Ararat, NC 27007

Bunker Reunion 8-19-97



REUNION CHAIRMEN: Making arrangements for the Bunker reunion were (left to right) Eloise Atkins, Jessie Bryant and Jim Haynes of Lake City, S.C.



Eng Bunker of Mount Airy, Betsy Bunker Hemmings of Conover and Chang Bunker of Mount Airy are the children of the late Robert "Bob" and Nell Key Bunker and great-grandchildren of Eng and Sarah Bunker.



Ila Chilton chats with Jasper Bunker and wife, Jane.



Moir Bunker of White Plains, great-grandson of Eng Bunker, and Beth Clark of Mount Airy, great-granddaughter of Chang Bunker, were among those enjoying the occasion.

(over)

The 14th Annual Bunker Reunion by Jessie Bunker Bryant Historian/Genealogist

PILOT MOUNTAIN — The 14th annual Bunker reunion was held July 26 in the fellowship hall of First United Methodist Church in Pilot Mountain.

Approximately 250 people attended; many were there for the first time. People came from South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Florida, Colorado, California, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio and Thailand.

A group from Kantana, one of Thailand's largest entertainment production companies, came to film and interview some of the twins' descendants for a motion picture, currently titled "Double-Boy." It will probably be released in 2005.

Hosts for the reunion were Betsy Bunker Hemmings and her husband John of Conover and Eng Bunker and his wife Frances of Pilot Mountain.

Engle Bunker Corn of Ararat, Va.; her daughter, Elizabeth Ann Corn; and Karen Payne of Raleigh registered guests and gave out name tags.

Jim Haynes of Lake City, S.C., chairman, gave a welcome to the large group of all ages. He recognized the youngest one present, Charles "Chase" Allen Bunker, son of Eric and Nita Bunker of Mebane, who was 1 year old on July 9. Right behind him were twins Elijah "Levi" and Gabriel "Lee" Bunker, 15 months old, who are were the tenth set of twins born to descendants of Eng or Chang Bunker. Their parents are Nicholas Lee and Kelly Bunker of Lowgap.

The oldest descendants present were Frances Adelaide Bunker Gougler, 83, of Mogadore, Ohio, and her sister Jessie Ruth Bunker Shumaker, 82, of Kent, Ohio. It was their first reunion. They are descendants of Chang and Adelaide Yates Bunker.

The next-oldest descendants present were June Bunker Klemmer Ellison, 81, of Richmond, Va.; her brother, Chester Bunker of Welcome; Hershell Bunker, 78, of Pilot Mountain; and Jessie Bunker Bryant, 76, of Winston-Salem, all descendants of Eng and Sarah Yates Bunker.

Jim recognized descendants who were present at the reunion for the first time: Pearlmarie Peters of Denver, Colo., and her son, Bruce Peters of Windsor, Colo.; Linda Hill Whitaker of De Tour Village, Mich., and her sister, Grace Hill Sturges of Clinton Township, Mich.; Marc, Susan, Katie and Madison Tolbert of Asheboro; Grayson, Kathryn, Ashley and Jessica Collins of Mount Airy; Linda Nichols of Raleigh; Tracey and Megan Martin of Thomasville; Eddie Polisson of Crown Point, Ind.; Daniel Workman of Tallahassee, Fla.; Eric, Nita, Chase Bunker and Heather Poole of Mebane; Gary and Fonda Tolbert of Statesville; Amy Morvil of Raleigh; Eric Juday of High Point; Jeff Long of Mount Airy; Scott Baird of Pilot Mountain; Jack Carney of Villa Park, Ill.

Friends, media representatives and writers at the reunion included Jack Hutchens of Mount Airy; Vivian Fowler of Mebane; Jim and Linda Cretecos of New Smyrna Beach, Fla.; Peter Alexander of Bangkok, Thailand; Sasikorn and Picheat Chansate of Bangkok; Cynthia Wu of St. Paul, Minn.; Josh Gibson and Shambhavi Kaul of Duke University, Durham; Wilas Nirunsuksiri of Zionsville, Ind.; David Syverson of Zionsville, Ind.; Brenda Ethridge of Cheverly, Md.; Rebecca Clark of Winston-Salem; and Helen Zia of Oakland, Calif.

Betsy Bunker Hemmings lit a candle in memory of deceased descendants since the last reunion. There are Moir Collins Bunker, 1922-2003; Paul William Ellison, 1923-2002; Alan Haynes Morvil, 1962-2002; and Bradford Stephen Bunker, 1976-2003. Their pictures were placed on the table.

Betsy also showed pictures of two descendants who are serving in Iraq: Matthew "Brandon" Bunker and Charles "Chad" Crispin Gates Jr.

Gary York gave the invocation and everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal and fellowship.

The attendance for the reunion was highest since the reunion began in 1990.

Hosting the 2004 reunion will be Elaine Bunker Reeves of Apex, Bobby Bunker of Clinton and Brenda Bunker Seal of Dobson and their families.

Before the reunion, Jessie Bunker Bryant presented a book, "The Connected Bunkers," to the Mount Airy City Library in honor of Gary York.

Margaret Carney's newsletter is well received by all. She displayed a huge chart she has started to show descendants of the twins. The group appreciated all the work she is doing.

Jessie Bunker Bryant of Winston-Salem published **The Connected Bunkers, Descendants of Eng and Chang Bunker**, a book of the descendants of Siamese twins Eng and Chang Bunker. The 600-page hardback book contains approximately 1,000 photographs and information on 1,500 descendants. Copies cost $100, which includes state sales tax. There is an additional charge for shipping. Contact Bryant at (336) 769-2517.

The Mount Airy News
E-mail us at: mtairynews@advi.net

Man sentenced to time served for brother's death

By ANGELA LEONARD

Associate Editor

DOBSON -- A 26-year-old Mount Airy man left the Surry County Jail Tuesday a free man after being sentenced to time served in the shotgun killing of his twin brother June 28.

Brian Neal Bunker had been jailed since his arrest the morning after the slaying. He was initially charged with first-degree murder, but pleaded guilty in Superior Court to the lesser included offense of involuntary manslaughter.

"This is one of the few times I feel probation in a homicide was seriously over sentenced," said Judge W. Douglas Albright after sentencing Bunker to four months active sentence and five years supervised probation with a 16 to 20-month sentence suspended.

In the stipulated evidence, Assistant District Attorney Jimmy Yeatts said that there was a history of violence between Brian and his brother Brad, and that law enforcement had been called to their mother's home on Joyner Lane on numerous occasions.

Yeatts said that usually the brothers had fought, and one of them would have fled the scene to the nearby woods. The night of June 28 was no different, other than the defendant had been shot through the arm with an arrow. His brother had fled when deputies arrived, and Brian Bunker was referred to a magistrate if he wished to press charges.

"The officers were close by and heard the shot," said Yeatts. "They

returned to find the deceased in the yard.

"Their mother, Doris Bunker, would tell you that Brian had bought beer and hid it in the chicken house. Brad found it and stole some. Both had been drinking. She had hid the arrows and the shotgun shells, doing her best to keep them from harming each other."

Yeatts said the brothers had fought over the beer. After the officers left the scene she would tell them that Brad had chased Brian into the house with his open pocket knife, telling their mother that he was going to kill him. He had also twisted his mother's arm, breaking her watch, and shoved her. She fled into the yard and hid.

"Out of her presence, she could hear and heard an argument, and then a shot. She found the brother deceased on the ground."

Yeatts said that Brian Bunker was also hit in the head with a brick and required stitches at the hospital following his arrest. He would say that the shooting was self-defense."

"That's the layout? I don't know how the defense could improve on that," said Albright to Craig Blitzer, Bunker's court-appointed attorney. "The state's got arrows flying, a lot of cussing and fighting; Momma tried to hide the arrows and shotgun shells; he stole his beer; he chased him around and told his Momma he was going to kill him; he threw water on his Momma; he jumped him with a brick and shoved her."

Blitzer said the deceased had always been the significant aggressor throughout the history of domestic violence. "Brian, the defendant, was always the victim. This is one of the best self defense cases I've had."

"I don't know whether it's self defense," said Albright. "Some might argue it was laudatory homicide." Albright added that he had heard that argument once in court, and that the attorney had suggested his client deserved a medal instead of a prison sentence.

"Don't get me wrong. I'm not advocating unlawful acts, but it sounds pretty rough," he said.

The judge said he would approve the plea agreement with the state and passed sentence on Bunker. He also added several stipulations to

the probation, including not possessing or consuming any alcohol or drugs, or possessing a firearm.

"Don't be putting beer in the chicken house while you're on probation," he cautioned Bunker. He said he could not order Bunker's mother not to have alcohol, but asked her if she felt she could keep alcohol off the premises for five years.

"I can't order you, because you're not on trial," he said. "I don't care what's going on in the county, you've gotta be dry. I need you behind him.

"You've been through a hard time. I can't do anything about your one son, but I'm gonna let you have one of your sons. See if you can't make something of him."

The Mount Airy News

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Bunker reunion brings family and those who want to learn

By WENDY BYERLY WOOD
Staff Writer

PILOT MOUNTAIN — Descendants of Eng and Chang Bunker, the original Siamese twins, met for their annual reunion Saturday at First United Methodist Church of Pilot Mountain. Among the descendants were a number of visitors working on films, books, documentaries and family histories related to the Bunker twins.

Slave's Descendant

Brenda Ethridge has traced her roots back to Grace Smith, more fondly known as Aunt Grace by the Bunker family. Aunt Grace was the slave of Eng and Chang Bunker and raised their 21 children.

"I was always curious about my grandfather's people because the family never even knew his mother's name," explained Ethridge, who was born in Mount Airy but now lives in Maryland. "I knew the heritage of the other parts of my family, so I decided I would search to see what information I could find on my paternal great-grandmother.

"I remember my aunts would say my father was from White Plains with those Bunkers," she continued. Her search eventually led her to the Bunker family reunion.

"I had gone on the Web and found Michael Bunker's site. I emailed and asked him if anyone knew about the Smith ancestors and told him they were probably slaves in the area," recalled Ethridge.

Michael Bunker led Ethridge to Chase and Milton Haynes, two family historians. They led her to Jessie Bunker Bryant, as well as the Surry Genealogical Association.

"Through all that I ended up at the family reunion hoping I would meet some people old enough to remember their grandparents talking about Aunt Grace," she explained. "All I know is that she took care of the children, chewed tobacco and smoked cigars at the same time and had unusually large feet.

"I thought there has to be more to a person than that. I want to find out what she was like, what she did, her normal day, rather than using my imagination, because I want to pass my heritage on to my offspring."

Through her searching, Ethridge,

See BUNKER, page 3A



Wendy Byerly Wood/The Mount Airy News

Brenda Ethridge, second from left, talks with descendants of Eng and Chang Bunker in hopes of learning more about her ancestor Aunt Grace, the slave of the Bunker twins who raised their 21 children, Saturday at the Bunker family reunion in Pilot Mountain.

Bunker

Continued from page 1A

who is six generations from Aunt Grace, has also bought censuses from 1870 and 1880 as well as some other documentation from that time period in relation to weddings and newspaper clippings.

Thai Writer

Wilas Nirunsuksiri, an author from Zionsville, Ind., was also in attendance at the reunion.

Nirunsuksiri is writing a documentary book on the original Siamese twins that will be published in the Thai language and sold in Thailand.

"I was on eBay because I was trying to bid on a newspaper page on the Siamese twins," Nirunsuksiri explained how he ended up at the annual get-together. "The person who lost the bid contacted me and we talked by email. She said she knew Gary Collins, a relative of the Bunkers.

"I contacted him and he said his sister knew a lot more about the family history," said Nirunsuksiri.

"From there, she directed me to Jessie Bryant," he continued. "I talked to her a couple of times and she told me about the reunion."

Nirunsuksiri said his associate had told him about the story of the Siamese twins two years ago, but it has just been since the beginning of this year that he has followed up on the lead.

"I sent the publisher a couple of chapters and they liked it," said Nirunsuksiri, who hopes to have the book published by the end of this year.

Planning Documentary

Josh Gibson and his wife Shambhavi Kaul, filmmakers from the Raleigh/Durham area, have been seriously throwing around the idea of filming a documentary about the Bunkers as well.

"I grew up in North Carolina," reported Gibson, whose wife is from India.

He said he was working on a film in India when his mother, who also lives in North Carolina, wrote him. "She said she had been searching on eBay and came upon a 19th-century figurine of Eng and Chang. She asked the guy who was selling it where he found it and he said an antique store in India.

"I went to a local antique store and found another figurine. I bought it for about 15 cents," Gibson remembered.

"I was just trying to figure out how the figurines came to India and that is when I found out they were from North Carolina," he said.

Gibson and Kaul have been planning for the last couple of years to make a documentary. "We are still trying to figure out what our point of entry will be," he explained.

He said that is why they chose to attend the reunion so they could talk to descendants.

"Hardly anyone attends our family reunions, so I was just sort of impressed how many people there are and amazed at how there is now so much interest in these people's history," said Gibson.

"It is also interesting to know there is a feature film being made about them," Gibson referenced the Kantana Groups' project.

The couple is currently working on a documentary about country singer David Allen Coe, which should be complete in the next month or so.

"Over the next three or four months we will increase our research and hone an angle for the documentary," he concluded.



Mondee Tilley/The Mount Airy News

Photos of Thailand

Dorothy Haymore, a great-grandchild of Eng Bunker, shows photographs from her 1999 trip to Thailand during International Day held Saturday.

Surry's Most Famous Family Holds Reunion

By Jessie Bunker Bryant

On Saturday, July 28, 2001, approximately 175 descendants of the original Siamese Twins met at the White Plains Recreational Building in White Plains, N.C., for their 12th annual family reunion.

Chairman, Jim Haynes, of Lake City, S.C., a great-grandson of Chang and Adelaide Yates Bunker presided. His wife, Sally, registered guests and gave name tags with pictures of the Siamese Twins.

Hosting the reunion were cousins Betty Ruth Bunker Blackmon and Dorothy Cross Haymore, of Mount Airy. They are granddaughters of Robert Edward and Fannie Jenkins Bunker. Robert was the youngest son of Eng and the last one to die.

Eng and Chang were the only conjoined twins to marry and have children. They settled in Traphill and married sisters, Adelaide and Sarah Yates. Later they bought two separate houses at White Plains.

Their home at Traphill and Chang's still stand, while Eng's home burned in 1956. Chang and Eng lived at one home for three days and then moved to the other home for three days. Chang and Adelaide had ten children and Eng and Sarah had eleven.

There were several descendants attending the reunion for the first time. Coming the longest distance were Michael Thomas Bunker and his wife Janna and two daughters, Dija and Teea, from Richland, Wash.; Phyllis Bunker Entreken, Michael's sister from St. Petersburg, Fla., the descendants of Robert Edward and Fannie Jenkins Bunker. Dot Grogan, and her husband Jim, of Mooresville, N.C., is the granddaughter of Edward and Hattie Irene Bunker Patterson who was a daughter of Chang. Jim Haynes and wife, Valentine and son Thomas of Pompano, Fla.; Charlotte Heath and daughter Rheanna, of Smyrna, Tenn., are also descendants of Edward and Hattie Irene Bunker Patterson; and Phillip Haynes of Nashville, Tenn., another descendant of Hattie's family. Edward and Hattie lived on Franklin Road at Toast, N.C.

It was the first time to attend a reunion for Steve Davenport of Apex, N.C. He is the husband of Judy Hill Davenport a great-great-granddaughter of Chang; Edna Stanley and Ogla Gwyn, sisters from Mount Airy who were step-daughter's of Chang's grand-

See BUNKER, page 19



Descendants of Edward Lafayette and Hattie Irene Bunker Patterson attending the Bunker reunion. Pictured from left to right are: (standing) Mary Alice and Dr. James "Jim" Hugh Haynes of Brentwood, Tenn., Barbara and William "Bill" Edward Haynes of Augusta, Ga., and James Edward Grogan; (sitting) Judy and Maurice Patterson "Pat" Haynes of Jasper, Ga., Dorothy Ann Patterson Grogan, who's husband is standing behind her, of Mooresville. Edward and Hattie Irene Bunker Patterson lived on Franklin Road in Toast.



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A Window



Attending the Bunker Reunion for the first time are: (standing) the Carneys. Pictured are Margo Carney (center) and her son Noah Carney (left) and her daughter Margaret Carney (right) of Elmhurst, Ill. The Carney's are descendants of Rosella Virginia Bunker, daughter of Eng, who was married to George Whitfield "Whitt" Ashby. Sitting are: Jessie Bunker Bryant and husband Harry M. Bryant of Winston-Salem. Jessie is compiling a book on descendants of the Siamese twins. It will be 600 plus pages and will be ready by October.

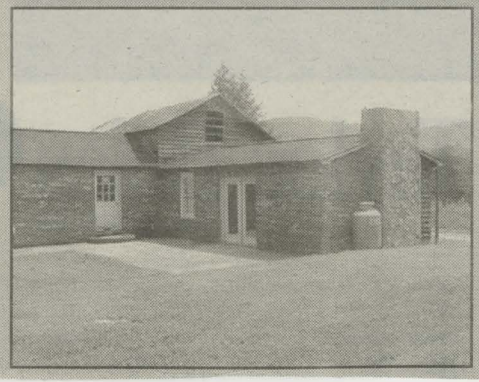
Bunker Continued from page 13

son, Davis Bunker; Margo Miles-Carney, daughter Margaret Carney and son, Noah Carney of Elmhurst, Ill., who are descendants of Rosella Bunker and George Whitefield Ashby. Rosella was the youngest daughter of Eng and his only daughter to marry and have a family. Vance Morvil, grandson of David and Rebecca Haynes Morvil of Wilmington, N.C., descendants of Zacharias and Louisa Emaline Bunker Haynes of Raleigh, N.C.; Miles Ashby and Leigh Douglass and three daughters, Brittany Rae, McKenzie Elizabeth and Lauren Nicole, of Naperville, Ill., who are also descendants of George Whitefield and Rosella Virginia Bunker Ashby; Carolina Ann Haynes Woosley of

See BUNKER, page 21

Stake Your Claim In These Hills!

#420. Fantastic view of mountains and Fisher's Peak, located at Old Lowgap Rd. House is partially restored and renovated and ready for your finishing touches. Features include 2 fireplaces, gas furnace, gas fireplace, covered back porch and 1+ acre lot. Possibilities include 2 baths, upper levels and more. See for yourself! .....**Priced to sell at $53,900.**



Bunker Continued from page 19

Greensboro, N.C., another descendant of Hattie; Louise Bunker Southern, daughter of John Spach and Annie Bundy Bunker and her daughter Susan Wilkes, both of Winston-Salem.

Many relatives were in Mount Airy for three days to take in activities which had been planned in conjunction with the reunion. Many enjoyed the play "Smoke on the Mountain" at the Andy Griffith Playhouse on Thursday or Friday night.

On Friday, July 27, at 11 a.m. everyone attended the Dedication of the Eng and Chang Bunker Memorial Bridge, which was held at the Andy Griffith Playhouse due to rainy weather. Sam Erby, of the N.C. Board of Transportation was Master of Ceremonies for the bridge dedication that became a sign dedication.

The official green and white sign and shrouded on the stage, then dramatically unveiled at the appropriate moment. Lynda Tippett, Secretary of Transportation stated that the bridge marks the dividing line of the original properties, referring to the two farms the men occupied with their wives, spending three days with one wife then the other wife.

On hand to see the unveiling of the sign were great-grandsons of Eng, Wade "Chang" Bunker and his twin brother Wayne "Eng" Bunker. Eng was named for his great-grandfather and Chang was named for his great-great uncle. They were the first set of twins born in the family after the Siamese Twins. They turned sixty years of age March 11, 2001. Since then there have been nine sets of twins.

Sheriff Connie Watson and the Surry County Commissioners was

See BUNKER, page 22



Four brothers attending the Bunker Reunion, wearing their Eng and Chang hats provided by Gary York, are: (standing) Henry Bunker of Burlington, Hershell Bunker of Pilot Mountain, Fred Bunker of Mebane, are Max Bunker of Clemmons. They are the great-grandsons of Eng and Sarah Yates Bunker.

Bunker Continued from page 21

present. Commissioner Gary York made remarks about the lives of the twins and their descendants.

The official resolution regarding the bridges states; "That the North Carolina Board of Transportation names the bridge on U.S. 601 over Stewarts Creek in Surry County the Eng and Chang Bunker Memorial Bridge to honor their courage and determination that has proved an inspiration to those struggling to overcome physical disabilities."

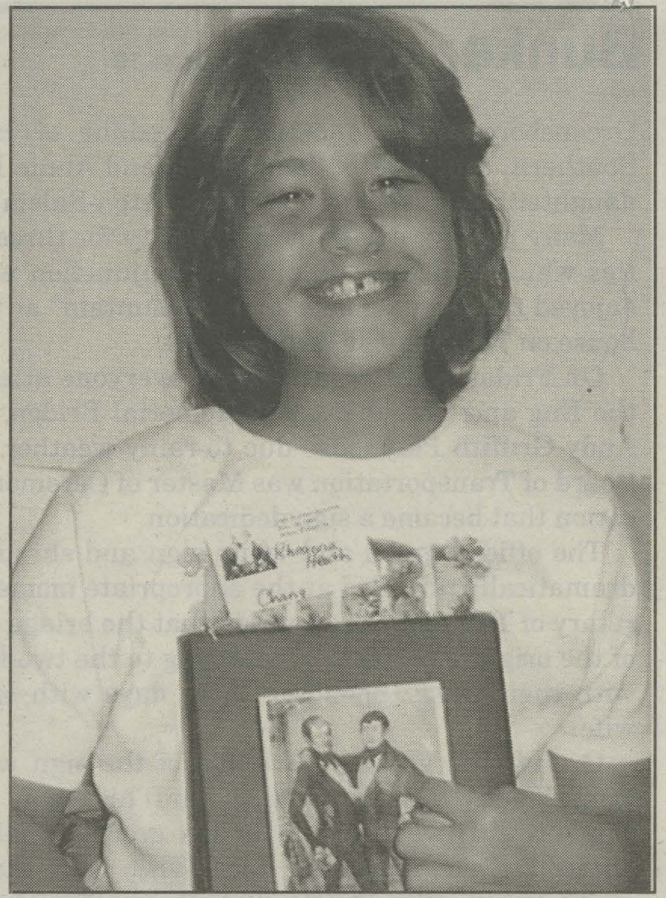
Following the dedication, a large group went to lunch at Gaunce's Cafeteria. At 3 p.m. the group met at the Downtown Cinema Theater to see the video "Making of the Musical" Chang and Eng."

The three creators of the Singapore production visited Mount Airy for three days. The show's producers are Elcachai Uekrongtham, Ken Low and Ming Wong. Uekrongtham conceptualized, produced and directed the musical. Low wrote the music and lyrics, while Wong wrote the script. They want to bring the Musical to the United States. Possible sites for the U.S. Tour include Winston-Salem, Charlotte, Denver, St. Paul, Minn., and Hartford, Conn. The Musical has premiered in Beijing, Bangkok and Singapore.

The three producers attended the Bunker Reunion on Saturday.

Other attractions relatives attended were, the Visitors Center, the Exhibit on Eng and Chang at the Mount Airy Museum of Regional History, visits to the White Plains Baptist Church which Eng and Chang help build, the gravesite and the N.C. State Marker at the church and of course everyone had to have a Pork Chop sandwich at Snappy Lunch downtown and to Floyds Barber Shop next door. Some went to the Wilson Library in Chapel Hill to see the Exhibit on Eng and Chang.

Many descendants stated that it was the largest, best, most interesting reunion ever held. The best part was meeting so many new relatives coming from Washington, Tennessee, Virginia, Oklahoma, Georgia, South Carolina, Illinois, Mississippi, Florida and North Carolina.



Attending the Bunker Reunion for the first time was Rheanna Dawn Heath, 10, holding a picture of the Siamese Twins and pointing to her great-great-great-grandfather, Chang Bunker. She is the daughter of David and Charlotte Heather of Smyrna, Tenn.

BUNKER

MEBANE - Retired Lt. Commander Gladys E. Bunker, 77, of 6212 Oak Grove Church Road, Mebane, died Monday, June 15, 1998, in Alamance Regional Medical Center after a seven-month illness. Born in Orange County, she was the daughter of the late Oliver Wendell Bunker and the late Mammie Simmons Bunker. She was a retired nurse in the U.S. Navy. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, June 18, 1998, in Oak Grove Baptist Church, conducted by Dr. Keith Moore, pastor. Burial will be in the church cemetery. The body will lie in state at the church 30 minutes before the service. Her parents moved from White Plains to Orange County in 1921. She graduated from Hillsboro (now Hillsborough) High School in 1940, Martin Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, Mount Airy, in 1944 and the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado, in 1958. She served 21 years in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corp. Following her tour in the Navy, she was an instructor in the nursing program at the Technical College of Alamance, Haw River. She was active in her church, Oak Grove Baptist Church, as a teacher of the Ladies Sunday School Class, senior citizens activities, a 10-year volunteer with the Orange County Ship Volunteer Program and also the VITA Program. She loved flowers, gardening, crafts, painting and loved to travel and she also loved her family. Surviving are three sisters and their husbands, Mrs. Ellen Dees and Mr. Lee Owen Dees of Clinton, MS, Mrs. Jessie Bryant and Mr. Harry Bryant of Winston-Salem, and Mrs. Jane Workman and Mr. James Workman of Tallahassee, FL.; four brothers and their wives, Mr. Hershell Bunker and Mrs. Ethelene Bunker of Pilot Mountain, Mr. Max Bunker and Mrs. Bessie Bunker of Clemmons, Mr. Fred Bunker and Mrs. Ozetta Bunker of Mebane and Mr. Henry Bunker and Mrs. Lynn Bunker of Burlington; and several nieces and nephews. The family will receive friends from 7 until 9 p.m. Wednesday in McClure Funeral Home in Mebane and at other times at the home, 6212 Oak Grove Church Road, Mebane. Memorials may be made to Oak Grove Baptist Church, 5217 Oak Grove Church Road, Mebane, N.C. 27302.

Bunker twins were often violent, family says

26-year-olds resembled ancestors, conjoined twins Chang and Eng Bunker

By Sherry Wilson Youngquist
JOURNAL REPORTER

MOUNT AIRY

Brian and Brad Bunker, 26-year-old twins and great-great-grandsons of one of the original Siamese twins, were often marveled at for their striking resemblance to the conjoined twins made famous by P.T. Barnum in the 1800s.

Brian and Brad had dark skin and hair as well as narrow eyes. Though not identical, they took after their father, James Bunker, more so than their six older siblings. But they couldn't get along, relatives said. Police said that a fraternal disagreement led to the shooting death of Brad Bunker at the family home Saturday night.

The twins, who were 14 when their father died and never left the home they shared with their mother Doris Bunker, often fought each other violently.

"I think living together all the time, they got on each other's nerves," said Darlene Bunker, the twins' sister. "They were a lot like the Siamese twins (Chang and Eng Bunker). From what I understood, one of the Siamese twins drank and one didn't. And it would get in through the blood system and they fought, and I think they (Brian and Brad) took after them."

Relatives said that the fatal fight between Brian and Brad Bunker started as fights usually did at the family's two-story farmhouse on Scott Bunker Road. It was over something simple — a six-pack of beer that Brian had hidden in a barn while he mowed the lawn that later turned up missing. Brian accused Brad of taking it.

"Brad, he gets violent, very violent," said Doris Bunker. "See, Brian takes up for me. See, if Brad is left alone with me, he hits me. Brian takes up for me."

The twins began hitting each other, relatives said, and windows in the house were broken.

Neighbors called deputies to Doris Bunker's home shortly before 8 p.m. Saturday. When deputies arrived, Brad Bunker had fled into woods behind the home, leaving his mother and brother inside. All three had been drinking, deputies said. Brian Bunker had been stabbed in his right arm with an arrow. The arrow had been removed, and he refused medical treatment.

"The officers hadn't been gone 20 minutes. They were filling out paperwork up

See TWINS, Page B3



Brian Bunker is in jail in Surry County, charged with first-degree murder in the shooting death of his twin brother, Brad.

7-1-03

TWINS

Continued From Page B1

the road when they heard a gunshot," said Chief Detective Roger Cook of the Surry County Sheriff's Office.

When deputies returned to the house, they found that Brad Bunker had gone back to the house and another fight had broken out. Brad Bunker had been shot once in the chest at close range with a shotgun, deputies said. He was dead.

After the shooting, Brian Bunker fled into the woods. Deputies searched throughout the night for him. He was arrested at 6:16 a.m. Sunday at a nearby residence on Joyner Lane. Deputies recovered the shotgun near Stewarts Creek about 500 yards from Doris Bunker's home.

Brian Bunker has been charged with first-degree murder. He was being held yesterday in the Surry County Jail with no bond allowed.

In Surry County, hundreds of people trace their roots to Eng and Chang Bunker. The conjoined twins married two sisters in the region, Adelaide and Sarah Yates, and fathered a total of 21 children. The twins died in 1874 at age 63.

The story of Eng and Chang Bunker began in 1811, the year they were born joined at the chest in what was then known as Siam (now Thailand). In 1829, the 17-year-old brothers came to the United States. Eng and Chang eventually settled in the White Plains community near Mount Airy.

They were the first documented pair of conjoined twins to live to be old men.

They are buried in the White Plains Baptist Church cemetery less than a mile from Stewarts Creek. Doris Bunker said that she plans to bury Brad Bunker in the same cemetery with his famous ancestors.

As relatives made arrangements yesterday for the burial, Doris Bunker said that the weekend's events took two children from her. She said that Brian Bunker called her from jail Sunday night crying.

"I will not take up for one over the other," Doris Bunker said. "I say a bottle of beer causes all this damage."

■ *Sherry Wilson Youngquist can be reached in Mount Airy at (336) 789-9338 or at* **syoungquist@wsjournal.com**

The Mount Airy News

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Bunker reunion brings family and those who want to learn

By WENDY BYERLY WOOD
Staff Writer

PILOT MOUNTAIN — Descendants of Eng and Chang Bunker, the original Siamese twins, met for their annual reunion Saturday at First United Methodist Church of Pilot Mountain. Among the descendants were a number of visitors working on films, books, documentaries and family histories related to the Bunker twins.

Slave's Descendant

Brenda Ethridge has traced her roots back to Grace Smith, more fondly known as Aunt Grace by the Bunker family. Aunt Grace was the slave of Eng and Chang Bunker and raised their 21 children.

"I was always curious about my grandfather's people because the family never even knew his mother's name," explained Ethridge, who was born in Mount Airy but now lives in Maryland. "I knew the heritage of the other parts of my family, so I decided I would search to see what information I could find on my paternal great-grandmother.

"I remember my aunts would say my father was from White Plains with those Bunkers," she continued. Her search eventually led her to the Bunker family reunion.

"I had gone on the Web and found Michael Bunker's site. I emailed and asked him if anyone knew about the Smith ancestors and told him they were probably slaves in the area," recalled Ethridge.

Michael Bunker led Ethridge to Chase and Milton Haynes, two family historians. They led her to Jessie Bunker Bryant, as well as the Surry Genealogical Association.

"Through all that I ended up at the family reunion hoping I would meet some people old enough to remember their grandparents talking about Aunt Grace," she explained. "All I know is that she took care of the children, chewed tobacco and smoked cigars at the same time and had unusually large feet.

"I thought there has to be more to a person than that. I want to find out what she was like, what she did, her normal day, rather than using my imagination, because I want to pass my heritage on to my offspring."

Through her searching, Ethridge,

See BUNKER, page 3A



Wendy Byerly Wood/The Mount Airy News

Brenda Ethridge, second from left, talks with descendants of Eng and Chang Bunker in hopes of learning more about her ancestor Aunt Grace, the slave of the Bunker twins who raised their 21 children, Saturday at the Bunker family reunion in Pilot Mountain.

Bunker

Continued from page 1A

who is six generations from Aunt Grace, has also bought censuses from 1870 and 1880 as well as some other documentation from that time period in relation to weddings and newspaper clippings.

Thai Writer

Wilas Nirunsuksiri, an author from Zionsville, Ind., was also in attendance at the reunion.

Nirunsuksiri is writing a documentary book on the original Siamese twins that will be published in the Thai language and sold in Thailand.

"I was on eBay because I was trying to bid on a newspaper page on the Siamese twins," Nirunsuksiri explained how he ended up at the annual get-together. "The person who lost the bid contacted me and we talked by email. She said she knew Gary Collins, a relative of the Bunkers.

"I contacted him and he said his sister knew a lot more about the family history," said Nirunsuksiri.

"From there, she directed me to Jessie Bryant," he continued. "I talked to her a couple of times and she told me about the reunion."

Nirunsuksiri said his associate had told him about the story of the Siamese twins two years ago, but it has just been since the beginning of this year that he has followed up on the lead.

"I sent the publisher a couple of chapters and they liked it," said Nirunsuksiri, who hopes to have the book published by the end of this year.

Planning Documentary

Josh Gibson and his wife Shambhavi Kaul, filmmakers from the Raleigh/Durham area, have been seriously throwing around the idea of filming a documentary about the Bunkers as well.

"I grew up in North Carolina," reported Gibson, whose wife is from India.

He said he was working on a film in India when his mother, who also lives in North Carolina, wrote him. "She said she had been searching on eBay and came upon a 19th-century figurine of Eng and Chang. She asked the guy who was selling it where he found it and he said an antique store in India.

"I went to a local antique store and found another figurine. I bought it for about 15 cents," Gibson remembered.

"I was just trying to figure out how the figurines came to India and that is when I found out they were from North Carolina," he said.

Gibson and Kaul have been planning for the last couple of years to make a documentary. "We are still trying to figure out what our point of entry will be," he explained.

He said that is why they chose to attend the reunion so they could talk to descendants.

"Hardly anyone attends our family reunions, so I was just sort of impressed how many people there are and amazed at how there is now so much interest in these people's history," said Gibson.

"It is also interesting to know there is a feature film being made about them," Gibson referenced the Kantana Groups' project.

The couple is currently working on a documentary about country singer David Allen Coe, which should be complete in the next month or so.

"Over the next three or four months we will increase our research and hone an angle for the documentary," he concluded.

Bond

Continued from page 1A

cases that come before me. All I can do for you is tell you the law in general," said Judge Craig.

"Our constitution provides that every person accused of a crime shall have a right to seek a reasonable bond, except in cases where the state is seeking the death penalty. This is in keeping with the constitutional precept that an accused person is presumed innocent until proven guilty. Thus, if the district attorney decides not to ask for the death penalty in a case and instead decides, for example, to proceed on a second-degree murder theory, the defendant has an absolute right to request that a bond be set."

Craig continued, "The most important determination for the trial judge in evaluating a bond motion is to determine if the defendant is considered a flight risk while awaiting trial on bond. If the defendant has ties to the local community and several persons in the community are willing to post their residences and other property as security for the bond, a judge may consider the defendant's risk of fleeing the state to be minimal, and an appropriate bond will be set.

"It is also important to remember that the purpose of pretrial detention is not to punish, but merely to hold the accused for trial if he or she is likely to flee the jurisdiction. The higher the bond, the lower the risk, because a defendant's friends, family and support system will know where to find the defendant and will keep close tabs on him or her in order not to put their property at risk in the event of a forfeiture."

Judge Davis and District Attorney Ricky Bowman refused to comment on any of the cases.

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C., FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 14, 1941





MEET THE GREAT-GRANDSONS OF SIAMESE TWINS — Heredity asserted itself in the birth of twin sons to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bunker, near White Plains, in Surry county. They are descendants of the most famed twins since Romulus and Remus. They are great-grandsons of one of the "Siamese Twins" with whom P. T. Barnum interested the world and medical science. They were given the names of their flesh-joined ancestors. Above, with their mother, are Wayne Eng, at left, and Wade Chang Bunker. Wayne was born first. At right is an old picture of "Siamese Twins," Chang and Eng, who took the family name of Bunker. The twins are descendants of Eng.—(Exclusive Photo by Eckenrod.)

BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

REGISTRATION DISTRICT NO. 86-10 (13)

184

1. PLACE OF DEATH
a. COUNTY Surrey
b. CITY OR TOWN (If outside corporate limits, write RURAL and give township) Mt. Airy N.C.
c. LENGTH OF STAY (in this place)
d. FULL NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION (If not in hospital or institution, give street address or location) Martin Mem. Hospital

2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased lived. If institution: residence before admission).
a. STATE N.C
b. COUNTY Surrey
c. CITY OR TOWN (If outside corporate limits, write RURAL and give township) White Plains
d. STREET ADDRESS (If rural, give location)

3. NAME OF DECEASED (Type or Print) (First) Judie (b. Middle) (c. Last) Bunker
4. DATE OF DEATH (Month) (Day) (Year) Feb. 14-1949
5. SEX F
6. COLOR OR RACE White
7. MARRIED, NEVER MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED (Specify) (Widowed)
8. DATE OF BIRTH Aug. 18, 1867
9. AGE (In years last birthday) 81 — IF UNDER 1 YEAR Months 5 Days 26 — IF UNDER 24 HRS. Hours Min.
10a. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life even if retired) Housewife
10b. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY Home
11. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) Surry Co. N.C.
12. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? U.S.A.
13. FATHER'S NAME Hardin Laffoon
14. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Sallie Lewis
15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes, no, or unknown) (If yes, give war or dates of service) No
16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. None
17. INFORMANT'S NAME AND ADDRESS Byron Byron Bunker White Plains NC

MEDICAL CERTIFICATION

18. CAUSE OF DEATH
Enter only one cause per Line for (a), (b), and (c)

*This does not mean the mode of dying, such as heart failure, asthenia, etc. It means the disease, injury, or complication which caused death.

I. DISEASE OR CONDITION DIRECTLY LEADING TO DEATH* (a) Severe Myocardial Decompensation — INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH

ANTECEDENT CAUSES
Morbid conditions, if any, giving rise to the above cause (a) stating the underlying cause last.
DUE TO (b)
DUE TO (c)

II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS
Conditions contributing to the death but not related to the disease or condition causing death. Bronchial Asthma. Senility

19a. DATE OF OPERATION
19b. MAJOR FINDINGS OF OPERATION AND/OR AUTOPSY
20. AUTOPSY? YES ☐ NO ☒

21a. ACCIDENT SUICIDE HOMICIDE (Specify)
21b. PLACE OF INJURY (e. g., in or about home, farm, factory, street, office bldg., etc.)
21c. (CITY, TOWN, OR TOWNSHIP) (COUNTY) (STATE)
21d. TIME OF INJURY (Month) (Day) (Year) (Hour) m.
21e. INJURY OCCURRED WHILE AT WORK ☐ NOT WHILE AT WORK ☐
21f. HOW DID INJURY OCCUR?

22. *I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from* 2-14, 1949, *to* 2-14, 1949, *that I last saw the deceased alive on* 2-14, 1949 *and that death occurred at* 11 p. m., *from the causes and on the date stated above.*

23a. SIGNATURE (Degree or title) Lewis A. Tolle M.D.
23b. ADDRESS Mt Airy N.C.
23c. DATE SIGNED 2-16-49

24a. BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL (Specify) Burial
24b. DATE 2-16-49
24c. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY White Plains Bap. Ch.
24d. LOCATION (City, town, or county) (State) White Plains N.C.

DATE REC'D BY LOCAL REG. 2-21-49
REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE Mrs J.C. Hill
25. FUNERAL DIRECTOR ADDRESS Moody Funeral Home Mt. Airy

TYPE OR WRITE PLAINLY WITH INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD
MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING
N. B.—If ... of twins or triplets use a separate blank for each child, and number each in the order of ...

Mrs. Bunker, White Plains, Dies at 82

Mount Airy.—Mrs. Judy Laffoon Bunker, 82, of White Plains, died at Martin Memorial Hospital at 11 p.m. Monday, a few minutes after her arrival at the hospital.

Mrs. Bunker was born in Surry County, Aug. 18, 1867, daughter of Hardin and Sallie Lewis Laffoon.

She was the widow of William O. Bunker, a son of Eng Bunker, one of the world famous Siamese Twins. Her husband died in 1932.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. today at White Plains Baptist Church. Rev. Delmar Hodges and Elder Jesse Dunbar will be in charge of the rites with burial in the church cemetery.

Survivors include seven sons, Byron Bunker of White Plains, Robert T. Bunker of Mount Airy, Route 1, Napoleon Bunker of Winston-Salem, Hardin and Otto Bunker, both of Peterburg, Va., Oliver Bunker of Mebane, Dennis Bunker of Apex; two daughters, Mrs. Carl Edwards of Mount Airy, Route 4, and Mrs. Caesar C. Stone of Loris, S. C.; 48 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren, and one sister, Mrs. Fate Nichols of Toast.

Mount Airy Happenings (Continued)

■ About 150 descendants of the original Siamese Twins, Eng and Chang Bunker, gathered recently at the White Plains Recreational Building in White Plains for their 10th annual family reunion.

Jim Haynes, chairman, of Lake City, S.C., a great-grandson of Chang and Adelaide Yates Bunker, presided. His wife, Sally, registered guests and gave name tags with pictures of the Siamese Twins as young men to each one present. Others who assisted in arranging the reunion were Chester and Eloise Atkins of White Plains, Hershell Bunker, treasurer, of Pilot Mountain, and Jessie Bunker Bryant, genealogist and historian of Winston-Salem, all great-grandchildren of Eng and Sarah Yates Bunker.

Eng and Chang are the only Siamese twins to marry and have children. They married sisters from Wilkes County and lived at Traphill. Later, they bought land and built two separate houses at White Plains. Their home at Traphill and Chang's home still stand. Eng's home burned in 1956. Chang and Adelaide had 10 children and Eng and Sarah had 11.

Attending the reunion for the first time were: Thelma Branham of Pueblo, Co., Betty Goff of Canon City, Co., Donna Garrett of Gunnison, Co., descendants of Patrick Henry and Molly Bradley Bunker. Patrick Henry was the son of Eng and Sarah Bunker.

David and Rebecca Haynes Morvil of Wilmington, a descendant of Louisa Emaline Bunker and Zacharias Haynes of Raleigh, who was the daughter of Chang and Adelaide Yates Bunker.

Descendants of Hattie Irene Bunker (youngest child of Chang and Adelaide) who married Edward Patterson were M.P. "Pat" and Judy Haynes of Marietta, Ga.

Dr. James Hugh and Mary Alice Haynes of Brentwood, Tenn., Bill and Barbara Haynes of Augusta, Ga., John S. Blanton IV, a grandson of Dennis Bunker and great-great-grandson of Eng and Sarah Bunker, Monty Blackmon and son, Albert, of Mount Airy, Tanya Rees and son, Zach Jackson, of Mount Airy, descendants of Eng.

Visitors and friends present were Bob Jenkins of Charlotte, Virginia Jenkins Pegram of Winston-Salem, Ann Vaughn, director of the Mount Airy Visitors Center, Ruth Minick, James H. Kemp and Gary York of Mount Airy, and Ruby Beshears of Winston-Salem.

The oldest person present was 93-year-old Dennis Bunker of Bear Creek, a grandson of Eng. The youngest one present was Garrett Taylor Atkins, the two-month-old son of Christopher and Stephanie Atkins of Pilot Mountain. Garrett is the grandson of Wayne and Robin Atkins of Pinnacle.



...Tanya Rees and son, Zachary Jackson, were among those present...

The next youngest were John Lewis Walker, almost two, and the son of Kent and Annette Hemmings Walker of Conover, and John Delane "Jake" Hemmings III, son of John Delane "Jay" and Carrie Hemmings of Cornelius. These two are the first grandchildren of John Delane "J.D." and Betsy Ross Bunker Hemmings of Conover.

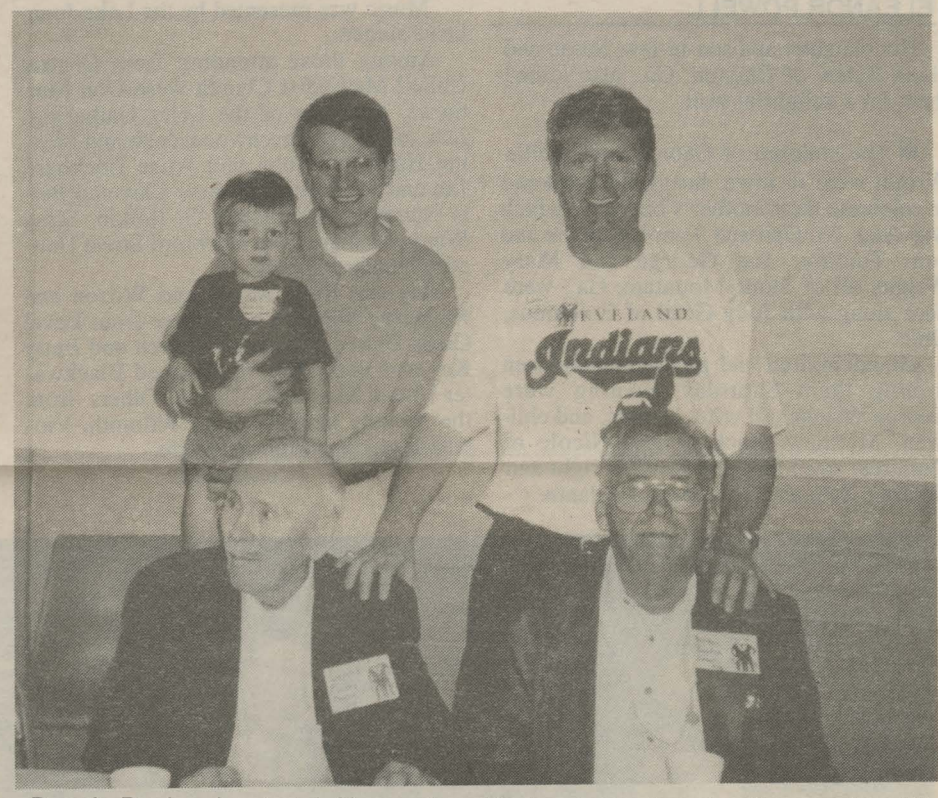
There are eight sets of twins in the family, but only one set, Eng and Chang Bunker of Mount Airy, were present. Eng was named for his great-grandfather and Chang was named for his great-great uncle. They are the sons of the late Robert "Bob" Taylor and Nell Key Bunker.

On the day before the reunion, about 30 descendants and friends met at Ray's Starlight Restaurant for lunch. Later they gathered in the Bunker Room of the Hampton Inn to hear Tanya Rees tell about her trip to China to see the musical play depicting the lives of Eng and Chang. She showed a film of the play. Betty Bunker Blackmon and Dorothy Cross Haymore showed a video of their recent trip to Thailand and the birthplace of the Siamese Twins.

Jessie Bunker Bryant said everyone enjoyed the presentations and the reunion.



BUNKER REUNION: Among those attending the 10th annual reunion were Eng and Chang Bunker of Mount Airy and their cousin, Jessie Bunker Bryant of Winston-Salem. Eng and Chang are sons of the late Robert "Bob" Taylor and Nell Key Bunker. Jessie is the daughter of the late Oliver Wendell and Mamie Simmons Bunker of Mebane.



...Dennis Bunker (seated, left) was the oldest person attending the reunion. His son, Nathan Bunker, is seated to the right. Standing are their children and grandchildren.



...attending the Bunker reunion for the first time were descendants of Patrick Henry and Molly Bradley Bunker, Betty Goff, Donna Garrett and Thelma Branham, all of Colorado. Patrick Henry was the son of Eng and Sarah Yates Bunker...



...cousins, Elaine Reeves of Apex, Betty Blackmon and Dorothy Haymore of Mount Airy, Larry Cross of Sebring, Fla., and Martha Banyas of Pittsburgh, pose for a picture. They are the grandchildren of Bob and Fannie Bunker. Bob was the youngest son of Eng.

file

October 29, 2001
4333 Huntree Rd.
Winston-Salem NC 27107

The Surry County Genealogical Assoc.
PO Box 914
Dobson, NC 27017

Wilma Heath
Jo Jones Adams

I have my book The Connected Bunkers Descendants of the Siamese Twins Eng and Chang Bunker ready to give to the Assoc. It is dedicated in Memory of Mrs. Emma Snow Bunker.

I spoke to Jo today by phone and she said she would pick it up at the Hampton Inn in Mount Airy on Sat. Nov. 3, 2001. I will be there for another book signing from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM.

Jessie Bunker Bryant

Enclosed is the article for your news letter

New Book Release

The Connected Bunkers, Descendants of the Siamese Twins Eng and Chang Bunker

The recently completed book contains over 600 pages and approximately 1,000 photographs. This book was compiled by Jessie Bunker Bryant, a great-granddaughter of Eng Bunker. Information is provided on 1,500 descendants who are connected by their ancestors, the original Siamese twins, Eng and Chang Bunker.

The cost of the book is $100.00 which includes NC sales tax. There will be an additional charge for books that are shipped. 10-27-2001

Jessie Bunker Bryant
4333 Guntree Rd.
Winston-Salem, NC 27107
(336) 769-2517

Harry M. Bryant
Jessie B. Bryant
4333 Gumtree Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27107-9731

NC PIEDMONT TRIAD AREA 27A
PM
29 OCT
2001



Wilma ✓

The Surry County Genealogical Assoc.
P.O. Box 917
Dobson, NC 27017

27017+0917

Mount Airy Happenings

Entourage Visits Siamese Twins' Birthplace In Thailand

■ Cousins Betty Blackmon and Dorothy Haymore had the opportunity to visit the birthplace of the Siamese Twins during a recent trip to Thailand. They are the great-granddaughters of Eng Bunker, and great-great-nieces of his twin brother, Chang.



ELEANOR POWELL

Accompanied by three other friends from Mount Airy, Lillie Mae Haynes, Loretta Francis and Nancy Church, they also visited the Siamese Twins' monument. A park is being developed at the statue site and is expected to be completed some time after 2,000. A reproduction of the twins' old homeplace, once located at White Plains, will also be displayed at the park. The Bunker homeplace, Dorothy Haymore's home as a child, later was destroyed by fire.

The group said it was very impressed with the monument and base, which featured different pictures engraved to give highlights of the Twins' lives.

The Siamese Twins were born in a houseboat on the river, so the local group could only see where the boat would have been 188 years ago.

Cousins and other relatives from throughout the United States joined Betty and Dorothy to see the birthplace and statue of the famous Siamese Twins.

Arriving in Bangkok, Thailand, after a 19 1/2-hour flight from Los Angeles, the Bunker group stayed at the Royal Orchard

(Continued)



...Loretta Francis and Lillie Mae Haynes rode a boat to the floating markets...



...Betty Blackmon and Loretta Francis rode on an elephant...



VISIT THAILAND: Shown at the Rose Garden Country Resort are (left to right) Loretta Francis, Dorothy Haymore, Betty Blackmon, Lillie Mae Haynes and Nancy Church. They were joined by other descendants of the Siamese Twins for a tour of their birthplace.





SIAMESE TWINS STATUE: Betty Blackmon (center) and Dorothy Haymore (right) pose beneath the statue of Eng and Chang Bunker which has been erected in their memory. Other cousins shown with the statue of their great-great-grandfathers are Nancy Sullivan of Indian, Elsie Loveland of California and Margo Butterfield of Arizona.

Mount Airy Happenings (Continued)

Sheridan Hotel and from there they were bussed to the Rose Garden Country Resort for four days. They enjoyed the Thai Village Cultural Show, the traditional Thai wedding ceremony, the graceful dance of The Fingernails, boxing and sword fighting.

Other descendants of the Siamese Twins making the journey to Thailand were Margie Prather, Carol Gates, Nancy Sullivan, Marjorie Butterfield, Elsie Loveland, Jeri Christiansen, Julie Nelson, Nancy Kleihege and Michelle Kleihege, all from different parts of the United States.

The group visited a Buddhist shrine, rode on elephants, shopped and had dinner at the Inn-Chan Restaurant, inspired by the world's first-joined twins and built in their memory.

They met the owner of the Rosa Garden Country Resort, who introduced them to the tourist minister of Thailand. The entire group had dinner together and enjoyed the beauty of the resort, which featured exotic flowers and plants, sculptured gardens, ponds of lily pads, unique carts, bamboo plants and orchids.

On another occasion they visited the King Rama II Memorial Park, where a fair is held each year in February. "We enjoyed traditional Thai music and dramatic performances, artistic, culinary, handicraft, horticultural exhibitions in the riverine park's bucolic setting," said the visitors.

There they met the royal princess while the Bunker clan was interviewed on the local TV station. The women admitted it was fun to be sought by TV cameras, reporters and the news media. "We were famous for a short day," one echoed.

After their visit to Samut Songkram they were put into boats and taken to the floating market. "As we shopped, the Thai people crowded around us hawking their wares - madame, madame, buy, buy. We would bargain with them and most of the time they would lower the price," said one of the travelers.

During a morning Klong (river excursion) they watched as people washed their clothes and bathed in the dirty water. When the boat stopped, bread was given to the group to feed the catfish which were everywhere.

After driving back to Banghok, they visited the emerald Buddha Temple and had to remove their shoes before entering. They also saw the pagodas in the Emerald Buddha Temple and the image of the golden Buddha.

In hot, humid weather, they also stopped at Gems Gallery International to spend more money and traveled by long-tailed speed boat on the Chao Phraya River and canals to see the family homes and temples along the waterways.

Back at the hotel, they had dinner outside on the canal with a Thai show for entertainment. The food was very plentiful - vegetables, fruit and meats.

Arriving in California on their return home, the group learned that American Airlines was on strike, but they lucked up with a flight on USAirways to Charlotte.

Betty's husband, Zack, was waiting to pick her up there for a trip to Florida, and the other four drove back to Mount Airy.

As they rode along and reminisced, it seemed such a short time ago that they had departed for the extended journey. Their trip included several days in Los Angeles, where they saw the homes of famous Hollywood stars, ate at the famous Warehouse Restaurant in Marina Del Ray and toured Universal Studios.

The five said they may go back to Thailand when the park is dedicated to the twins. "That may be in the year of 2,000, but we'd love to return," they added.

■ Best wishes to Billy Belton, who celebrates his birthday March 20. He and his wife, Mary Lou, formerly resided in Martinsville, Va., but have returned to Mount Airy to make their home.

■ We are happy to hear that Lewis Collins has returned home after undergoing surgery at WFU Baptist Hospital. His wife, Rebecca, said he is getting along well.

■ Mary Lou Bartley is back home from WFU Baptist Hospital.

■ Maynard Beamer was moved into a private room at WFU Baptist Hospital Tuesday and is doing very well following sextuplet by-pass surgery. According to family members, he is expected to return home in a few days.

■ Frank Lowry, who has also been in the hospital, is now recuperating at RidgeCrest.

■ The management and employees here at *The News* express love and sympathy to Jewel McHone on the death of her husband, Calvin, who passed away Tuesday morning following surgery at Forsyth Memorial Hospital. Jewel is one of the receptionists in the front office.

He became very ill Sunday evening, entered the hospital early Monday morning and passed away several hours after undergoing surgery.

Calvin was always a very friendly, caring person and we'll certainly miss him.



BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON: Gladys Owens (left) was surprised with a luncheon attended by church circle members. Shown with her are Mary Ellen Midkiff (center) and Mearle Sutphin.

■ Gladys Owens, well-known retired educator, was surprised with a birthday luncheon on Feb. 15. Members of her circle from Westfield Baptist Church gathered at Gaunce's Restaurant for their regular meeting, but also planned the birthday celebration for Gladys, who was 90 years old on Feb. 16.

The honoree was presented a lovely decorated birthday cake.

Gladys taught for more than 40 years in the local school system.



...others present were Ethel Talley (left) and Betty Brown...



...Iris Kuhl, Virginia Hart, sister of the honoree, with Gladys...



...Kim Brown, Cheri Acker and Mabel Cook...

Look Bunker book & death cert. Info sent to Waldrep by email 3-6-02 from death certs. 1913-1997 by Wilma H.

Subj: **Fwd: quick question--the fabulous Bunker twins**
Date: 2/22/02 9:35:23 AM Eastern Standard Time
From: JudySCard
To: Wjhiatt

Hi Wilma,
I am forwarding a note to you from G. C. Waldrep. I am going to look up the census records for him.

I told him that you may know of a genealogy on the Bunkerffamily in our family files. I know that there is an article in one of the Heritage books on the Bunkers. I do not know if the Bunker book has made to our bookshelves at the library yet.

I also told him to send his list of death records to the Register of Deeds and they would copy those for him.

His book sound exciting and a little DEEP - thanks,Judy

Forwarded Message:
Subj: **quick question--the fabulous Bunker twins**
Date: 2/21/02 4:48:34 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: Gcwaldrep
To: JudySCard

Hi Judy,

I hope you're well. I'm still toiling away. Right now I'm working on a major interpretive chapter on the many, many different meanings--potential or in practice--of the word "mulatto" in Southern thought, mainly drawing on the nine state-level Supreme Court decisions (1 in VA, 8 in NC) adjudging racial status between 1801 and 1914. (You would think there would have been more, wouldn't you? But imagine what it would have taken, in terms of both money and guts, to press such a case.)

In this connection, I have a quick question. Presumably you have the published 1840-1900 census books for Surry there in your cozy apartment living room (grin). Could you look through and check the Bunker households for me, for each census? And tell me how Chang & Eng were listed--what race--and, more importantly, what race their children and grandchildren were listed under? I would be happy to pay you $20 for doing this for me.

Presumably, since the Bunkers wound up well-to-do, their genealogies are well-known, and/or printed up somewhere (the Surry Co. heritage books?). I would also like to compile a list of death dates, between 1900 and 1930, for Chang & Eng's children and grandchildren--any of their lineal descendants who died in that period. My point will be to check the original death certificates to see exactly what race they were listed under. --You may or may not know, but some of the Goinses in neighboring Stokes and Rockingham, as well as some mixed-race people in Person Co., were listed as Asiatic in these death records during this period ("Mongolian" or "Jap"). So I wonder how the Bunkers were listed. I wouldn't be surprised if, ironically, they were simply listed as "white." ...I may have to return to Dobson to look into the death certs myself, but is there some easy Bunker genealogy I could get photocopied and sent to me, so I could compile a list of individuals and death dates?

As for "my" families, I don't have much new to report. Anne Whitaker, a Nichols descendant who I believe is a SCGHS member, has done some fine work tracking down the mixed-race Nicholses who left Surry Co., including an older reference to them as being "Indian." I've also had some luck tracking down some of the mixed-race Wardens. And a Larter descendant recently contacted me, which I'm happy about. It seems that after fleeing Surry in the wake of Michael Warden's 1852 conviction (for illegally marrying a white woman), the Larters fled to Indiana, where they lived for about a decade, then, like many mixed-race people fearing the possible outcome of the Civil War, moved on to Ontario. Later, some filtered back across the border into Michigan.

Hope you're well. Let me know if you have the time to answer those two quick needs (the Bunker census listings, and a photocopy of the basic Bunker genealogy, if it's handy somewhere). Also if you can think of anyone who might run to Dobson for me and check the death certs, once I make my list--someone I could hire, I mean (that might be cheaper than my going).

Happy new year!

The Mount Airy News – 10 June 1909

Mr. J. L. Bunker Dead.

Prominent Farmer Killed by Lightning.

The people of this part of the country were shocked when they learned of the tragic death of Mr. Jesse L. BUNKER at his home two miles west of this town at 5 p. m. Wednesday evening. He and his son and a hired man were in the field at work and went into a tobacco barn out of a thunder shower. Mr. BUNKER was sitting near the center of the barn where he was struck by lightning and death was in a moment. The over two men were shocked senseless but recovered in a short time. The electricity appeared to have passed entirely through his body or his hat and one shoe were torn to pieces but the body was in no way bruised or mutilated.

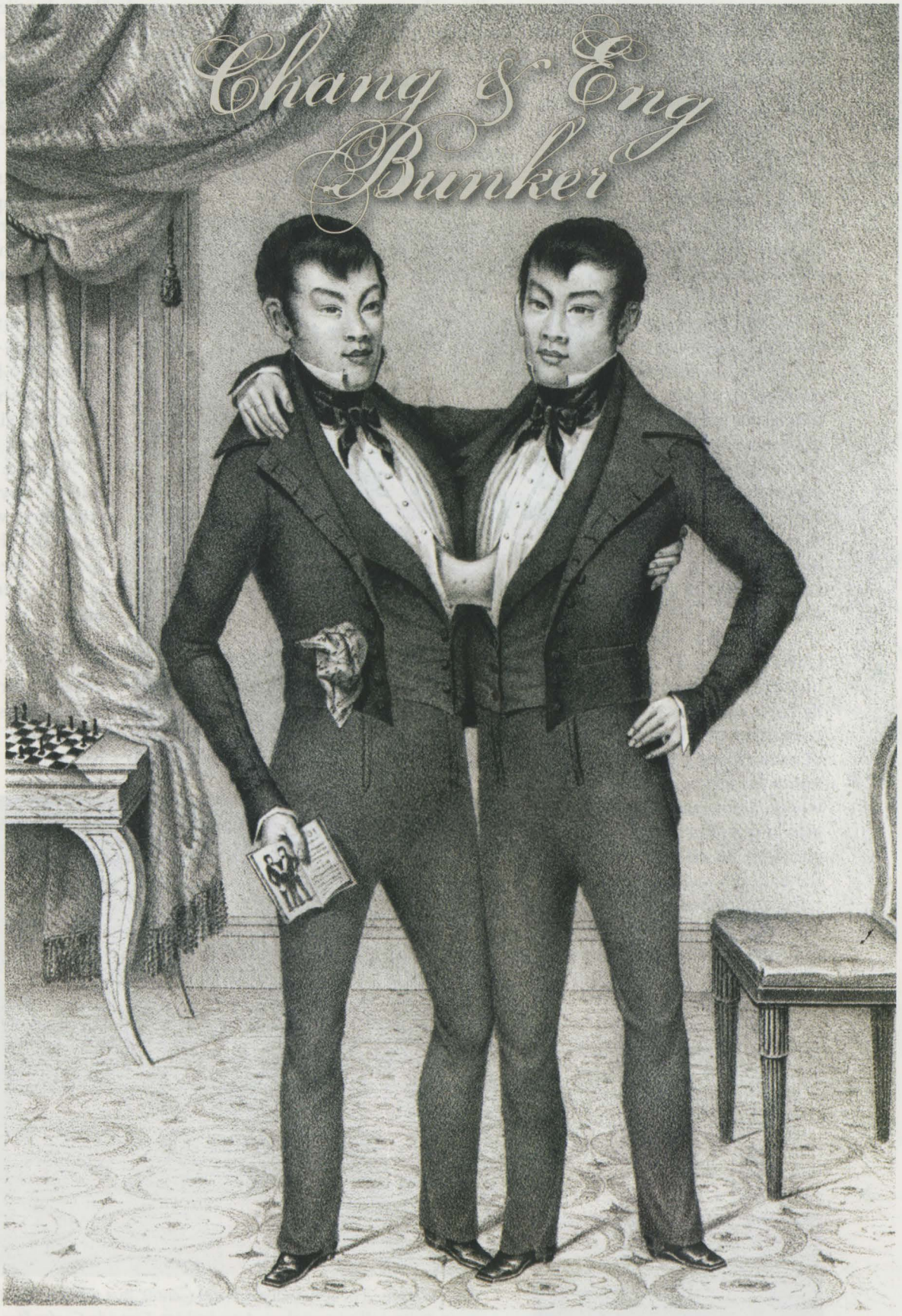
Mr. BUNKER was 48 years old at the time of his death and leaves a wife who was Miss Emma DAVIS before her marriage, has been critically ill for some weeks and it is feared that she will not survive this shock. He was a son of Mr. Cheng BUNKER, well known as one of the famous twins. He was a good citizen and one of the best farmers in the country and owned a fine farm with all modern improvements. From birth he had been deaf and dumb and yet he was an intelligent and entertaining man and enjoyed conversing with his friends even if he was forced to resort to pencil and paper.

The interment will be this afternoon at the DAVIS family burying ground near his home.

NOTE: In 2005, John EDWARDS found out that the DAVIS family burying ground was the cemetery beside Calvary Church on S. Franklin Road.

Submitted by: John Edwards, 451 Nurse Road, Ararat, NC 27007

"Surry County's Most Beloved Citizens"



COURTESY WILSON LIBRARY, UNC-CHAPEL HILL

The brothers. *Originally from Siam, they made their home, and their fortunes, in the mountains of western North Carolina. Above, a drawing of the young men (Chang on right, Eng on left) from around 1830-35.*

They were outsiders, and startling outsiders at that – but conjoined brothers Chang and Eng Bunker, who gave the name "Siamese" to twins such as themselves, learned to live together in 19th century western North Carolina.

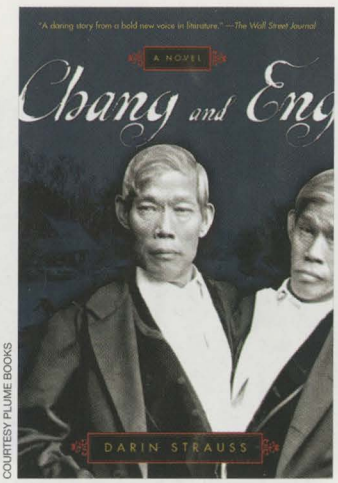
BY SU CLAUSON-WICKER

By any standards, Chang and Eng Bunker were exceptional men. Born in Siam to a fishing family of mostly Chinese ancestry in 1811, they moved to North Carolina at the age of 28 to purchase a 1,000-acre tobacco plantation. The brothers wowed locals with their shrewd trading ability and their speed at felling trees by simultaneously cutting from opposite sides of the trunk. They were dynamos at the British precursor to badminton, amazing at chess and masters of the English language.

But it was a wild aberration of nature that brought the Bunker brothers fame and wealth: they were Siamese twins joined at the chest. After touring the world as featured curiosities, they settled in the backcountry of Wilkes County, N.C.

By the standards of the day, they must have been freaks twice over in this rural area. Yet Chang and Eng managed to fit into the community, becoming successful farmers and helping to establish a Baptist church. Even more astonishingly, they married and fathered 21 children between them. Perhaps with familiarity the Bunkers seemed less freakish to their neighbors; perhaps they were judged on their gutsy, industrious characters rather than the five-inch band of flesh that bound them together.

Since 1995, when Page Chichester wrote his *Blue Ridge Country* feature on the conjoined brothers, the Bunkers have had a bridge named after them (actually two bridges), become the focus of annual play at Mount Airy's Andy Griffith Playhouse, and been the subjects of a best-selling novel, ("Chang and Eng" by Darin Strauss, 2000). Their descendants recently produced an 11th set of twins, none conjoined, and the second Chang and Eng Bunker, twin great grandsons, have become senior citizens. Nobody in North Carolina teases them about their funny names these days.



COURTESY PLUME BOOKS

Another telling of the story. *Darin Strauss's award-winning book appeared in 2001.*

The Siamese twins get respect in their adopted home, just as they did in life. Wilkes County and then Surry County, where they moved when their children reached school age, accepted, even embraced, the Bunkers. In July 2001, a double bridge on U.S. 601 in Surry County was named in their honor.

In his dedication, North Carolina Secretary of Transportation Lyndo Tippett said: "These 'twin bridges' will forever serve as a loving memorial of the lives of Eng and Chang Bunker – the world's original Siamese twins and Surry County's most beloved citizens. The brothers fearlessly bridged



HOBART JONES

White Plains Baptist Church. *Chang and Eng helped build the North Carolina church where they are now buried.*

cultural and economic barriers to truly live the American Dream."

Appropriately, the bridges traverse Stewarts Creek – the dividing line between the twins' estates in Mt. Airy. After 14 years of living as a foursome with their wives, the twins split their property in 1852. They built homes on adjoining farms and arranged to alternate between houses every three days. Even today, descendants of one twin will refer to the other's people as "the other side of the creek." Although Eng's house burned down 50 years ago, Chang's house is still owned by relatives.

Eng and Chang were special from the beginning – the first documented and longest living twins conjoined at birth. They were born on a houseboat in a small fishing village in Siam – now known as Thailand – and later became known as the "original Siamese twins" in reference to their homeland.



COURTESY THE SURRY ARTS COUNCIL

The family. *Chang and Eng's unique situation didn't prevent them from having families – combined, they fathered 21 children.*

Although their mother was at first proud of delivering two male children – good luck in that society – when their connection was discovered, the midwife drew back in horror. When the king of Siam heard about their birth, he said they should be killed. Siamese doctors suggested separating them by hanging them across a fine cat-gut cord, estimating the tie would work its way through the connecting tissue over time, healing as it went. Others recommended cutting them with a hot wire, sawing them, or burning them apart. Maternal instinct won out, and nothing was done. Their mother cared for them in a loving, practical manner, adapting to their deformity and encouraging them to do the same.



HOBART JONES

Twins on stage. *Joel Frady and Brandon Hicks portray the Bunkers in a 2006 production of Burton Cohen's play. 2007 will mark the fourth staging of the play in North Carolina.*

The boys grew strong and eventually traveled on diplomatic missions with the king, who had rescinded his death order.

But first they learned to get along. According to recorded interviews, Chang was more bossy and quick-tempered. Eng usually gave in to him. But when they did fight, they could not be separated – of course – and their mother held them, pleading with them to learn self-control and compromise.

"Or you will kill each other," she said.

They took her advice. As the years passed, witnesses reported that the pair walked around with their arms across each other's shoulders, seldom conversed with each other and often appeared to read each other's minds, so in tune were they.

The twins' graceful, synchronized activities attracted a British merchant, who recruited them to tour the world on a show circuit. Crowds poured out to see them, and doctors examined them. Most agreed the twins could not safely be separated. They considered it significant, however, that one's drinking (usually Chang's) didn't make the other drunk.

Chang and Eng's romance would have fascinated the public even more. The twins had retired to rural living in North Carolina when they

"The Wedding of the Siamese Twins" will be presented at the Blackmon Amphitheatre in Mt. Airy, N.C., on July 14 and 27, 2007. Call 1-800-286-6193 for tickets or go to www.surryarts.org.



COURTESY WILSON LIBRARY, UNC-CHAPEL HILL

The world's "eighth wonder." *After their touring days, Chang and Eng settled down to farm and raise families, as depicted in the 1860 Currier & Ives lithograph.*

married sisters Sarah Ann and Adelaide Yates and retired to a king-sized nuptial bed that still cycles among their 1,500 descendants. Apparently marital relations were normal, and they produced four children within two years of the wedding.

As time went on though, Chang grew more irritable and more attached to the bottle. His health deteriorated while Eng remained robust. In January 1874, Chang developed chest pains and breathing problems. In the early morning hours, the family heard someone cry out. Eng found Chang cold and lifeless by his side.

"I am going," the survivor told his wife. He complained of a choking sensation and died within three hours, before the arrival of the doctor who had pledged to separate them when one died.

The cause of death – half of it, that is – remains a mystery. Chang died of a blood clot, but did Eng die of shock? The autopsy could give no explanation. The two were buried in their own basement as protection against vandals and later moved to White Plains Baptist Church.

The twins' separate but fused livers – the only organ shared – are preserved in formaldehyde at the Mutter Museum in Philadelphia. If they had been born five generations later, they could have lived separate lives. But oh, what a difference in destiny that would have made.



Circle ad number on card or visit www.blueridgecountry.com



Circle ad number on card or visit www.blueridgecountry.com



A miniature portrait of Chang and Eng painted on ivory by an unknown artist in the 1830s. (In life, Eng stood on the left; here, the artist mistakenly reversed the positions.)

Surry County's Siamese Twins Leave Legacy

Contract with Sea Captain Set Chang and Eng Bunker on Journey Ending Here

By Cama C. Merritt
Special to The Surry Times

There is a paper signed in Chinese by Chang and Eng, safely stored in the First Citizens Bank vault in Dobson. This document, which changed the lives of these world-famous twins from Siam, brought them eventually to Surry County, where they settled and reared their families.

This paper, dated April 1, 1829, is their agreement with Captain Abel Coffin to come with him and share the profits from a tour of America and Europe where they would be put on display.

The twins had been "discovered" by a British merchant, Robert Hunter, who recognized their potential to attract curiosity-seekers but who failed to convince the king of Siam to allow them to leave the country. It took Captain Coffin, who had done a favor for the king, to secure the necessary permission.

Born in 1811, the twins at an early age developed an entrepreneurial skill, helping their mother support the family with a duck and egg business after their father died in 1819. However, Captain Coffin took advantage of the young men, profiting from their successful appearance in the United States but failing to share the wealth as agreed. On their voyage to London, Captain Coffin and his family slept and ate luxuriously in first class while the twins slept in steerage and ate potatoes and salt beef.

When they came of age in 1832, the twins left Captain Coffin and toured on their own. They did not travel with a circus or a sideshow but



The famous Siamese twins, Chang and Eng Bunker.

appeared in meeting halls and other public buildings, such as Peale's Museum in New York City, where the entrance fee allowed the public to see them along with rarities of natural history.

To relieve the tedium of travel and to break the monotony of being the objects of public scrutiny, Chang and Eng often went hunting and fishing. During an engagement at Peale's, Dr. James Calloway of Wilkesboro invited them to his home to hunt and fish. When they came to visit in 1839, they found this isolated, untamed part of North Carolina to be to their liking and decided to make it their home.

On Oct. 12, 1839, Chang and Eng became naturalized citizens, taking the surname of Bunker from a New York family who were good friends. That same month, they bought 100 acres in Traphill, built themselves a house and added 64 more acres the next year.

At a local wedding they met Sallie Ann and Adelaide Yates, daughters of a prosperous farmer who tended 1,200 acres with 15 slaves. They frequently stopped by the Yates' home and eventually asked the girls to marry them. Their courtship was successful with the Yates sisters, but the parents were shocked at the idea that the girls would marry two persons so different from themselves.

In an effort to gain the approval of the Yates family, Chang and Eng went to a surgeon in Philadelphia and asked him to separate them. However, he declared that the operation would be too dangerous. Finally convinced of the solemn intentions of the young people, the parents consented and the two couples were married April 13, 1843.

Chang and Eng and their brides lived for nine years in the original house, 4 children arriving in the first two years. The twins became staunch Southerners, zealous followers of Henry Clay and the Whig party. They owned 28 slaves in 1860, played the flute and enjoyed checkers and chess. Eng liked to play poker late into the night, causing some inconvenience to

land a mile away.

By agreement, the twins lived for three days in one house and then for three days in the other house. When they were at Chang's house, Eng kept quiet about his personal business and vice versa. They adhered strictly to this arrangement — even at such critical times as when grieving over the death of one of the children.

In 1860, they decided to tour the West. When they got to California, news of the approaching Civil War reached them, and they canceled plans to go to visit Siam.

They started home on Feb. 11, 1861, just days after the Confederate States were formed. Chang's son, Christopher Wren Bunker, and Eng's son, Stephen Decatur Bunker, each joined the Confederate Army as soon as they were old enough to enlist.

The war took its toll on their fortunes, as it did throughout the South, first in the form of higher taxes and high prices. In addition to these hardships, the Bunkers loaned money and were repaid in worthless Confederate money.

Their slaves walked off and returned asking to be hired. To recoup their fortunes, the twins began to take short tours. After the war in the spring of 1865, they took their wives and two of the children to New York, where they posed for a photograph by Matthew Brady.

In 1868, the twins wanted doctors in London and Edinburgh to examine their daughter, Katherine, who suffered a chronic illness. They also wished to seek the expert medical opinion of these doctors about an

Twins

Continued From Page 6

twins, reported in the British Medical Journal of Feb. 13, 1869, indicated that the operation to separate them was too perilous to be advisable.

The next year, they traveled to Germany and consulted an outstanding surgeon who, believing that their livers might be connected, recommended that an operation to separate them be performed only if one of them had died.

Journeying to Russia, they met Czar Alexander II. Once again, war cut short their tour plans when France declared war on Prussia.

On the voyage home Chang suffered a stroke which paralyzed his right arm and leg. He, along with healthy and active Eng, were confined to their berth the rest of the trip. Back at home in Mount Airy, Dr. Joe Hollingsworth devised a way for them to get around with Chang's right foot supported by a leather strap which Eng carried.

By 1870, Chang and Adelaide had nine children at home, ranging in age from 25 to a 1-year-old. Eng and Sallie had six children, ages 5 to 25. In January, 1874, Chang developed severe bronchitis and died in his sleep. Horrified to wake up and find his twin dead and believing he would soon follow, Eng died before a doctor could be summoned.

The medical world wanted to examine the bodies but the widows feared that they would be disfigured. Their close friends, Drs. Billy and Joe Hollingsworth, warned them of grave robbers. The bodies were placed in a tin coffin inside a walnut casket and put in the cellar. Dr. Joe Hollingsworth arranged for a commission of doctors to come from Philadelphia to Mount Airy. The doctors persuaded the widows to allow the bodies to be embalmed and sent to Philadelphia for an autopsy at the College of Physicians, provided they would not be disfigured.

When the bodies came back to Mount Airy, they remained in the cellar for a year to protect them from grave robbers, and then they were buried in the lawn of Chang's house. The medical team that examined them found that there was sufficient continuity of liver tissue within the band that connected the twins that an attempt to separate them without the antiseptics introduced 27 years later would have proved fatal.

In 1977, a descendant of Captain Abel Coffin, Professor Gordon Clark of the University of Maine, put a classified ad in the *Winston-Salem Journal* offering to sell to a descendant of the twins the original agreement that brought the Siamese twins to America. The Surry County Historical Society responded but found the price of the document beyond its means. Later that year, Clark, feeling that the Surry County Historical Society was the appropriate repository, donated it to the society which now has it safely stored in the Dobson bank.

Much of the information in this article is based on the book, The Two, by Amy and Irving Wallace, who consulted the extensive files of local historian, Ruth Minick. ❑

Cama C. Merritt is president of the Surry County Historical Society. On September 10, she will present a program on the Siamese Twins at a historical society supper at the Edwards-Franklin House. Reservations are required.

Call 786-8349 for more information.

Thailand statue honors Siamese twins

21 Aug 1995

■ Eng and Chang were brought to U.S. in early 19th century, later settled in Wilkes and Surry

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAMUT SONGKRAM, Thailand — Eng and Chang can once again be seen in their native town.

Joined at their torsos at birth on March 11, 1811, the brothers were the original Siamese twins, earning a cruel sort of fame and fortune as circus attractions in America and Europe in the 19th century.

The twins eventually settled down in Wilkes and Surry counties in North Carolina, farming and rearing large families.

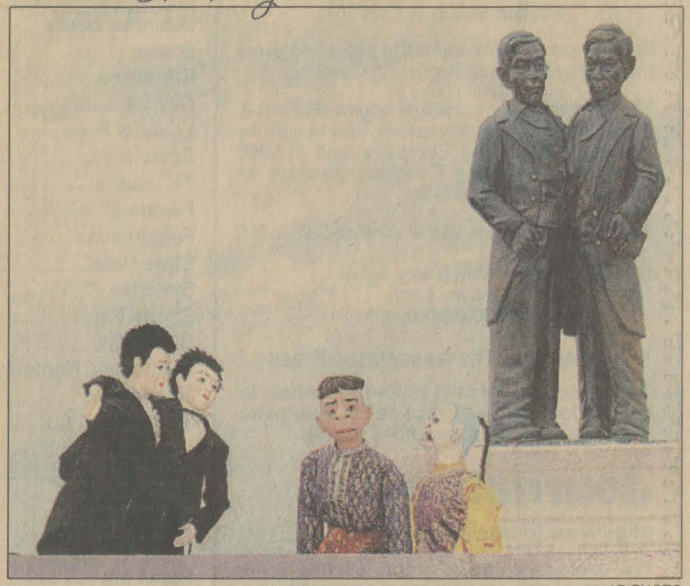
They never returned to the town where they were born, Samut Songkram, a salt-production center outside Bangkok, until yesterday — when a larger-than-life sculpture featuring them was displayed as part of a bigger memorial that the town hopes to build.

Locally called In and Chan, the brothers were little-known among Thais until the past 20 yearsd. Most stories and photographs of them were compiled by foreigners in the lands where the twins lived out their adult lives.

The statue, said Somyos Yeamprai, a local official who helped raise money to build the memorial, could change that. He hopes that it will become a tourist attraction and would like to complement it with a museum explaining the poignant lives of the brothers.

"Now, everyone here will know

See SIAMESE TWINS, Page A11



AP PHOTO

The statue of Eng and Chang in Samut Songkram seems to be looking at a puppet show that was part of the ceremony.

SIAMESE TWINS

Continued From Page A1

In and Chan by this statue, and then people worldwide will know this little town was once their first homeland," Somyos said. "People are curious about them. There is a lot to find out about the twins."

Local officials said it took years for the memorial to take shape. Thousands of fishermen donated broken bronze propellers from which the statue was eventually cast.

Born on a houseboat to a fisherman's family, the twins left Siam, as Thailand was known then, at the age of 17 with two British businessmen who told their widowed mother they wanted to introduce her children to the world and offered her some money in return. The twins were taken to Boston and advertised in the freak shows popular at the time. Members of the ogling public paid 50 cents each for a glimpse.

After about eight years of touring, they bought a farm in Traphill in Wilkes County.

They married sisters — Eng wed Sarah Yates and Chang wed Adelaide Yates. Eng fathered 11 children and Chang fathered 10.

As their families grew, the house became too crowded and the twins moved again, this time to the White Plains community in Surry County. They built separate houses less than a mile apart but lived together: three days at one house, then three days at the other.

After the Civil War wiped out their fortunes, they went on tour again under showman P.T. Barnum.

In 1870, they stopped touring and retired to their farm. Chang died on a January night in 1874, and Eng followed him hours later.

They have more than 1,000 descendants living in Surry County.

Descendants of Siamese twins hear medical presentation

By BRYAN GENTRY
Staff Writer

MOUNT AIRY — Eng and Chang Bunker stood out from the crowd, even when compared to other conjoined twins.

Margaret Lyman, director of the Mutter Museum in Philadelphia, which has an exhibit dedicated to the twins, gave a presentation to the Bunkers' descendants Friday as part of the family's annual reunion.

She began her presentation with general information about conjoined twins. She said that 70 percent of conjoined twins are female, and most are stillborn or die at birth. Of those who survive, it is likely that one of each pair will die at an early age.

The Bunker twins, however, were born in Siam in 1811 and lived for more than 60 years. They became the only known pair of connected twins to marry and have children.

"Eng and Chang beat the odds," Lyman said. "They were exceptional."

The twins were brought to the United States as teenagers, where they attracted a lot of medical attention. Lyman explained that many doctors requested the opportunity to examine the brothers. Most of them wanted to examine the connection, a band of flesh in the upper abdomen.

Although the doctors determined that the twins did not share much — if any — circulation, they all cautioned against any separation surgery. Operations of any kind carried risks of infection in that era, but the doctors also felt the twins' organs, such as their diaphragms, would be negatively affected.

One doctor believed they would not survive long, even while avoiding the risky surgery.

"He predicted that Eng and Chang would wither away and die" because of the new illnesses and lifestyle in America, Lyman explained.

The Siamese twins proved that doctor to be very wrong. Not only did they live, they actually prospered in America.

Lyman explained many facts about the twins' anatomy that their connection caused. "Each boy could see best through the eye that was closest to the brother," she said. They had more strength in the arms that were not closest to each other, because these arms could be used easier. After Chang suffered a cumulative stroke and was paralyzed on his right side,

See TWINS, page 3A

The Mount Airy News 7-30-2005

TWINS: Eng, Chang beat the odds

Continued from page 1A

Eng's spine became curved from having to support so much of his brother's weight.

In the late 1830s the twins settled in the White Plains community of Surry County and married two sisters who were from Wilkes County, Adelaide and Sarah Yates. The two families had a total of 21 children.

The twins died in January 1974. Although Eng had complained of bronchitis, "They certainly didn't think this could be the end," Lyman said.

However, as a precaution, they found a local doctor who agreed to perform a separation surgery if one of the brothers died.

Chang died first, and Eng asked one of his children to rush for the doctor.

While he waited, however, Eng began to feel severe pains in his arms and legs. He tried to hold on, asking his family to massage them.

Then, he realized the end was upon him.

"Finally, he pulled his brother close to him and died shortly before Dr. Hollingsworth arrived," Lyman said.

When news of their death reached the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, the doctors there worried that the medical information that could be gained from an autopsy of the remarkable twins might be lost.

At the family's consent, a team of three doctors came to Mount Airy to embalm the twins' bodies and to perform an autopsy. However, they realized they could not complete the examination with the facilities here. "They pleaded with the family to let them take the bodies back to Philadelphia with them," Lyman said.

The family gave permission on the condition that the bodies could be examined in a fireproof building.

It just so happened that the College of Physicians owned the Mutter Museum, which was fireproof.

The autopsy shed a lot of light on the twins' connection, showing that their livers were connected. During the process, the physicians made castings of the twins' torsos, and those castings are on display in the museum today.

After the autopsies were finished, many from the medical community came to the school for a presentation on the findings.

"This was a major event not only for Philadelphia, but for the whole world," Lyman said.

Lyman came to Mount Airy for the reunion at the request of Tanya Jones, one of the twins' descendants. She said she was very excited to see the presentation.

Sherry Blackmon, whose husband is a Bunker twin descendant, talked about how amazed she was when she visited the museum.

"It seems that this (the Siamese twins exhibit) is the focus of the museum," she said. "You get a feel for them as real beings because you see their stature."

Jones said she thinks this reunion might turn out larger than the ones held in past years.

"We went to Golden Corral and we were overflowing their party room," she said.

She added that she has seen people at this reunion who were first-time visitors.

Margaret Carney of Elmhurst, Ill., edits Connections, the official newsletter for Bunker descendants. She said this reunion will probably involve over 200 people.

Even after learning she was a Siamese twin descendant, "I didn't know that they even had reunions," she said.

She learned about the reunions after visiting the Mutter Museum and getting contact information for another descendant.

"There's always another angle," she said. Many study the twins' lives because the Bunkers became successful despite their disability. Others are interested in their experiences as Asian Americans.

"I always like meeting the new people who come," she said.

The reunion will continue today with activities at First Baptist Church beginning at 11 a.m.



Bryan Gentry/The Mount Airy News

Margaret Lyman, director of the Mutter Museum in Philadelphia, delivers a lecture on the medical history of Eng and Chang Bunker at a reunion of the twins' descendants Friday afternoon.

STATE of NORTH CAROLINA } **FALL TERM 1839**
WILKES COUNTY } **SUPERIOR COURT of LAW**

CHANG - ENG (commonly known as the SIAMESE TWINS) represent to this Honorable Court, that they are natives of the Kingdom of SIAM in ASIA - that they arrived in BOSTON in the state of MASSACHUSETTS (U.S.) on the 16th of August 1829. In October of that year they went to ENGLAND and returned to the UNITED STATES in March 1831 & resided therein without leaving them until the fall of 1835 when they went to lower CANADA - soon after went to the continent of EUROPE and were absent about 12 months. After their return in 1836 they went to the Province of lower CANADA where they remained until October 1836 when that returned to the UNITED STATES & have continued therein without leaving them ever since & since the 1st day of June 1839 have continued within the state of NORTH CAROLINA. They further represent that during their continuance within the UNITED STATES they have behaved as men of good moral character, that they are attached to the principles of the CONSTITUTION of the UNITED STATES and are well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same. And they here before this Honl Court declare their intention to become citizens of the UNITED STATES, and to renounce his allegiance to the King of SIAM & of every other state, King, Prince & Potentate and respectfully pray that this Honorable Court may receive this their declaration made with & before this court with the aim? of becoming nationalized citizens of the UNITED STATES & a record thereof be made & make such order & judgement in the premises as is by law required.

_____? _____?

ENG

CHANG

Sworn before me
J. GWYN Jr. CSC

****

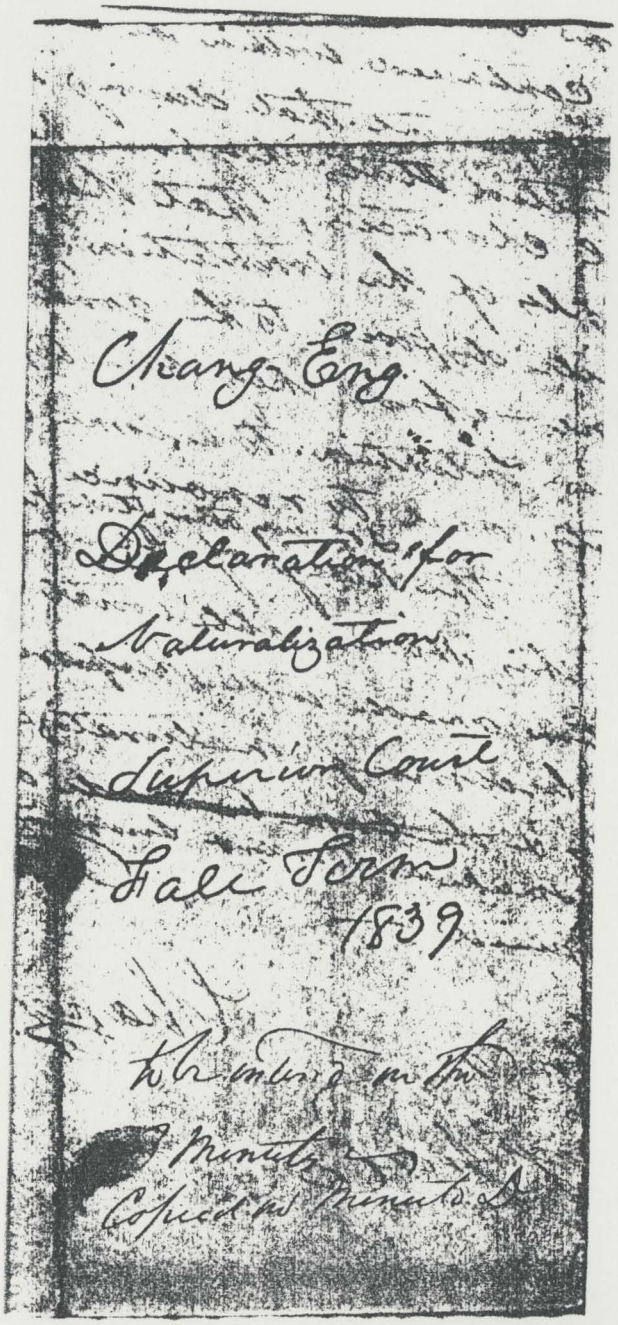
On back of document:
CHANG ENG
Declaration for naturalization
Superior Court
Fall term
1839

To be entered in the Minutes
Copied in Minutes D.

State of North Carolina Fall Term 1839
Wilkes County } Superior Court of Law

Chang-Eng (Commonly known as the Siamese twins) represent to this Honorable Court, that they are natives of the kingdom of Siam in Asia - that they arrived in Boston, in the State of Massachusetts (U. S.) on the 11th day of August 1829 In October of that year they went to England and returned to the United States in march 1831 & resided therein without leaving them until the Fall of 1835 when they went to Lower Canada - Soon after went to the continent of Europe and were absent about 12 months - After their return in 1836 they went to the Province of Lower Canada where they remained until October 1836 when they returned to the United States & have continued therein without leaving them ever since & since the 1st day of June 1839 have continued within the State of North Carolina. They further represent that during their continuance within the United States they have behaved as men of good moral character, that they are attached to the principles of the constitution of the United States and are well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same - And they now before this Hon'l Court declare their intention to become citizens of the United States, and to renounce his allegiance to of every other State, king, prince & potentate the King of Siam - And respectfully prays that this Honorable court may receive this their declaration made with the view of becoming naturalized citizens of the United States & that a record thereof be made - & make such order & judgments in the premises as law required —

Chang
Eng


Chang. Eng.

Declaration for
Naturalization

Superior Court

Fall Term
1839

To be entered on the
Minutes
Certified from Minutes of

The Carolina Spartan.

SPARTANBURG:

F. M. TRIMMIER, Publisher.

J. H. EVINS, Editor.

Thursday, January 16, 1873.

[*From the News and Courier.*]

Death of the Siamese Twins.

RICHMOND, VA., January 20.—A dispatch from Greensboro', N. C., gives the announcement of the sudden death of the Siamese Twins on Saturday morning last, at their residence, Mount Airy, Surrey County, N. C. There are no details further than the fact that Chang was paralyzed last fall, since which time he has been fretful, very much debilitated and and strongly addicted to drinking liquors as a means of alleviating his sufferings. He had been quite feeble for several days indeed so much as to confine both brothers to bed, but his illness was not so great as to cause any anticipation of the catastrophe that was to follow. On Friday night they retired to bed as usual, but during the night Chang became worse and expired suddenly about four o'clock Saturday morning. As soon as it was discovered that he was dead Eng became so terribly shocked that he raved wildly for a while, at times exhibiting signs of great mental aberration. This attack was follow by what seemed to be a deadly stupor. In two hours it is supposed from the death of Chang, Eng breather his last.

Submitted by Nancie O'Sullivan

15 Aug 1999

Bunkers Hold Great Reunion

Two weeks ago Saturday this writer had the pleasure - and it was a pleasure - of attending one of the Bunker reunions - her third and the reunion's tenth.

Every year, the descendants of the famous Siamese Twins, Eng and Chang Bunker, get together at the White Plains Recreational Building the last week in July. The building is huge, perfect for large gatherings, and this Bunker gathering is thought to be the largest ever - every seat was taken. Everybody brings something to eat; and the majority of these folk being country people, descendents of Eng, there was enough left over to feed the town. (Chang's descendents scattered far and wide, while Eng's stayed closer to home.)

The reunions were coordinated mostly by Jim Haynes, great-grandson of Chang; Mrs. Eloise R. Atkins and Mrs. Jessie Bryant, descendents of Eng, and they do a very successful job. Jim Haynes is master of ceremonies and he does a superb job of making everybody feel welcome and comfortable. All the relatives keep up continual visiting and have such a good time that when Jim asked for a consensus from the crowd as to whether to continue having the reunion every year or space it out for perhaps every two years, the vote was overwhelmingly in favor of the yearly reunion and keeping the plans as they had been. And have you ever been to a gathering where, when donations were asked for to cover expenses, you were declined by the treasurer, Hershell Bunker, descendent of Eng, who said that enough and over had been collected and no more money was needed!

This writer, of course, has long been interested in The Twins, their being an important part of local history. She was able to introduce the researchers of Irving Wallace's and Amy, author of "The Two" to knowledgeable locals. And, incidentally, the researchers, Walter and Elizabeth Kempthorne, no fly-by-nighters, were regularly employed



RUTH MINICK

by Irving Wallace to do his research. Other than a few minor mistakes about the present descendents, the book is highly authentic. The writer kept in constant touch with the Kempthornes when they returned to California - by the way, they bought a country ham to "send to Irving." One time, she was typing Nannie's diary which she, daughter of Chang, kept when the Twins went to England to recoup some of their losses as a result of the Civil War. She couldn't understand one part; the researchers called from California saying, "Oh, we'll get our researchers in England to look that up."

In passing, the Twins made two trips to Europe after the War to try to recoup their Civil War losses. On each trip they took one child from each brother. In the trip to England they took Nannie, daughter of Chang, and Kate, daughter of Eng. In England they hoped to find a physician who could separate them, but in this they were unsuccessful; the opinion from the best physicians agreed that it couldn't be done. Interestingly, Dr. Roger Hiatt, who researched the medical history of the Twins for one of our Autumn Leaves Festivals, came to the conclusion that, with present-day knowledge, perhaps it could have been done. On the third trip, too, the Twins hoped to find a cure for Kate, who was sick but who turned out to have had tuberculosis from which she died and which evidently she passed on to Nannie, who also died of the same disease. Nowadays that wouldn't have happened. Haven't we learned a lot?

The Twins made another trip to Russia in which they took a boy from each famlly, Albert from Chang's side. They appeared before the Czar, who noticed a carbuncle on Albert's neck which he had his physician to lance. Mr. Albert also told one of his nieces that they went to a performance at the palace where he and one of the Princesses held hands.

At the reunion, this writer asked to make a speech. Her topic? Donations to our museum of any article once owned by the Twins. The museum is assembling an exhibit from the Twins, all behind glass, and protected, as all exhibits are, with the utmost security from fire and theft. A person can either lend or give an article. If it is lent the items are duly recorded, as all donations are, and returned if the lender so desires. If the object is kept at a privte home who knows when a fire or theft will occur. Remember the disastrous fire which destroyed Eng's house with all its priceless relics? So to any of you Bunker descendents who own such an article let it be said that the museum is very picky about protection.

Of course this writer, always being disgruntled about something, had a pet peeve which she expressed at the reunion and will now express to you. It has been repeated many times that the Twins retired from a circus. They did not, and they took pains to correct this notion themselves. Upon two occasions, they exhibited for P.T. Barnum, who at that time was an individual showman, not a circus man. Their sessions each time seemed to be about one month each. They could not stand Barnum and he couldn't stand them. P.T. Barnum was irked that he could not control them and that he didn't discover them. The Twins, moreover, had integrity; Barnum did not. And, incidentally, when the Twins went on exhibit they themselves hired a room or "hall" for exhibition purposes.



A HYPHENATED LIFE

BY PAGE CHICHESTER

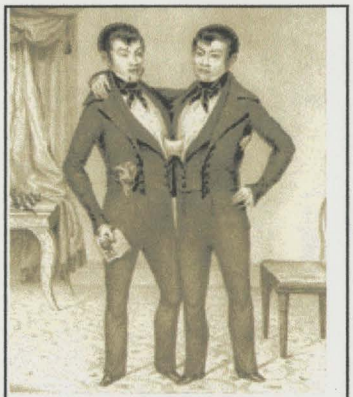
They were born in Siam, where they narrowly escaped death. They grew up strong and playful, then settled in the North Carolina mountains to become successful businessmen, marry two sisters and raise large families. Nothing too unusual there, until you take into account that for all their 63 years, they were joined at the chest. For the most part, Eng and Chang Bunker made more than the best of it.

Circle of life. *The rich and varied lives of Chang and Eng Bunker are depicted in the 1860 Currier & Ives lithograph. At this point in their lives, they remained vigorously active, but rarely left their North Carolina mountain home to tour; they instead stayed home with their wives (second images from top, left & right) and children.*

all photos courtesy wilson library, unc-chapel hill

A cry split the night, but for whatever reason, it raised no alarm in the large house outside Mt. Airy, N.C Doubtless just a dream, or more likely, a nightmare. A few hours later, the winter stillness was broken yet again, this time by a different voice. Upon awakening and seeing his twin brother dead beside him, Eng Bunker instantly recognized his fate:

"Then I am going," he cried in anguish. The bed they had shared through the years had become their deathbed, from which neither could escape or rise alone.



Portrait of the twins as young men. Many drawings of the era (about 1830-35) somewhat idealized (or perhaps "Asianized") the Bunkers' features. Note visibility of common navel on connecting band

Eng and Chang Bunker -- the world's most famous connected twins, the ones who gave us the term "Siamese twins" -- had died on a cold January night in 1874. They left the world virtually the same way they had entered it 63 years before: simultaneously and not without scandal. Their lives had raised not only eyebrows, but numerous medical and philosophical questions. At least one of these -- Would the death of one precipitate the death of the other? -- was settled with their passing.

Or was it?

The cause of death -- half of it, that is -- remains a riddle. Chang had suffered a stroke four years before and his health had become frail. He also had been drinking heavily for some time, had recently been injured in a carriage spill and had acquired a bad case of bronchitis. Eng, on the other hand had been in top form, seemingly unaffected by his brother's declining health.

After their death, one medical camp held that while Chang had died of a blood clot, Eng had died of shock. In other words, believing that the death of his brother would cause his own demise, Eng was scared literally to death. Another theory held that the five-inch-long and three-inch-wide band that connected the twins was a lifeline which, barring immediate surgical intervention, would pass death from one to the other. An autopsy found the blood clot in Chang's brain, but it couldn't resolve the debate over the cause of Eng's death.

This was not the only controversy surrounding the event. But perhaps these extraordinary lives should be put into context. Refer to the "Guinness Book of World Records," and you find a paltry seven-line paragraph. From this, you may learn that the twins were born near Bangkok, in the isolated kingdom of Siam (which became Thailand in 1939), to Chinese parents; they were named "right" and "left," later married sisters from Wilkes County, N.C., and fathered 22 children between them (no pun intended).

Within this brief biography there are no fewer than three errors. Only one parent was full-blooded Chinese. The mother was half Chinese and half Malay. According to the book, "Famous Thai People," the names most likely described the green and ripe states of a native fruit. As to their offspring, Chang and Eng fathered 21 children -- Eng had 11 and Chang had 10, none of which were twins, connected or otherwise.

Certainly, their connected lives aroused much attention and rumor. But behind the speculations and suspicions, were the lives of two sometimes charming, sometimes cantankerous men who, saddled with a dual existence, made a life for themselves that many could envy. They did not die childless and alone, drunkard freaks who had worn out the curiosity of a fickle public. They lived with dignity, and were among few celebrities known and seen across America and much of Europe. Even before they married in 1843, they were described by one writer as "the eighth wonder of the world."



Near the end of life. This photo, probably taken in 1865, captures the twins as they planned a tour in 1866, to recoup money lost during the Civil War. The Bunkers died in 1874.

Their birth in 1811 created a sensation. In fact, they might easily have lost their lives soon after. Siam at the time was a feudal society, steeped in superstition. "Anna and the King of Siam" (which was based on the English governess at the Siamese court) was written some 50 years after the twins were born, but the country had not changed much. The king's rule was absolute, as was his unquestioned ownership of his subjects.

When the twins were born, none of the midwives would touch them for fear of becoming cursed. People saw "the monster" as a bad omen, and when the king heard of it, he condemned the infants to death. Luckily, Chang-Eng's mother refused to abandon them at birth, and the king never acted on his impulsive death sentence. Another threat -- from medical doctors who wanted to separate the twins with everything from saws to red-hot wires -- also was averted.

The boys adapted to their dual life, learning to run, jump and swim with perfect coordination. Their activity helped stretch their connecting ligament from four to five-and-a-half inches. By age 14, their father having died six years before, the two were selling duck

eggs to provide for the family. About this time, Chang-Eng were discovered by Robert Hunter, a British merchant, who convinced their mother that her boys' future and prosperity lay beyond Siam. It took another three years to secure the king's permission for his vassals to leave Siam. Whether she realized it or not, Chang-Eng's mother had all but sold the boys to Hunter for $3,000. Happily, the terms of bondage would expire in two-and-a-half years, upon Chang-Eng's 21st birthday. Unhappily, Chang-Eng's mother only received $500 of the promised sum.

Hunter and an American partner, Captain Abel Coffin, managed the twins for the next few years, showing them in theaters and concert halls in America and England. Admission was 50 cents a person. The managers drove the twins at an exhausting pace, exhibiting them four hours a day, every day, and touring almost constantly with little rest.

These exhibitions evolved through the years. At their first showing in Boston, a city of 61,000 residents in 1829, the twins simply stood on stage, demonstrated how they walk and run, and answered questions. Soon, they wowed audiences in Providence, R.I., with somersaults, backflips and a show of strength -- carrying the largest audience member, who weighed in at around 280 pounds. In England, Chang-Eng added a badminton-like game -- battledore and shuttlecock -- to the act.

While touring, the Siamese twins were treated respectfully for the most part. When their managers proposed touring in France; however, the government refused, explaining that such an exhibit "might deprave the minds of children" and cause deformities in unborn children. Of course, there were also occasional stupid or indelicate questions, but the twins tried to maintain their manners and good humor throughout.

Gradually, though, their patience began to wear thin, especially since they were not always well-treated by their own managers. One incident in particular raised their ire. On the month-long steamer trip to England, Captain Coffin booked first-class passage for himself. Chang-Eng were relegated to salt-beef-and-potatoes "steerage" class, along with the passengers' servants and ship's crew.

In addition to these annoyances were the financial questions. At first, Chang-Eng received only $10 a month plus expenses. Only

meager sum, considering that receipts usually averaged $1,000 a month.

It is perhaps fortunate for the twins that their managers were merely exploitative rather than criminal. It is not entirely unreasonable to imagine a sinister handler making slaves of the twins in this pre-Civil War era, or worse, killing them and selling their bodies to some freak show. As it was, when the twins turned 21, they were able to declare their independence and become their own men.

This development parallels that of their personalities. Chang-Eng had evolved from foreign boys with no knowledge of English or the outside world to worldly men with a sharp interest in learning and culture. At about this time, they began in their letters to refer to themselves in the plural "we" rather than in the singular. Clearly, they were becoming aware of their importance (without seeming self-important), and had assimilated the idea of individual freedom.

The twins' intertwined personalities were the subject of much comment in newspaper articles about them. Chang, who was on the twins' own left, was an inch shorter than his brother, but he made up for it in temper. Chang was usually described as the dominant brother, quicker intellectually, but also quicker to anger. Eng was quieter and more retiring, but had wider intellectual interests than Chang. As with most people, these early basic traits hardened somewhat in later life.

Despite minor personality differences, the twins never ceased to astound their audiences and acquaintances with the apparent harmony and synchronicity of their relationship. With only a handful of exceptions, the two seemed to act as one. They shared common tastes, habits and opinions to an uncanny degree. Some observers even speculated that they must be telepathic, because the two rarely were heard to talk to one another. These observations raised numerous questions and spawned many theories among the medical community.

Not surprisingly, the twins' medical history is well documented. This is because their touring routine included an inspection by the local medical authorities in every new city they visited. This not only helped counter accusations of fakery, but lent credibility to the shows. The newspaper articles that arose from these examinations provided good publicity as well.

These evaluations sought to answer one of the questions about the twins that had dogged them since birth: Could they be successfully separated? Opinions varied -- and evolved with increased medical knowledge through the years -- but most of the doctors agreed that the operation would be too risky. Certainly before the Civil War, medical knowledge was not up to the task. Even those who believed that a surgical separation was possible tended to oppose the idea, because the twins seemed perfectly content with their hyphenated existence.

As to their findings, doctors found the connecting tissue to be tough like cartilage, with a common navel. The two weighed 180 pounds in 1830 (this would increase within ten years to 220), and each had a weak eye -- Chang's left eye and Eng's right.

Through the years doctors performed numerous experiments on the twins, hoping to determine the extent of their connection. One doctor fed asparagus to Chang and found later that his urine bore the "distinctly . . . peculiar asparagus smell," but that Eng's did not. On the other hand, when one was secretly tickled, the other sometimes reacted with anger, telling the doctor to stop. In yet another experiment, strong pressure was applied to the band, which caused the twins to faint. It is not known whether they passed out from pain or fright.

After declaring their independence in 1832, the twins continued touring for about seven years. During this time, they met Dr. James Calloway, of Wilkesboro, N.C., who talked them into a much-needed vacation. This proved to be the beginning of a new phase in the twins' lives. They liked the area and the people so much that they decided to retire from the grind of endless touring and settle down.

North Carolina in 1839 had been in the Union about 50 years, but it was one of the country's least developed, sparsely populated and backward states. Its economy was almost entirely agricultural -- the main products being tobacco, cotton and moonshine -- schools, healthcare and newspapers were poor and extremely limited, and disputes were still being resolved by duels. But after 10 years in the public eye, Chang-Eng longed for a secluded, rural life.

Financially comfortable but unable to retire from work entirely, the two soon took up farming, eventually accumulating some 1,000 acres. They also applied for and received U.S. citizenship (adopting

the last name Bunker) and took up an interest in two Wilkesboro sisters, Adelaide and Sarah (Sally) Yates.

Chang was the first to fall in love, and he chose Addie, who was a year younger than her 18-year-old sister. Eng and Sally seem to have been drawn into the connection by necessity. Certainly, it would have been difficult for either Chang or Eng alone to marry -- after all, three's a crowd, and people will talk. And given the fact that privacy would necessarily be in short supply in any dual marriage, having wives who were intimately familiar with one another might be an ideal solution. In any case, Sally was the last to commit to the arrangement. Last of the foursome, that is. When townspeople and the girls' parents got wind of the business, rocks and threats flew freely, and numerous objections were raised.

The townspeople were aghast that two of the county's most sought-after belles should be destined to enter an "unholy alliance" with the twins. Even one of Chang-Eng's closest friends considered the idea of marriage for the twins "too bizarre" to contemplate, and "an invitation to disaster."

The parents forbade the union at first, but eventually relented after learning that the lovebirds planned to elope. At this point, the difficulties of their prospective four-way marriage convinced Chang-Eng to risk a surgical separation. The twins secretly traveled to Philadelphia, where surgeons awaited to attempt the risky operation. But before the knife could be employed, Sally and Adelaide confronted them, and with much pleading, weeping and hysteria, brought their future husbands home intact.

After the wedding, which was held at the Yates home in 1843, the newlyweds retired to the house Chang-Eng had built at Trap Hill, 12 miles northeast of Wilkesboro. Soon, however, the house with its double-double bed proved to be too cramped.

Not quite a year after their marriage, Sally had delivered a baby girl, and six days later, Addie had also given birth to a girl. The following year saw two more arrivals, this time eight days apart. A new house near Mount Airy was bought and occupied, and in short order more children arrived.

As of 1860, Addie had brought seven children into the world and Sally had had nine.

By that time, though, Addie was living in another house, which Chang-Eng had bought in 1852. This was not only because of the hordes of children, but because the now-hefty wives were beginning to bicker. This unpleasantness no doubt exacerbated the growing contentiousness between Chang and Eng. Heated arguments became more common and for only the second or third time in their lives, the two had come to blows. Although the exact cause of this violent dispute is not known, part of the problem was Eng's fondness for all-night poker games and Chang's fondness for the bottle.

So the wives lived apart, and Chang-Eng followed a strict regimen of three days at one house and three at the other, with the "guest" brother submitting to his "host" brother's every whim.

This partial separation helped relieve some pressures, but it created an unforeseen disparity that would permanently alter the two families' fortunes. When they divvied up their property, Chang received the lion's share of land. In return, Eng kept more slaves. Although Eng wasn't especially happy with the arrangement, his assets actually exceeded Chang's $16,000 by some $3,000. This at a time when a slave could be bought for $600.

During this antebellum period, the financial pressures of their huge and growing families had twice brought the twins out of retirement from touring, once in 1849 and again in 1853. By 1860, money problems again forced them on the road, this time in the direction of California, the decade-old 31st state. When they returned from their successful four-month tour, they found to a country on the verge of war. South Carolina had voted to secede just two months before.

The Civil War devastated the twins' fortunes. At war's end, Chang was worth only $6,700. Eng, who had owned roughly twice as many slaves as his brother, was hit even harder. He came out of the war with only $2,600 in assets.

To this day, some family members contend that Chang knew at the time that Lincoln planned to free the slaves, but this hardly seems plausible. According to at least one biographer, though, Addie had pressed for land over slaves during the property division. In any case, the disparity would have far-reaching consequences, since modern-day descendants of Eng consider themselves "the poor side" of the family.

Two more American tours followed, but they were not very rewarding. In 1868, the twins left North Carolina with two of their daughters for a tour of England and Europe. A second reason for the trip abroad was to try once again for a surgical separation. Although two medical exams left them little hope for separation, the tour was a great success. But war between France and Prussia in 1870 forced them to return home, and it was on the ship bound for America that Chang suffered his stroke, partially paralyzing his right side.

The twins' last years brought many quarrels, one of which blew up, ending with Chang threatening Eng with a knife. Exasperated, the two went to their family doctor demanding immediate separation. Calmly, the surgeon laid out his instruments, turned to his patients and asked: "Which would you prefer, that I . . . sever the flesh that connects you or cut off your heads? One will produce just about the same results as the other." This was sufficient to cool the twins' tempers.

The good doctor did promise to perform the requested operation immediately upon the death of either one of the brothers. Sadly, he was not on hand when Chang died.

The scandal following the death of Chang-Eng was a function of too much curiosity, attention and imagination. So famous were the twins that their death was front-page headline news in New York City and beyond. Hoping to avert any chance of some body-snatcher digging up the twins and selling them for display, the twins' doctor advised the widows to sell the corpse for either display or medical study. Sally and Addie found both ideas repulsive, but decided to wait for the eldest Bunker son to return from San Francisco. This two-week delay left plenty of time for wagging tongues to do their unsavory business.

In the end, the twins were autopsied -- with no payment made to the family -- and buried. For security reasons, Chang-Eng were interred first in the basement and later in the front yard near Chang's house. Finally, when Adelaide died in 1917, the grave was moved to White Plains Baptist Church, which Chang-Eng had helped build. Sally, though she is included on the common gravestone, had been buried separately on Eng's farm. She, at least, finally found some privacy.

The autopsy made three points on the separation question:

separation as children might have been wise, no such operation would have been worth the risk later in life; and the operation should have been performed immediately upon Chang's death. In 1897, the American Medical Association weighed in for a final judgment: Given advances in the use of antiseptics, had the twins lived at that time, they could have been successfully separated.

Today, a historical marker and gravestone stand on either side of the church in White Plains. Chang's Mount Airy home is occupied by the husband of Chang's granddaughter, Adelaide (one of Albert's daughters). Eng's house burned in 1956, but another house was built on the site. It is still in the family.



Family bliss, circa 1865. This photo, by Lincoln photographer Mathew Brady, shows Chang (right) with wife Adelaide and son Patrick Henry; and Eng (left) with wife Sally and son Albert

Literature about the twins includes poems, plays, and a Mark Twain story, "The Siamese Twins," in which they supposedly fight on opposing sides in the Civil War and even take each other prisoner. More recently, Garrison Keillor worked a fanciful monologue drawn from the twins' lives into his "News From Lake Wobegon" segment of A Prairie Home Companion.

Thankfully, there is little in the way of scandal to disturb the twins' rest today.

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ENG & CHANG BUNKER 11th ANNUAL REUNION

The families of the original Siamese Twins, Eng and Chang Bunker, will have a family social gathering on Saturday, July 29, 2000, in the White Plains Recreational Building, which is located at the Old White Plains School site in White Plains, NC, four or five miles south of Mount Airy on Old Hwy 601. The reunion will begin at 11 a.m. Bring a picnic basket for lunch at noon, and bring pictures or other info about the family. Also, tell other family members to come. For more information call Dorothy Haymore (336) 786-2632; Betty Blackmon (336) 789-1808; Jessie Bryant (336) 769-2517; Jim Haynes (843) 394-2477.

Eng and Chang were born in Siam in 1811 and died in 1874 at age 63. They are buried one-half mile from the site of the reunion. You may wish to see the grave. Lodging is available in Mount Airy at Comfort Inn (336) 789-2000 or Hampton Inn (336) 789-5999.

Family Information Swap

On Friday, July 28, any family members interested in getting together for lunch at noon at Ray's Starlight in Mount Airy are welcome. After lunch the group will visit the Mount Airy Visitors Center and the Mount Airy Museum of Regional History.





MEET THE GREAT-GRANDSONS OF SIAMESE TWINS — Heredity asserted itself in the birth of twin sons to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bunker, near White Plains, in Surry county. They are descendants of the most famed twins since Romulus and Remus. They are great-grandsons of one of the "Siamese Twins" with whom P. T. Barnum interested the world and medical science. They were given the names of their flesh-joined ancestors. Above, with their mother, are Wayne Eng, at left, and Wade Chang Bunker. Wayne was born first. At right is an old picture of "Siamese Twins," Chang and Eng, who took the family name of Bunker. The twins are descendants of Eng.—(Exclusive Photo by Eckenrod.)

BUNKER

MEBANE, N.C. — Retired Lt. Commander Gladys E. Bunker, 77, of 6212 Oak Grove Church Road, Mebane, N.C., died Monday, June 15, 1998 at 2:50 a.m. after a seven month illness at Alamance Regional Medical Center. She was born in Orange County, North Carolina to the late Oliver Wendell Bunker and the late Mammie Simmons Bunker. She was a retired nurse with the U.S. Navy. Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p.m. Thursday, June 18, 1998 at Oak Grove Baptist Church with Dr. Keith Moore, Pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church, officiating. The body will lie-in-state 30 minutes prior to the service. She is survived by three sisters and their husbands, Mrs. Ellen Dees and Mr. Lee Owen Dees of Clinton, Mississippi, Mrs. Jessie Bryant and Mr. Harry Bryant of Winston-Salem, N.C. and Mrs. Jane Workman and Mr. James Workman of Tallahassee, Florida; four brothers and their wives, Mr. Hershell Bunker and Mrs. Ethelene Bunker of Pilot Mountain, N.C., Mr. Max Bunker and Mrs. Bessie Bunker of Clemmons, N.C., Mr. Fred Bunker and Mrs. Ozetta Bunker of Mebane, N.C. and Mr. Henry Bunker and Mrs. Lynn Bunker of Burlington, N.C.; and several nieces and nephews. Her parents moved from White Plains to Orange County in 1921. She graduated from Hillsboro (now Hillsborough) High School in 1940, Martin Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, Mount Airy in 1944, and the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado in 1958. She served 21 years in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corp. Following her tour in the Navy, she was an instructor in the nursing program at the Technical College of Alamance, Haw River, N.C. She was active in her church, Oak Grove Baptist Church, as a teacher of the Ladies Sunday School Class, Senior Citizens activities, a 10-year volunteer with the Orange County Ship Volunteer Program and also the VITA Program. She loved flowers, gardening, crafts, painting, and loved to travel. She also loved her family. The family will receive friends from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday at McClure Funeral Home in Mebane and at other times at the home, 6212 Oak Grove Church Road, Mebane, N.C. Memorials may be made to Oak Grove Baptist Church, 5217 Oak Grove Church Road, Mebane, N.C. 27302, c/o Oak Grove Baptist Church Building Fund.

BUNKER

MT. AIRY — Mr. John Spach Bunker, 72, of 132 Korner St., Mt. Airy, died Thursday night at Community Nursing Center in Mt. Airy after several years of declining health. Funeral services will be conducted Saturday at 3:30 p.m. at Moody Funeral Home Chapel by the Rev. Jimmy Reinhardt. Burial will follow in Oakdale Cemetery. Mr. Bunker was born December 7, 1906 in Surry County to Robert and Fannie Jenkins Bunker. He was a retired farmer and a member of White Plains Friends Church. Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Annie Bundy Bunker; one daughter, Mrs. Louise Southern of Winston-Salem; one granddaughter, Miss Susan Wilkes of Mt. Airy; two sisters, Mrs. Kate Cross of Mt. Airy and Mrs. Nancy Atkins of Dobson; three brothers, Edd Bunker of Toast, Tom Bunker of Indianapolis, Ind., and Hubert Bunker of Richmond, Ind. The family requests that flowers be omitted and memorials be made to White Plains Friends Church.

STATE of NORTH CAROLINA } **FALL TERM 1839**
WILKES COUNTY } **SUPERIOR COURT of LAW**

CHANG - ENG (commonly known as the SIAMESE TWINS) represent to this Honorable Court, that they are natives of the Kingdom of SIAM in ASIA - that they arrived in BOSTON in the state of MASSACHUSETTS (U.S.) on the 16th of August 1829. In October of that year they went to ENGLAND and returned to the UNITED STATES in March 1831 & resided therein without leaving them until the fall of 1835 when they went to lower CANADA - soon after went to the continent of EUROPE and were absent about 12 months. After their return in 1836 they went to the Province of lower CANADA where they remained until October 1836 when that returned to the UNITED STATES & have continued therein without leaving them ever since & since the 1st day of June 1839 have continued within the state of NORTH CAROLINA. They further represent that during their continuance within the UNITED STATES they have behaved as men of good moral character, that they are attached to the principles of the CONSTITUTION of the UNITED STATES and are well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same. And they here before this Honl Court declare their intention to become citizens of the UNITED STATES, and to renounce his allegiance to the King of SIAM & of every other state, King, Prince & Potentate and respectfully pray that this Honorable Court may receive this their declaration made with & before this court with the aim? of becoming nationalized citizens of the UNITED STATES & a record thereof be made & make such order & judgement in the premises as is by law required.

_____? _____?

ENG

CHANG

Sworn before me
J. GWYN Jr. CSC

****

On back of document:
CHANG ENG
Declaration for naturalization
Superior Court
Fall term
1839

To be entered in the Minutes
Copied in Minutes D.

(Submitted by Iris M. Harvey)

Taken from the deed records at the Surry County Register of deeds office Book 159 page 630 through 636.
Submitted by Teresa Smith

NORTH CAROLINA,
SURRY . COUNTY.

THIS AGREEMENT And DIVISION of property ,made this the 1st. day of July, 1947, by J.B. Haynes and Robert Jones, executors of the last will and testament of Albert L. Bunker, deceased, and Nina A. Bunker, widow, Adelaide Bunker, Dorothy Bunker Almy and Nancy Lou Bunker, children, devisees and legatees of the will of the late Albert L. Bunker;

WITNESSETH: That whereas Albert L. Bunker died in Surry County, North Carolina, on the 8th day of October, 1944, having theretofore executed, published and declared his last will and testament;

And whereas the said will provides for all actual partition of his personalty, including stocks and bonds, and his real property within Mt. Airy Township;

AND whereas the said will provides that the said division shall be made by the said devisees and legatees, but "should they be unable to agree among themselves as to the proper division of said property, I authorize and direct by executors to appraise all my property in this paragraph mentioned and described and to divide all said property equally and fairly among my said wife and three daughters.2

And whereas the said widow and children of the late Albert L. Bunker, having suggested to said executors their inability to agree upon and make an actual partition of said property, have, therefore, requested the said executors to make such division for them in keeping with the terms of said will:

NOW, THEREFORE, the said J.B. Haynes and Robert Jones, executors of the will of Albert L. Bunker, late of Surry County, North Carolina, in keeping with the terms of the will of said Albert L. Bunker and pursuant to the power and authority therein conferred upon the said executors, desiring to fully and faithfully discharge the responsibilities devolving upon them as personal representatives of the said Albert L. Bunker, have made an appraisal of all stocks, bonds, and other tangible personalty, and the real estate of the said estate within Mt. Airy Township and have made an actual division into four equal parts or groups, all to the best of their judgment and ability, with the view and purpose that the said devisees and legatees shall cast lots for their several groups, the said appraisal being hereto attached and the said division being as follows:

DIVISION OF ESTATE OF ALBERT L. BUNKER

Group Number One

Chosen by and Assigned to Dorothy Bunker Almy,

Stocks and Bonds:

15 Shares of R.J. Reynolds B. Stock, Number BL326653
6¼ Shares of Surry County Loan & Trust Company Stock, number 157
5 Shares of Commercial Savings Bank of Booneville, N.C., numbers 30 and 47
30 Shares of Workmen's Building & Loan Assn. (Now Workman's Federal Savings & Loan Assn.)
Stock numbers 351 and 355.
Mt. Airy School Bond, Number 44
County of Surry Bonds, number 106 and 107
United States Government G. Bond, Number M1906566G
United States Government G. Bond Number M 1906567G
United States Government G. Bond, number M1906568G
United States Government G. Bond, number M1725600G
United States Government G. Bond, number M1725601G
United States Government G. Bond, number M1725602G
United States Government G. Bond, number M1963494G
United States Government G. bond, number M1963497G
Executor's Check for $500.00, number _____

Real Estate:

All of that part and portion of the Albert L. Bunker Homeplace being and lying on the West side of the new Mt. Airy-Dobson road, Highway 601, and containing _____ acres, more or less, including all the buildings and improvements and all stock and farming tools thereon (appraisal number 26)

Brick Store Building, now occupied by Forest, Market St. lot 25' x 83' obtained by deed of H.O. Woltz, Tr., dated March 25, 1938, and recorded in Deed Book 133, page 8 (appraisal number 3).

Frame House and lot, now occupied by Morrison, Highland Park, Central Ave. (rear of Highland Park Bap. Ch.) lot 20, Block 3, lot 50' x 150' obtained by deed of Henry Wolfe, Tr., dated October 12, 1927, and recorded in Deed Book 102, page 97 (3 rooms)(appraisal Number 13).

Frame house and lot, now occupied by A. France, Highland Park, Brook Ave., Lot 21 and half of lot 22, adjoining, 75' x 150' obtained by deed of Elwood Tilley, dated May 28, 1927 and recorded in Deed Book 106, page 365 (apprasial number 14.)

Frame House and Lot, now occupied by Bryant, Highland Park, Brook Aven, lot 23 and eastern half of lot 22, Block 4, 75' x 150' obtained by deed of Gracie Collins and W.H. Collins, dated October 15, 1941, and recorded in Deed Book 143, page 37 (appraisal number 15).

Frame House and Lot, now occupied by Mrs. Surratt, West side of Buck Shoals Rd., just beyond Highland Park, 3 rooms, old log, weather-boarded house, obtained by deed of Fred Folger Tr., dated September 7, 1935, recorded in Deed Book 124, page 225 (Appraisal number 17).

Frame House and Lot, now occupied by E.W. Combs, 4 rooms, on South side of Highway 80, just beyond Highland Park, adjoining lands of S.P. Graves, lot 90' X 345'6" obtained by deed of A.B. Carter Tr. dated 3/1/35, and recorded in Deed Book 118, page 444 (appraisal number 18.)

DIVISION OF ESTATE OF ALBERT L. BUNKER

Group Number Two

Chosen by and Assigned to Mrs. Nina A. Bunker.

Stocks and Bonds:

15 Shares of R.J. Reynolds B. Stock, number BL 326653
6¼ Shares of Surry County Loan & Trust Company Stock, number 157
5 Shares of Commercial Savings Bank of Booneville, N.C. Stock number 48
30 Shares of Workmen's Building & Loan Assn. (Now Workmen's Federal Savings & Loan Assn.) Stock, numbers 416, 323, and 448.
Town of Mt. Airy School Bonds, numbers 45 and 46
County of Surry Bond, number 108
United States Government G. Bond, number M1963496G
United States Government G. Bond, number M1963495G
United States Government G. Bond, number M1250818G
United States Government G. Bond, number M1250820G
United States Government G. Bond, Number M1250819G
United States Government G. Bond, number M1250823G
United States Government G. Bond, number M1250822G
United States Government G. Bond, number M1250821G
United States Government Bond, Number D66949D
United States Government Bond, Number C16346763E
United States Government Bond, number C16346762E
United States Government Bond, number C10885889E
United States Government Bond, number C10885888E
United States Government Bond, number C16346764E

Real Estate:

All of that part and portion of the Albert L. Bunker homeplace being and lying on the East side of the new Mt. Airy-Dobson Highway No. 601, and containing _____ acres, more or less, including all of the buildings and improvements thereon (appraisal number 27)

Brick Store Building, now occupied by Cockerham, Main St. lot 25& X 96' obtained by deed of M.F. Davis and H.L. Pruitt, dated April 11, 1941, and recorded in Deed Book 138, page 658 (appraisal number 1)

Frame house and lot, now occupied by Kate Godfrey, Pine St., lot 80' X 200' obtained by deed of Henry Wolfe, and wife, dated June 22, 1932, and recorded in Deed Book No. 120, page 235 (appraisal number 6)

Frame House & lot, now occupied by W. Harrell, 4 rooms adjoining the E.L.Patterson Farm near the Franklin School, now about 3/4 acre, obtained by deed of L.G. Goforth, dated September 23, 1933, and recorded in Deed Book 123, page 238 (appraisal number 21)

Brick House and lot, now occupied by W.C. Tate, 4 rooms, off Fancy Gap Rd. near Cat Hollow, Hines Development, Block B. lots 70, 71, 72, and 73, deeded by W.L. Sydnor and J.W. Prather, January 22, 1932, and recorded in Deed Book 120, page 76, (Appraisal number 22)

Vacant lots 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26 lots, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, also lots 63 and 64 situated in Block B, R.E. Hines Development near Cat Hollow, obtained by deed of Victoria Hines Y husband, dated September 12, 1933, and recorded in deed Book 122, page 357 (appraisal number 23).

Frame House & lot, now occupied by Sallie Sechrist, 1 room, off Fancy Gap, near Cat Hollow, lots 91 and 92, Block C. Hines Development, obtained by Deed of E.C. Bivens, Tr. 11/10/28, Red. B. 109 p. 413, (Appraisal No. 24)

DIVISION OF ESTATE OF ALBERT L. BUNKER

Group Number Three

Chosen by and assigned to Nancy Lou Bunker

Stocks and Bonds:

15 Shares of R.J. Reynolds B. Stock, number BL386768
6¼ Shares of Surry County Loan & Trust Company Stock, number 157
5 Shares of Commercial Savings Bank of Booneville, N.C., number 59.

30 Shares of Workmen's Building & Loan Assn. (now Workmen's Federal Savings & Loan Assn.) Stock, numbers 290, 470 and 502.
Town of Mt. Airy School Bonds, numbers 47 and 48
County of Surry bond, number 109
United States Government G. Bond, number M3006108G
United States Government G. Bond, number M3006109G
United States Government G. Bond, number M3006110G
United States Government G. Bond, number M3006111G
United States Government Bond, number V455109G

Real Estate:

McBride Farm, now occupied by Early Joyce -- 65 acres on Ararat River near Granite Quarry, one old houlse (delapidated condition), one old feed barb, one tobacco barn, obtained by deed of S.E. Marshall, dated July 23, 1927, and recorded in deed Book 97, page 65, (appraisal number 28)

Sam Dalton Farm, now occupied by Sam Dalton--34.13 acres, 9 acres cleared, balance in scrub timber in Red Brush Section, adjoining the lands of Wes Nichols, one two or three room house, one feed barn, two tobacco barns, one pack house--obtained by deed of Sam Dalton, dated August 19, 1933,and recorded in deed Book No. 120, page 584 (appraisal number 31)

Brick Store Building, now occupied by Rastus Poore, Willow St., lot 20' 4" x 71'4", obtained by deed of Geo. Snow, Tr., dated April 18, 1932, and recorded in Deed Book 116, page 355 (appraisal number 5)

Brick Store Building, now occupied by Kasco, Market Street, 25' x 83' obtained by deed of H.O. Woltz, Tr., dated March 25, 1938, and recorded in Deed Book 133, page 8 (appraisal number 4)

Frame House and Lot, now occupied by Dewey Belton, Hamburg St., 3 rooms, lot 70' X 115' obtained by Deed of C.S. Childress, dated March 19, 1932, and recorded in Deed Book No. 120, page 147 (appraisal number 11)

Frame house and lot, now occupied by J.C. Welborn, Hamburg Road, Bannertown, 4 rooms, lot about 1 acre, obtained by deed of C.F. Norman, dated November 2, 1928, and recorded in Deed Book 109, page 408 (appraisal number 12)

Frame house and lot, now occupied by Claud Utt, 5 rooms, Wards Gap rd. on right side of road above Inman's Store, house on lot 15 of W.T. Jackson lands, lot 102' X 185' See deed of J.W. Jackson and wife, dated July 11, 1928, and recorded in Book 110, page 42, lot 16 of W.T. Jackson lands, lot 114.5' x 200' see deed by W.F. Carter, Tr., dated January 14, 1929, and recorded in Deed Book 102, page 157, (appraisal number 25)

Frame house and lot, now occupied by Mrs. Angell, 4 rooms on Welch Bridge Road, lots 10 and 11, Block B. now Block C. R.L. Haymore Sub. Div., Old Norman Farm, obtained by deed from J.T. Coe, dated January 22, 1932, and recorded in Deed Book 120, page 73 (appraisal number 19)

Granite House & Lot, now occupied by Kerr, Spring St., 6 rooms, lot 50' 6" X 135' obtained by deed of J.W.Jackson, dated December 22, 1928, and recorded in Deed Book 111, page 79 (appraisal number 7)

DIVISION OF ESTATE OF ALBERT L. BUNKER

Group Number Four

Chosen by and Assigned to Adelaide Bunker

Stocks and Bonds:

15 Shares of R. J. Reynolds B. Stock, number BL386768
1½ Shares of Surry County Loan & Trust Company Stock, Number 157
5 Shares of Surry County Loan & Trust Company Stock, number 245
5 Shares of Commercial Savings Bank of Booneville, N.C., Stock, number 59
30 Shares of Workmen's Federal Savings and Loan Assn. Stock, Numbers 375, 166 and 143
Town of Mt. Airy School Bonds, numbers 49 and 50
County of Surry, Bond number 110
United States Government G. Bond, Number M3006112G
United States Government G. Bond, Number M3006113G
United States Government G. Bond, number M2761106G
United States Government G. Bond, number M2761107G
United States Government G. Bond, Number V4551106

Real Estate:

Kidd Farm, now occupied by Bernie Gibson, 95 acres, located on Siloam Rd., 15 acres cleared, balance in small timber, one four roomed house, three tobacco barns, one pack house, one feed barn, obtained by deed of W.M. Jackson, Tr. Dated September 15, 1941, and recorded in Deed Book 128, page 179 (appraisal number 29)

C.C. Hutchins Homeplace, now occupied by L.W.McFarland, 36 acres, located on both sides of Mt. Airy-Dobson Highway, beyond White Plains, one two story house and outbuildings, obtained by deed of D.L. Hiatt,TR. dated March 15, 1939, and recorded in deed Book 133, page 536, (appraisal Number 30)

Brick Store Building, now occupied by Fant and Bluebird, Main St., lot 25' X 90' obtained by d deed of J.E. Marshal and wife, dated October 5, 1932 and recorded in Deed Book 116, page 569 (appraisal number 2)

Frame house and lot, Broad St., now occupied by Craddock, 5 rooms, lot 60' X 209' obtained by deed of M.H. Sparger, Tr. dated _____, and recorded in Deed Book 102, page 131 (appraisal number 8)

Frame house and lot, now occupied by C. Gravely, Durham St., 5 rooms, lot 75' x 150' deeded by Robert Ashburn, June 14, 1926 and recorded in Deed Book 103, page 533 (appraisal number 9)

Frame house, Store Bldg. and lot, occupied by Hiatt, South St., 4 rooms lot 90' X 225', obtained by deed of E.M. Linville, Tr., dated July 25, 1928, and recorded in Deed Book 102, page 140 and deed of M.H. Sparger, Tr., dated March 28, 1928, and recorded in deed Book 102, page 127, (appraisal number 10)

Vacant lots, Highland Park, lots Nos. 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34 in Block &7 (Brook Ave), lots 9, 10, 11 and 12 (Apex Ave.) See deed of J.H. Folger, Tr., dated February 7th 1931, and recorded in Deed Book 117, page 12,(appraisal number 16)

Frame house and lot, now occupied by Coy Clifton, 4 rooms, Fairview St., near old Shade Franklin home, lot 135' X 327' deed by E.R. Amburn, dated April 8, 1933, and recorded in Deed Book 120, page 486 (appraisal number 20)

In Testimony Whereof, We, J.B. Haynes and Robert Jones, executors and Co-Executors of Albert L. Bunker, late of Surry County, North Carolina, have hereunto set our hands and seals the day and year first above written.

J.B. Haynes (SEAL)
CO-EXECUTOR OF ALBERT L. HUNKER.

Robert Jones (SEAL)
CO-EXECUTOR OF ALBERT L. BUNKER.

We, Nina A. Bunker, widow, Adelaide Bunker, Dorothy Bunker Almy, and Nancy Lou Bunker, children, devisees and legatees of the will of the late Albert L. Bunker, do hereby ratify and confirm the acts of the executors in the appraisal and partition of the properties of the late Albert L. Bunker in accordance with the foregoing instrument.

In Witness Whereof, We have hereunto set our hands and seals to this instrument the day and year first above written.

Nina A. Bunker (SEAL)

Adelaide Bunker (SEAL)

Dorothy Bunker Almy (SEAL)

Nancy Lou Bunker (SEAL)

NORTH CAROLINA,
SURRY . COUNTY.

I, Geo. W. Sparger Jr., a Notary Public, do hereby certify that before me this day personally appeared J.B. Haynes, and Robert Jones, executors of the last will and testament of Albert L. Bunker, and acknowledged the due execution by them of the foregoing instrument for the purposes therein expressed.

Witness my hand and notarial seal, this the 15th day of July, 1947.
(SEAL)

Geo. W. Sparger Jr.
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission expires: 2-20-48.

NORTH CAROLINA,
SURRY . COUNTY.

I, Geo. W. SpargerJr. a Notary Public, do hereby certify that before me this day personally appeared Nina A. Bunker, Adelaide Bunker, Dorothy Bunker Almy, and Nancy Lou Bunker, devisees and legatees of the will of the late Albert L. Bunker, and acknowledged the due execution by them of the ratification.

Witness my hand and notarial seal, this the 15th day of July, 1947.
(SEAL)

Geo. W. Sparger Jr.
Notary Public

My Commission expires: 2-20-48

ESTATE OF ALBERT L. BUNKER

Real Estate in Mount Airy Township

We, J.B. Haynes, and Robert Jones, Executors of the last will and testament of Albert L. Bunker late of Surry County, North Carolina, D.L. Hiatt, attorney for the said executors, and George W. Sparger Jr., a real estate dealer in the town of Mount Airy,North Carolina, associated with the said executors with the purpose of appraising all of the real properties in Mount Airy Township of the late Albert L. Bunker, do hereby certify that we have gone upon the several

pieces of property and made careful and thorough study and investigation of the said properties with reference to their income-producing qualities, character of improvements, and the factors which might enter into the value of the said properties, and we have made to the best of our judgment a fair and an equitable appraisal of all of the said properties upon the current market, which appraisal we certify to be as follows:

BUSINESS PROPERTY

		APPRAISED VALUE
I.	Brick Store Building, now occupied by Cockerham. Main St., lot 25½ X 96', obtained by deed of M.F. Davis and H.L. Pruitt, dated April 11, 1941 and recorded in Deed Book 139, page 658.	$ 12,500.00
2.	Brick Store Building, now occupied by Fant & Bluebird. Main St., lot 25' X 90', obtained bydeed of J.E. Marsh, and wife, dated Oct. 5, 1932, and recorded in Deed Book 116, page 569.	15,000.00
3.	Brick Store Building, now occupied by Forrest. Market St. 25' X 83' obtained by deed of H.O. Woltz, Tr., dated March 25, 1938, and recorded in Deed Book 133, page 8.	8,000.00
4.	Brick Store Building, now occupied by Kasco. Market Street, 25' X 83' obtained by deed of H.O. Woltz, Tr., dated March 25, 1938, and recorded in Deed Book 133, page 8.	8,000.00
5.	Brick Store Building, now occupied by Rastus Poore. Willow St., Lot 20'4" X 71' 4", obtained by deed of Geo. Snow, Tr., dated April 18, 1932, a and recorded in Deed Book 116, page 355.	7,000.00
6.	Frame House & lot, now occupied by Kate Godfrey. Pine St., lot 80' X 200' obtained by deed of Henry Wolfe and wife, dated June 22, 1932, and recorded in Deed Book No. 120, page 235.	10,000.00

RENT HOUSES AND LOTS

7.	Granite House & Lots, now occupied by Kerr. Spring St., 6 rooms, lots 50'6" X 135', obtained by deed of J.W. Jackson, dated	
D	December 22, 1928, and recorded in Deed Book 111, page 79.	6,500.00
8.	Frame House & Lot, Broad St., now occupied by Craddock, Broad St., 5 rooms, lot 60' X 209', obtaibed by deed of M.H. Sparger, Tr. dated _____, and recorded in Deed Book 102, page 131.	2,500.00
9.	Frame House & Lot, now occupied by C. Gravely Durham St., 5 rooms, lot 75' X 150' deeded by Robt. Ashburn, 6/14/26, recorded in Book 103, page 533.	2,500.00
10.	Frame House, Store Bldg. & lot, Occupied by Hiatt. South St., 4 rooms, lot 90' X 225", obtained by deed of E.M.Linville, Tr., dated 7/25/28, and recorded in Book 102, page 140, and deed of M.H. Sparger, Tr., dated 2/28/28, and recorded in deed Book 102, page 127.	3,000.00
11.	Frame House & Lot, now occupied by Dewey Belton. Hamburg St., 3 rooms, lot 70' X 115' obtained by deed of C.S. Childress, dated 3/19/32 and recorded in deed Book 120, page 147.	1,000.00
12.	Frame house & lot, now occupied by J.C. Welborn. Hamburg Rd., Bannertown, 4 rooms, lot about 1 acre, obtained by deed of C.F. Norman, dated 11/2/28, and recorded in deed Book 109, page 408.	2,000.00
13.	Frame house & lot, now occupied by Morrisoh. Highland Park, Central Ave. (rear of Highland Park Bap. Ch.), lot 20, Block 3, lot 50' x 150' obtained by deed of Henry Wolfe, Tr., dated 10/12/27, and recorded in deed Book 102, page 97, (3 rooms)	1,000.00
14.	Frame House & Lot, now occupied by A. France. Highland Park, Brook Ave., lots 21 and half of 22, adjoining, 75' X 150' obtained by deed of Elwood Tilley, dated 5/28/27, recorded in Book 106, page 365	1,000.00

		APPRAISED VALUE
15.	Frame House & Lot, now occupied byM.L.Bryant, Highland Park,Brook Ave.,Lots 23 23 and eastern half of lot 22, Block 4, 75' X 150' obtained by deed of Gracie Collins and W.H. Collins, dated 10/15/41, and recorded in Deed Book 143, page 37.	$ 1,000.00
16.	Vacant lots, Highland Park, Lots 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34, in block 7 (Brook Ave.), Lots 9, 10, 11, and 12, (Apex Ave.) See deed of J.H.Folger, Tr., dated 2/7/31, and recorded in Book 117, page 12.	1,000.00
17.	Frame House and Lot, now occupied byMrs. Surratt, W. side Buck Shoals Rd., just beyond Highland Park, 3 rooms, old log, weather-borarded house, obtained by deed of Fred Fogerk Tr. dated 9-7-35, Rec. Book 124, page, 225.	1,000.00
18.	Frame House & Lot, now occupied by E.W.Combs, 4 Rooms, on S. side of Highway 80 just beyond Highland Park, adjoining lands of S.P. Graves, lot 90' X 345'6" obtained by deed of A.B. Carter, Tr., dated 3/1/35, and recorded in Deed Bk, 118, P. 444.	2,000.00
19.	Frame House and Lot, now occupied byMrs. Angell, Four rooms on Welch Bridge Rd., lots 10 & 11, Block B, now Block C. R.L. Haymore Sub. Div. Old Norman Farm. Deed from J.T.Coe, dated 1/22/32, Rec. B. 120, P. 73.	1,750.00
20.	Frame House & Lot, now occupied by Coy Clifton, 4 rooms, Fairview St. near old Shade Franklin home, lot 135' X 327' deed by E.R. Amburn, 4/8/33, and recorded in Book 120, page 486.	2,000.00
21.	Frame House & Lot, now occupied by W.Harrell, 4 Rooms, adjoining E.L. Patterson Farm near the Franklin School, lot about 3/4 acres, obtained by deed of L.G. Goforth, dated 9-23/33,and record-ed in Deed Book 123, page 238.	2,000.00
22.	Brick House & Lot, now occupied by W.C. Tate, 4 rooms, off Fancy Gap Rd. near Cat Hollow, Hines Development, Block B. lots 70, 71, 72, & 73, deed-ed by W.L. Syndor and J.W. Prather, 1/22/32, and recorded in Deed Book 120, page 76.	1,250.00
23.	Vacant Lots 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26, Lots 31, 32, 33,34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, also lots 63 and 64, situ-ated in Block B, R.E. Hines, development near Cat Hollow, obtained by deed of Victoria Hines & husband, Dated 9/12/33, and recorded inDeed Book 122, page 357.	500.00
24.	Frame House & Lot, now occupied by Sallie Sechrist, 1 room, off Fancy Gap Rd. near Cat Hollow, lots 91 and 92, Block C. Hines Development, obtained by deed of E.C. Bivens, Tr. 11/10/28, rec. of Deed Book 109, P. 413.	250.00
25.	Frame House & Lot, now occupied by Claud Utt, 5 Rooms, Wards Gap Rd. on right side of road above Inman's store, house on lot 15 of W.T. Jackson lands, lot 102' X 185', see deed of J.W. Jackson and wife, dated 7/11/28, and recorded in Book 110, page 42. Lot 16 of W.T. Jackson lands, lot 114.5' X 200' see deed by W.F. Carter, Tr. dated 1/14/29, and recorded in Deed Book 102, page 157.	3,250.00

FARM PROPERTY

BUNKER HOMEPLACE: 311.69, acres, plus a fraction of an acre purchased from C.L. Bunker in 1946, making a total of approximately 312 acres. The 311.69 acres are according to a record found on back of an envelope in A.L. Bunker's hand-writing, dated 1933 as follows:

"Bunker Homeplace"	(Acres)
Stanley	16.50
V. Haynes	2.00
T.N. Brock	30.00
School House	1.00
Marion	16.19
L.E. Haynes	62.00
A.L. Bunker's Part	61.50
J.L. Bunker's part	62.50
A.L. Bunker's part (Jones	60.00
	311.69

636

This farm has the following buildings:
1 House (Residence-Homeplace and out buildings)
1 Feed Barn
3 Tenant Houses
4 Tobacco Barns
2 Pack Houses
1 Log Barn (Stable for Tenant House)

26. Item 26 embraces all of that part and portion of the Homeplace hereinbefore described being and lying on the West side of the New Mt. Airy-Dobson Road, Highway 601, and containing 55 acres, more or less, including all the buildings and improvements thereon, and all stock and farming tools thereon. $ 25,000.00

27. Iten 27 embraces all that part of the Houseplace hereinbefore described lying on the East side of the New Mt. Airy-Dobson Highway, No. 601, and containing _____ acres, more or less, including all of the buildings and improvements thereon. 12,500.00

28. McBride Farm, now occupied by Early Joyce.
65 acres of Ararat River near Granite Quarry,
1 Old House, dilapidated condition,
1 Old Feed Barn, Dilapidated condition,
1 Tobacco Barn, Good condition
Farm obtained by deed of S.E. Marshall, dated 7/23/27, and recorded in Book 97, page 65. 8,250.00

29. Kidd Farm, now occupied by Bernie Gibson.
95 acres, located on Siloam Rd., 15 acres cleared, balance in small timber.
1-4 room house, fair condition
3 tobacco barns, old fari condition,
1 Pack House
1 Feed Barn, small, fair comdition,
Farm obtained by deed of W.M. Jackson, Tr. dated 9/15/41, recorded in Deed Book 128, page 179. 6,000.00

30. C.C. Hutchins Homeplace, now occupied by L.W. McFarland.
36 acres, located on both sides of Mt. Airy-Dobson Highway, beyond White Plains.
1 2-story house and outbuildings,
Farm obtained by deed of D.L. Hiatt, Tr. dated , 3/15/39, and recorded inBook 133, page 536. 7,000.00

31. Sam Dalton Farm, now occupied bySam Dalton.
34.13 acres, 9 acres cleared, balance in scrub timber, located in Red Brush Section, adjoining the lands of Wes Nichols.
1 2 or 3-room house
1 Feed Barn
2 tobacco barns
1 Pack House (all buildings in poor condition)
Farm obtained bydeed of SamDalton, dated 8/19/33, and recorded inDeed Book 120, page584. 1,250.00

Respectfully submitted,

J.B. Haynes
Co-Executor of Albert L. Bunker

Geo. W. SpargerJr.
Adviser

Robert Jones
Co-Executor of Albert L. Bunker

D.L. Hiatt
Attorney for Executors

NORTH CAROLINA,
SURRY . COUNTY.

The foregoing certificates of Geo. W. SpargerJr. Jr. Notary Public of Surry County, North Carolina, is adjudged to be in due form and according to law; the foregoing agreement and division of property by J.B.Haynes and Robert Jones, executors of the Will of A.L. Bunker, deceased affirmed by the devisees and legatees of the said Will is adjudged to have been duly executed. Therefore, let the instrument and these certificates be recorded in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Surry County and in the office of the Register of Deeds of Surry County.

This October 9, 1947.

K.W. Lawrence
CLERK SUPERIOR COURT.

This is to certify that this instrument was filed for registration at 3 o'clock P.M. 10-9-47 in the office of the Register of Deeds for Surry County, N.C. in Book 159, page 630.

Bertha M. Shinault REGISTER OF DEEDS, SURRY COUNTY.

Bunker

Surry County

Eng and Chang Bunker

The original Siamese twins Eng and Chang Bunker were famous world wide because of the unique, five inch, armlike band that joined them at their chest.

Born to Chinese fishermen in what is now Thailand the twins were sold to a ship captain and eventually ended up touring the world with the P.T. Barnum Museum later know as Barnum and Bailey Circus.

The twins became quite devoted to a New York family by the name of Bunker. In 1840 Eng and Chang assumed the last name of Bunker in honor of their friends.

For a while after the Civil War the twins returned to work for Barnum, but after eleven years of show business, they grew weary and decided to settle down. They loved fishing and hunting and with their savings bought a farm in the Traphill area near Wilkesboro. There they met their future wives and moved to Surry County in 1854, purchasing nearly 1,000 acres along Stewarts Creek.

The brothers lived in the White Plains Community until their death in 1874.



Click here to return to the Historical page.

Book Recounts Unusual Careers Of the Original Siamese Twins

By Donald Lewis Shaw
Written for The Associated Press
Asheville Citizen-Times

ASHEVILLE (AP) — Suppose you had to spend every minute of your entire life with another human being only six inches away.

North Carolina was home to twins who had to do just that, and only in death were they separated, 86 years ago this month.

A long-sought little book has finally come into the hands of the North Carolina Collection of Pack Memorial Public Library here, recalling the story of Chang and Eng Bunker, the Siamese twins and two of the strangest residents North Carolina ever knew.

The book, "Romance of the Siamese Twins" by Shepherd M. Dugger was printed in a limited edition at Burnsville. Published in 1936, it emphasized the twins' lives after their marriages to two Wilkes County girls.

Variable Versions

Through the years, the story of these famous 19th Century twins has been told and retold until today there are conflicting references to nearly every phase of their lives, and almost every date is questionable.

Dugger's book, and considerable research, shed some new light on the story.

The twins were born about 60 miles from Bangkok, Siam, in 1811. Their condition at birth was described by one writer this way:

"They were connected facing each other by a cartilaginous tube, over three inches in diameter and five to six inches long when straightened by their walking position) which came out in the fork of their ribs at the top of their stomachs."

The boys were named "Chang" and "Eng," Siamese for "left" and "right," respectively.

Dire Predictions

Their mother was Siamese. Their father was one of the many Chinese immigrants to Siam in the early part of the 19th Century.

The birth of the joined infants aroused many dire predictions, such as "the world is coming to an end!"

Yet, the twins grew normally, learning eventually to run together and to take part in all sorts of activities common to growing boys. They became especially expert swimmers.

As the fame of Chang and Eng grew, they were called before the King of Siam—a tremendous honor for the 14-year-old boys.

Off to America

Their father died when they were eight. To help provide for the family, they became fishermen. Later they raised ducks. They were successful at both.

In 1829, an American sea captain named Coffin saw the twins and was at once struck by the idea that a great deal of money could be made if they exhibited themselves in the United States.

Coffin prevailed upon the twins' mother to allow them to sail to America with him. An epidemic of Asiatic cholera which had swept through Siam earlier and had killed some of her other children encouraged her to let them leave Siam—away from the disease's possible dangers.



Eng and Chang Bunker at height of their fame.

America was astounded by the twins!

So was Europe. For several years they toured the United States and the European continent.

They learned to speak English quite readily and for their day, they became wealthy. They took the surname "Bunker," and became American citizens.

During the course of one tour, Chang and Eng saw and became interested in the mountain country in Wilkes County. Retiring from exhibition, they settled there in the early 1840's.

And there, the Siamese twins met Sarah and Adelaide Yates, sisters from a prosperous Wilkes County family.

Falling in love with the [illegible] and having the love returned caused the twins, in a state of complete frustration, to go to a famous London physician in hopes of being separated, so that they might marry.

Such an operation, the doctor told them, would result in the death of one or the other, or both.

But love had its way, and with the twins still united, the four were married April 13, 1843.

Sarah Yates became Mrs. Eng Bunker; Adelaide Yates, Mrs. Chang Bunker.

The two couples lived in a house at Trap Hill in Wilkes County for many years.

An increasing number of children, however, forced them to divide their families and move to two farm sites, a mile apart, just southwest of Mount Airy in Surry County.

In time, Chang became the father of 10 children, and Eng of 11.

The brothers adopted a custom of spending three days at each house, traveling regularly back and forth. They never altered this schedule of visits regardless of sickness or weather.

As a general rule, the twins were nearly always courteous and friendly toward each other. However, they were known to have arguments, sometimes bitter ones, even striking one another in the vehemence of battle.

Chang and Eng were inveterate smokers and tobacco chewers. And certainly Chang was a rather heavy drinker; although, interestingly, no matter how tipsy Chang may have become, Eng was never affected.

The twins would fall asleep at the same time at night and awake at the same time each morning.

The Vital Spot

And if, by chance, the cartilaginous tube between them were struck roughly, Chang and Eng would become violently ill. If the tube were hit in the middle, both could feel it distinctly, but if hit only on one side, only the twin on the side struck could detect the blow.

Each twin agreed never to talk business with anyone while in his brother's home. Such talk had to wait until the three days in which the twin was in his own house.

After the Civil War, Chang and Eng went on a final exhibition tour to Europe with P. T. Barnum's circus to recoup losses incurred during the war, including the loss of all their slaves.

In 1870, Chang suffered a paralytic stroke. Eng, although unaffected, forever after was forced to support part of his brother's weight.

And on a cold winter night in 1874, Chang became sick — complaining that he felt he would suffocate if he lay down.

Death Takes Both

Chang died that night, Jan. 17.

Chang, doctors said later, died of a cerebral clot. And Eng, before long, began to complain of a coldness in his extremities.

In a few hours, Eng, too, was dead. Doctors later reported, after autopsy, that Eng probably died of fright.

There had been no attempt made to cut the living Eng loose from the dead Chang.

The autopsy was performed on their bodies in Philadelphia where it was discovered that the passage that linked them contained their common liver—though there were individual blood systems to each body.

Separated at last, today the twins are buried between their wives near Mount Airy.

One stone marks all four graves.



Monument to twi

Eng and Chang Bunker Memorial Bridge Dedication Ceremony
Friday, July 27, 2001
11 a.m.

Thank you Sam, for that introduction.

Sam is doing a great job representing this area on the Board of Transportation—and I want to thank him for all of his efforts on behalf of the citizens of western North Carolina.

I consider it a great privilege to join the Bunker Family and the proud citizens of Surry County to help dedicate the twin bridges over Stewart's Creek for Mt. Airy's favorite sons, Eng and Chang Bunker.

When we think of Surry County, we can't help but think of Eng and Chang Bunker.

Theirs is an amazing story of faith and courage that still touches our hearts today.

Eng and Chang were special from the beginning—the first documented and longest living twins physically conjoined at birth.

They were born in 1811 in a small fishing village in Siam---now known as Thailand.

Eng and Chang were later known as the "original Siamese twins" in reference to their homeland, Siam.

They left Siam at the age of 17 to tour the world with their first managers Robert Hunter and Abel Coffin.

They toured the United States, Canada and Europe—and later with P.T. Barnum, the founder of the world famous Barnum and Bailey Circus.

The twins drew crowds wherever they went.

The crowds were amazed with Eng and Chang's remarkable strength and dexterity—and their amazing chess skills.

Their touring career was rigorous and unforgiving—but it proved to be very profitable.

So much so, that after 10 years, the twins decided they could stop touring to settle down.

They came here--to Western North Carolina--for a fishing and hunting trip at the invitation of their friend Dr. Hollingsworth.

They were drawn to the lush scenery and the friendly people and decided to put down roots and stay.

Their first home was in Trap Hill—in nearby Wilkes County.

There, Eng and Chang met and married two sisters, Adelaide and Sarah Yates.

They eventually moved to Surry County and settled close to where we stand right now.

In fact, the bridges we dedicate today are over Stewarts Creek—the creek that marks the dividing line of the twins' original property here in Mt. Airy.

So it is most appropriate that these bridges be named for the men who settled here and began the families whose descendents gather in celebration this weekend.

Although we officially dedicate and name the bridges today, one of them has been here for some time.

The northbound bridge—which is 181 feet long—was built in 1968 when Old U.S. 601 was only two lanes.

The southbound bridge—which is 182 feet long—is newer, built in 1999.

Together, these "twin bridges" will forever serve as a loving memorial of the lives of Eng and Chang Bunker—the world's original Siamese twins, and Surry County's most beloved citizens.

The brothers faced numerous obstacles in their lives—but they didn't let these obstacles stop them.

They fearlessly bridged cultural and economic barriers to truly live the American Dream--and contribute greatly to the culture of Surry County and Western North Carolina.

Their farming careers turned out to be as successful as their touring -- and they were always thankful for their blessings and looked for ways to give back to their community.

It is for these traits Eng and Chang should be remembered and revered.

Now when motorists cross of the Eng and Chang Bunker Memorial Bridge, they'll be reminded of these two special lives that continue to teach us lessons in courage, perseverance and faith.

Like Eng and Chang, the bridges will be close to the heart of this community.

The bridges are located less than a mile from the twin's burial site, White Plains Baptist Church.

The twins donated the land and helped to build the church before they passed away at the age of 62 in 1874.

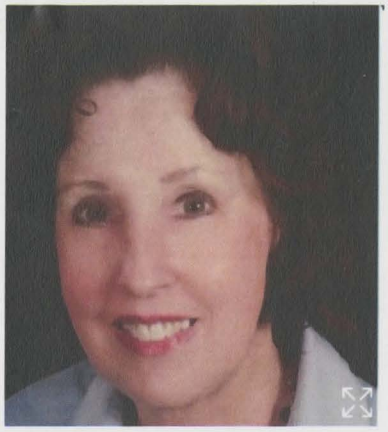
Although they are gone from this earth, they are here with us in spirit—and they live in the hearts of each of you—the descendents of Eng and Chang Bunker.

I hope this dedication will add joy to your reunion and the memory of your beloved Bunker family patriarchs.

Thank you.

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Back to Index



Mrs. Frances Bunker

Aug 10, 1945 - Sep 6, 2017

Mrs. Carolyn Frances Thomas Bunker, age 72, of Pilot Mountain, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Wednesday, September 6, 2017 at Central Continuing Care surrounded by her loving family. Mrs. Bunker was born on August 10, 1945 in Surry County to the late Calvin and Annie Mae Sprinkle Thomas. She was a loving mother, grandmother, sister, and friend who will be dearly missed by all that knew her. Mrs. Bunker was a Dental Assistant for over 48 years and a faithful member of Salem Baptist Church as long as her health permitted. Left to cherish her memory is her husband of 55 years, Wayne Eng Bunker of the home; two daughters and sons-in-law, Engle and Brad Corn of Ararat, VA, and Betsy and Scott Baird of Mount Airy; three precious grandchildren, Elizabeth Corn Bowers and husband Riley of Hope Mills, NC, and Foster and Finley Baird of Mount Airy; a sister and brother-in-law, Joy and Charlie Shore of Winston-Salem; a brother and sister-in-law, Wade and Dawn Thomas of Raleigh; and several nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Bunker was preceded in death by a sister, Dorothy Thomas Gravley; and a brother, Roger Thomas. The funeral service will be held on Friday, September 8, 2017 at 2:00 PM at Salem Baptist Church in Dobson with the Rev. Jay Worsley officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends on Thursday, September 7, 2017 at Moody Funeral Home in Mount Airy from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Flowers will be accepted or memorials may be made to Mountain Valley Hospice and Palliative Care, 401 Technology Lane, Suite 200, Mount Airy, North Carolina 27030.

Bunkers

BUNKER FAMILY REUNION

The 27th Annual Reunion of the Descendants of the Siamese Twins was held in Mount Airy, NC again this year. The following two pages were passed out at the reunion. If you are related to the Bunker family and have not attended this reunion, make plans to attend in 2017.

The 27th Annual Reunion of the Descendants of the Original Siamese Twins

July 30, 2016
First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
714 North Main Street
Mount Airy, North Carolina



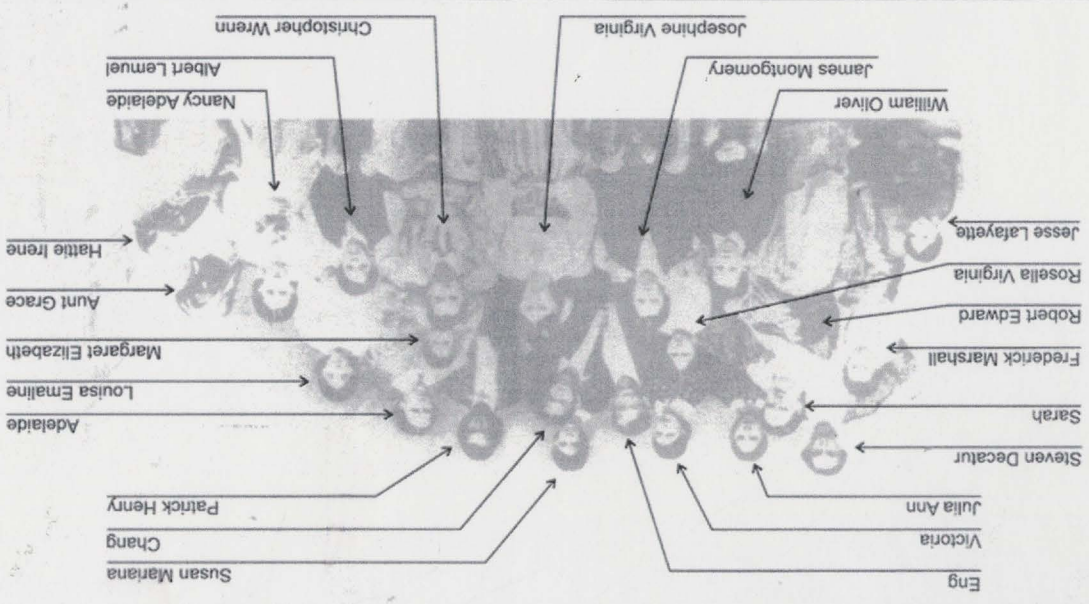


Chang's Homeplace, White Plains, NC



Eng's Homeplace, White Plains, NC

Eng and Chang Bunker were born May 11, 1811 in Maeklong, Siam (Thailand) to Nok and Ti Eye. They died in 1874 at the age of 62. Other than being a medical miracle, they were more well known during their time than Abraham Lincoln and according to Cynthia Wu (author and cultural scholar) the most well traveled celebrities of their time.



The Siamese Twins with their Wives and 18 of their 21 Children
Not pictured (Katherine, 1844-1871), (Rosalyn 1852-1852), (Georgina 1863-1865)

Program

11:00 a.m. Gather, Register, and Socialize

11:30 a.m. Welcome / Lunch . . . . . Zack Blackmon Jr.

Miss Andear Saiyatsahit will be performing a Classical Thai Dance on stage prior to lunch to celebrate the Reunion and the Ambassadors visit.

Blessing . . . . . Homer Bunker

12:00-12:25 Life of the Twins - Living Document . . . . . Jim Haynes

12:25-12:50 Roll Call of Descendants (by family) - Melvin Miles

Eng & Sallie (Yates) Bunker	Chang & Adelaide (Yates) Bunker
Katherine (1844-1871)	Josephine (1844-1867)
Julie (1845-1865)	Christopher (1845-1932)
Stephen (1846-1920)	Nancy (1847-1874)
James (1848-1921)	Susan (1849-1922)
Patrick (1850-1938)	Victoria (1852-1896)
Rosalyn (1852-1852)	Louise (1855-1934)
William (1855-1932)	Albert (1857-1944)
Frederick (1857-1886)	Jesse (1861-1909)
Rosella (1859-1941)	Lizzie (1863-1950)
Georginia (1863-1865)	Hattie (1863-1945)
Robert (1865-1951)	

12:50 Memorial – Recognition of Family Members who have passed since the last reunion . . . . Sarah Bunker Mueller

1:00 Financial Report of Reunion Committee . .Zack Blackmon Jr.

1:05 Homer Bunker to Recognize the following:
1) Descendant Traveling Greatest Distance to Attend Reunion
2) Youngest Descendant Attending Reunion
3) Descendants of Yatess Family
4) First Time Attendees
5) Oldest Descendant of Eng/Chang

Remarks by. . . . . Elected Official(s)

Special Guest Remarks. . . . . His Excellency Pisan Manawapat
Thailand Ambassador to the United States of America

Plans for Next Reunion (Last Weekend in July) / Wrap up / Socialize

2:30 Tour of Bunker Family Sites. . . . . Melvin Miles

We hope you have enjoyed the 27th Annual Bunker Reunion.

Special thanks to all of those who assisted in making this Reunion a success and especially the Royal Thai Embassy for providing lunch.

This Reunion has become an event where new relationships are born and long lost cousins have been found. Additionally, researchers have used this occasion to meet and interview descendants of the Twins.

Please share your stories and experiences so that our remarkable heritage will be kept alive for future generations.

We also welcome the Yates Family who are related and connected to the Bunker Family.

Have a safe trip home. We look forward to seeing you again next year.

* Anyone wishing to have their name(s) added to the Reunion mailing list please contact Albert Blackmon at albertblackmon@gmail.com or phone (336) 972-9049.

The Siamese Twins Go To An Auction

It was an estate sale following the deaths of William Joseph Forkner, Jr.(b abt 1752, Surry Co, N.C., d prior to May 1807, Surry Co, N. C.), who fought in the Revolutionary War and his wife, Susanna Wells Forkner (b abt 1747, Chester Co, PA, d prior to Mar 1848, at age 100, Surry Co, N.C). Many of their children, relatives, and neighbors representing names as Midkiff, Taylor, Inman, Belton, Collins, Sparger, Lewis, Watson, Shelton, Sisk, Wood, Jackson, Brown, Deatherage, Smith, Marshall, Prather, Allred & Davis attended the auction.

Among attendees was son, James Forkner (b 1784 Surry Co, N.C.; d abt 1858, Surry Co, N.C.), who tradition says, carried on the sawmill business, brickyard and freightline to the coast that his father had started. At the sale, James bought a croscut saw, knives & forks, a vice, wheel, wagon, bed & bed clothing,a Bible and table. Six other beds were sold, as well as livestock, furniture and tools. It was a lengthy sale including over 80 separate items and many items contained group pieces as plows & hoes or cow & calf or a set of smith tools.

It was the 13th of March, 1848 and by then, the Bunker twins, Chang & Eng Bunker (b 11 May 1811 in Maeklong, Siam ((Thailand))to Nok & Ti Eye) had bought land & settled in White Plains near Mt. Airy of Surry Co, N.C., in the Yadkin Valley. Chang's wife, Adelaide (b 1823 d 21 May 1917), accompanied them. No mention is made of Eng's wife, Sarah Ann (b 1822 d 29 Apr 1892) that day. The twins had married sisters in 1843.

The three made several purchases including one large kettle for $2.87, one chest for $3.00, one chest for $.30 and another chest for $4.00. (At that same sale, a horse sold for $12-15.00, a side saddle for $3.00, 5 hogs for $2.15, a desk for $2.80 and a loom for $1.55.)

Many thanks go to the secretary who on Mar 13, 1848, wrote down each person's name beside of their purchase. Without that careful and thoughtful gesture, we would not have this precious information about a day in the lives of the Twin Bunkers.

1. Per Surry County Heritage, North Carolina
2. Will of Susannah Forkner (Includes Estate Property List)

Written by Jancie Poplin, July 25, 2016
(William Joseph Forkner, Jr. is my 5th Great Grandfather, DNA Match by Ancestry.com)

Acct of Sale of Property Sold by
Dalton Forkner as Administrator
of Susannah Forkner Dec'd
Sale amount Two Hundred & Thirteen
Dollars & Sixty nine cents 213 69

Vouchers filed One Hundred
& Ninety four Dollars & 7/10 195 71
Commissions ten per cent 19 58
213 29

Amount sale 213 69
.38

We the undersigned Two of the acting
Justices of the peace for said County
proceed to Exsamine the Sales & Receipts
I find them as returned herein
In Class August the 1850

A Dunnagan
H Sammons

Dalton B Forkner
Acct of Sale &
and Settlement
August 1850
Recorded
Bill Marked A

(1)

A list of property sold on the 13th day of March AD. 1848 as the property of the Estate of Susanah Forkner decd sold by Dalton Forkner admis

	$	¢
Joseph Forkner one plow	00	75
James Belton plows & hoes	01	70
A. J. Collins To one axe	00	15
James Belton Sythe & cradle	00	60
M. Spargen Sythe & cradle	00	51
James Forkner crocut saw	01	05
A Lewis Shilards	00	53
Joseph Forkner one cup	00	18
Simeon Watson one Drawing knife	00	35
I. Collins coffie mill	00	14
James Forkner knives & forks	01	00
A. & T. Bunkers To one kettle	02	87
D. P. Forkner one pot	00	85
Gabriel Shelton	00	60
A. Childers To one pot	90	25
D. P. Forkner wash boll	00	30
James Belton one pot & lid	00	90
D. P. Forkner pot &c	00	85
James Belton pot &c	00	50
Do " Do " Do	00	60
A Childers To pot rack	00	35
David wood To pot rack	00	37
Enel Jackson candle box	00	06
James Belton Tea kettle	00	31
I. W. Brower crow bar	00	90
Enel Jackson die loom	01	55

2) The country not to be entered

	£.	s.
James Grimwood To one set smith Tooles	06	05
James Fortner one vice	00	00
A. Lewis one grindstone	00	27
James Fortner one waggon	08	05
Philip Deatherage To gears	00	30
James Bolton To gears &c	00	83
James Smith To one mare	15	30
James Bolton To one mare	12	35
M. Spargen one mare	07	00
James Fortner one wheel	02	10
Ephraim Midkiff one wheel	02	10
Reed Jackson To one wheel	01	05
James Bolton To one reel	00	10
W.A. Prather one Reel	00	03
A. & T. Bunkers one Sheet	03	00
A Childs To 3 days	01	10
Dalton Fortner one bed	15	10
Martha Fortner one bed	12	00
John Midkiff one bed	12	05
John M. Marshall one Servt	02	80
Dely Fortner one Table	01	00
Marrisan Dicks one bed	07	50
James Fortner one bed	08	75
Jno M Marshall one bed	06	00
Do. Do. Do. Do. Do. To M. Spargen	06	25
Philip Deatherage To one cover lid	00	65
David Midkiff To one Do. Do.	03	00
Do. Do. to white Sheet	01	25
Hugh Taylor To one bed Quilt	00	50
David Midkiff checked Sheet	01	40
David Midkiff white Sheet	01	12½
James Fortner To a lot bed clothing	04	55
James Bolton To white Sheet	01	10

(3)

Deby Fortner White Shirt	01	15
John Midkiff To Checked Shirt	00	60
Robert Deatherage Do" Do	00	80
Deby Fortner To Side Saddle	03	00
Philip Deatherage Checked Shirt	00	30
Subtle Allred one Trunk	01	00
James Fortner To one bible	00	25
A & T Bunkers one Chest	00	30
A Lewis one Chair & Sive	00	50
M Spargen To one Sifter	00	35
James Fortner one Table	00	75
James Bettan one Desk	02	80
Do" Do" one Table	01	00
A" Childes one Slay	01	10
A. L. Collins one Table	00	55
Martha Deatherage To one counterpain	00	15
A" Childes To one cupboard	04	05
A" & T" Bunkers	04	00
Jno M Marshall Three Chairs	00	62½
James Bettan fire Dogs	00	52
Thos Inman fire Shovel	00	12½
Robt Deatherage one cow and calf	09	10
James Spargen five hogs	02	15
Dan Davis To Six hogs	02	31

A List of property Sold belonging to the estate of Susanah Forkner Dec 1848

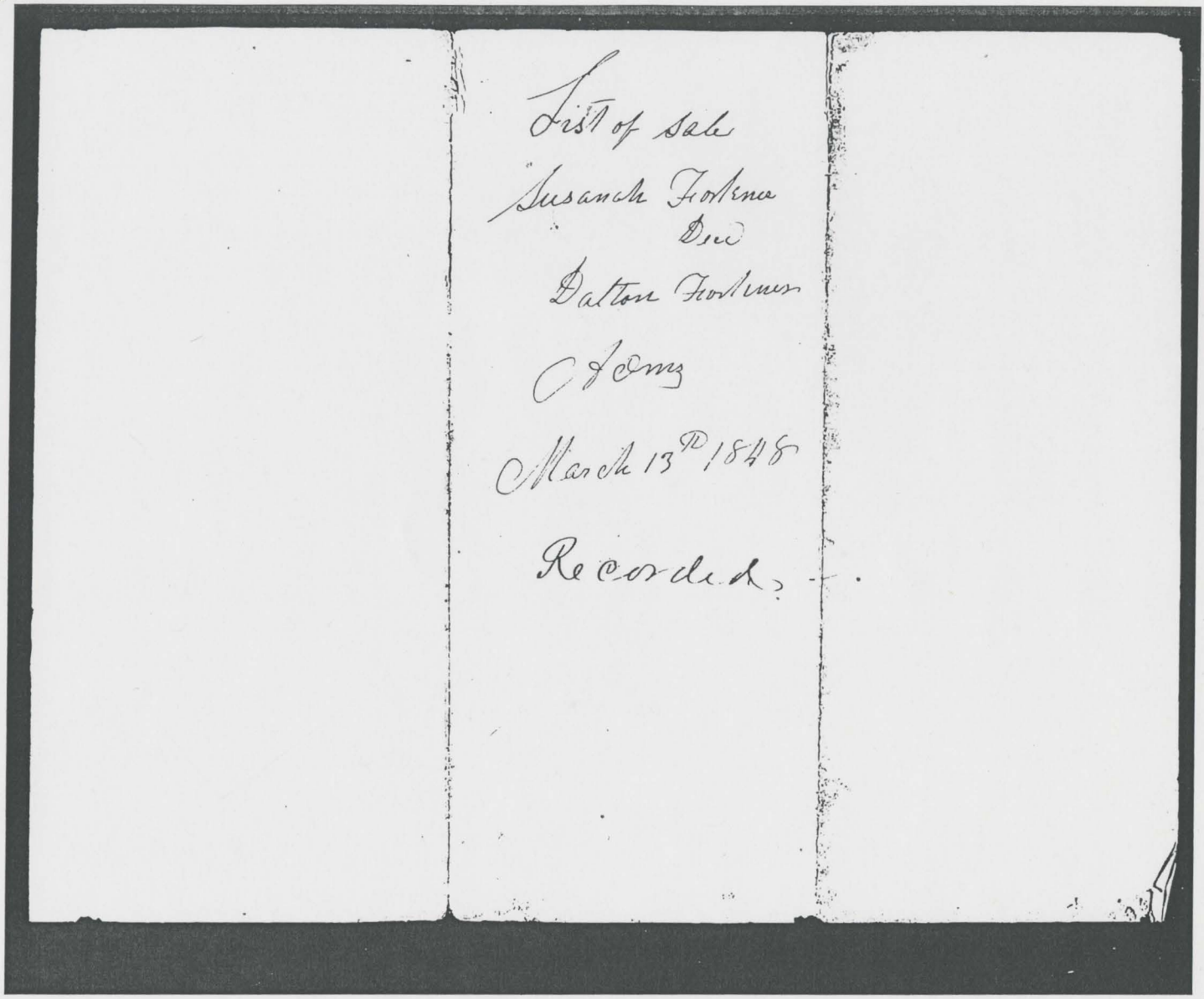
	#	cts
one plow	00	75
plows & hoes	01	70
one Ax	00	15
sythe & cradle	00	60
sythe & cradle	00	51
Crosscut saw	01	05
Shilards	00	53
one cup	00	18
Drawing Knife	00	35
Coffeemill	00	14
Knives & forks	01	00
large Kettle	02	87
one pot	00	85
one oven	00	60
one pot	00	25
wash boll	00	30
one pot	00	90
pots &c	00	85
pot &c	00	50
one pot	00	60
pot rack	00	35
pot rack	00	37
candlebox	00	06
Tea Kettle	00	31
cro bar	00	90

	#	cts
one loom	01	51
one Safe	01	00
two hogs	02	00
five hogs	05	12½
Blacksmith tools	06	05
one vice	06	00
grindstone	00	27
waggon	08	65
geers &c	00	70
geers &c	00	87
one mare	15	30
one mare	12	35
one mare	07	00
flaxwheel	02	10
flaxwheel	02	50
flaxwheel	01	05
Reel	00	10
Reel	00	03
one chest	03	00
three slays	01	10
one bed	15	10
one bed	12	00
one Bed	12	05
one scrutoe	02	30

one Table	01	00
one bead	07	50
one bid	08	75
one bed	06	00
one bed	06	25
one coverlead	00	65
one coverlead	01	00
one bed quilt	00	50
one chect sheet	00	50
one white sheet	01	12½
one lot of bed cover	04	50
one white sheet	01	10
one sheet	01	15
one chect sheet	00	60
one chect sheet	00	80
one side saddle	03	00
chect sheet	00	50
Trunk	01	00
Bible	00	25
Chest	01	90
chair & sive	01	50
Sifter	00	35
one folding table	00	75
one desk	02	80
one Table	01	00
clay	00	10
Table	00	55

	$	¢
Counterpin	00	18
Coverlead	04	05
one chest	04	00
Three chairs	00	62
fire Dogs	01	52
fire shovel	00	12
Cow & calf	09	10
5 hogs	02	15
6 hogs	02	31

the above Articles sold
the 13th day March 1848
By
Dalton Forkner
Admr



List of Sale
Susanah Forkner
Dec
Dalton Forkners
Adms
March 13th 1848
Recorded

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Eng's Homeplace, White Plains, NC

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Bunker

You're Invited to the 2016

Bunker Family Reunion

July 29-30, 2016



Please spread the word that the Reunion is coming up. We look forward to another gathering that will be truly memorable and we will talk about for years to come!

Friday, July 29
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Siamese Twins Exhibit
Andy Griffith Museum
Visitors Center

Visit the Surry Arts Council's *The Siamese Twins Exhibit* at the local Andy Griffith Museum to see artifacts from the twins' lives and learn about the history of the Bunker Twins.

Also, visit the new picture of Eng and Chang displayed at the Visitors Center in downtown Mount Airy. Betty Bunker Blackmon donated the picture this year on behalf of the Bunker family.

Friday, July 29
6:00 PM
Bunker Reunion Picnic
Mayberry Campground

Hot dogs will be provided. Please bring dessert, drinks, or a side dish (chips, potato salad, etc.) to share.

Saturday, July 30
11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Family Reunion
First Baptist Church

Reunion Registration will begin at 11:00 AM. The Welcome and Lunch will begin at 11:30 AM. We are excited that Thailand's Ambassador to the United States of America, His Excellency Pisan Manawapat, plans to join us this year. The Royal Thai Embassy has once again agreed to provide lunch prepared by our local Thai restaurant. We ask that other family attendees bring a dessert or drinks to share so there will be plenty for everyone. Join us for a special time of celebration and storytelling as we celebrate the lives of the twins!

The program schedule will include: A Short History of Eng and Chang, Roll Call of Descendents (by Family), Memorial (Recognition of Family Members that have passed since last year's Reunion), Special Recognitions, and Special Guest Remarks

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Saturday, July 30
2:30 PM to 4:30 PM
Tour of Bunker Family Sites
Meeting location to be announced

- Stop 1: Chang-Adelaide home, Holly Farms Driveway. House and family history by descendants.
- Stop 2: Eng-Sarah's son, Will Bunker house, 1900, Now Mayberry Campground.
- Stop 3: White Plains Baptist Church and Cemetery. Visit family tombstones.

Please RSVP for the Reunion and Picnic to Albert Blackmon at 336-972-9049 or at albertblackmon@gmail.com

Get Reunion updates via the Descendants of Eng and Chang Bunker Facebook page.

If you have questions please contact Albert Blackmon (contact info above) or Zack Blackmon Jr. (704-213-0080, zackblackmon@gmail.com)

Directions to Reunion Events

Andy Griffith Museum — 218 Rockford Street, Mt. Airy, NC

Directions from the Mount Airy Hampton Inn: Begin 2029 Rockford Street, Mt. Airy. Head northeast on Rockford Street toward Mountain View Rd, go 1.3 miles (about 3 minutes). Destination will be on the left.

Visitors Center — 200 North Main Street, Mt. Airy, NC

Directions from the Mount Airy Hampton Inn: Begin 2029 Rockford Street, Mt. Airy. Head northeast on Rockford Street toward Mountain View Rd, go 13 miles. Turn left on Graves Street. Turn right onto West Oak Street. Turn right onto North Main Street; destination will be on the left.

Mayberry Campground — 114 Bunker Road, Mount Airy, NC

Directions from the Mount Airy Hampton Inn: Begin 2029 Rockford Street, Mt. Airy. Head southwest on US-601/S. Rockford St. toward Stewart Dr., go 2.3 miles (about 5 minutes). Turn left onto S. McKinney Rd go .3 miles (about 2 minutes). Take the first left onto Rustic Village Trail, go .2 miles. Turn right onto Bunker Rd. Destination will be on the left.

First Baptist Church — 714 North Main Street, Mt. Airy, NC

Directions from the Mount Airy Hampton Inn: Begin 2029 Rockford Street, Mt. Airy. Head northeast on Rockford Street toward Mountain View Rd, go 1.3 miles (about 3 minutes). Turn left onto Graves Street. Take the first right onto W. Pine Street. Turn left at the 2nd cross street onto US 52 Business N. Destination will be on the right.

The 27th Annual Reunion of the Descendants of the Original Siamese Twins

July 30, 2016
First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
714 North Main Street
Mount Airy, North Carolina





Eng's Homeplace, White Plains, NC



Chang's Homeplace, White Plains, NC

Eng and Chang Bunker were born May 11, 1811 in Maeklong, Siam (Thailand) to Nok and Ti Eye. They died in 1874 at the age of 62. Other than being a medical miracle, they were more well known during their time than Abraham Lincoln and according to Cynthia Wu (author and cultural scholar) the most well traveled celebrities of their time.

Program

11:00 a.m. Gather, Register, and Socialize

11:30 a.m. Welcome / Lunch . . . . . Zack Blackmon Jr.

Miss Andear Saiyatsahit will be performing a Classical Thai Dance on stage prior to lunch to celebrate the Reunion and the Ambassadors visit.

Blessing . . . . . Homer Bunker

12:00-12:25 Life of the Twins - Living Document . . . . . Jim Haynes

12:25-12:50 Roll Call of Descendants (by family) - Melvin Miles

Eng & Sallie (Yates) Bunker	Chang & Adelaide (Yates) Bunker
Katherine (1844-1871)	Josephine (1844-1867)
Julie (1845-1865)	Christopher (1845-1932)
Stephen (1846-1920)	Nancy (1847-1874)
James (1848-1921)	Susan (1849-1922)
Patrick (1850-1938)	Victoria (1852-1896)
Rosalyn (1852-1852)	Louise (1855-1934)
William (1855-1932)	Albert (1857-1944)
Frederick (1857-1886)	Jesse (1861-1909)
Rosella (1859-1941)	Lizzie (1863-1950)
Georginia (1863-1865)	Hattie (1863-1945)
Robert (1865-1951)	

12:50 Memorial – Recognition of Family Members who have passed since the last reunion . . . . Sarah Bunker Mueller

1:00 Financial Report of Reunion Committee . .Zack Blackmon Jr.

1:05 Homer Bunker to Recognize the following:
1) First Time Attendees
2) Descendants of Yates Family
3) Oldest Descendant of Eng/Chang
4) Youngest Descendant Attending Reunion
5) Descendant Traveling Greatest Distance to Attend Reunion

Remarks by. . . . . Elected Official(s)

Special Guest Remarks. . . . . His Excellency Pisan Manawapat
Thailand Ambassador to the United States of America

Plans for Next Reunion / Wrap up / Socialize

2:30 Tour of Bunker Family Sites. . . . . Melvin Miles

We hope you have enjoyed the 27th Annual Bunker Reunion.

Special thanks to all of those who assisted in making this Reunion a success and especially the Royal Thai Embassy for providing lunch.

This Reunion has become an event where new relationships are born and long lost cousins have been found. Additionally, researchers have used this occasion to meet and interview descendants of the Twins.

Please share your stories and experiences so that our remarkable heritage will be kept alive for future generations.

We also welcome the Yates Family who are related and connected to the Bunker Family.

Have a safe trip home. We look forward to seeing you again next year.

* Anyone wishing to have their name(s) added to the Reunion mailing list please contact Albert Blackmon at albertblackmon@gmail.com or phone (336) 972-9049.

The Siamese Twins with their Wives and 18 of their 21 Children

Not pictured (Katherine, 1844-1871), (Rosalyn 1852-1852), (Georginia 1863-1865)





BUNKER REUNION

Bunkers

Twins Wed Sisters In Old Tale

In a newspaper column dated August 13, 2000 about the Siamese Twins, Ruth Minick related the story of Eng and Chang Bunker when they met the Yates sisters. The story goes like this. It seems the Twins were tired of their travels and in a visit to the countryside around Trap Hill, N. C. they so fell in love with the life and people they decided to stay.

Popular, they were invited to social gatherings. In one party celebrating the marriage of their friend "Doctor" Harris, who had fallen in love with a local lass, they espied two sisters, Sallie Ann and Adelaide Yates, daughters of a prominent Wilkes farmer.

"Doctor" Harris and his bride settled in a little spot near the Stone Mountain and took up farming. The Twins were so enamored of the place that they decided to stay near their friend. They bought a little farm and store and began the business of trading.

In the course of their work and their social life they often stopped and visited Farmer Yates and his two daughters.

Mrs. Yates was a curiosity just like the Twins. She was about five feet seven inches tall and measured about nine feet in circumference. Her weight could never be measured accurately because no scales could measure her. It was tried one time by using two scales and putting sort of a platform between. But even that did not work. So her true weight had to be estimated. And it was thought to have been around five hundred pounds. Mrs. Yates was considered to be the heaviest woman in the state and probably in the nation. When she died a special opening had to be made in her home so that her coffin could be gotten into it.

Eng and Chang felt a special kinship with the family. They also fell in love with the sisters. The Twins were very musical, could make sweet music on the flute. They often entertained the Yates family with their playing.

Finally, after an acquaintance of about five years, they decided to see how they stood with the sisters and learn the worst. So, on the next visit the Twins declared their love. Miss Adelaide was receptive and gave Chang the assurance he needed. Eng was not so fortunate.

The next visit found Miss Adelaide at home, but Miss Sally was absent. It was certainly a very unfavorable sign for Mr. Eng. Eng was in a sad dilemma. He was fearful that his rival, perhaps the young parson, had already won the affections for which he was pining.

So Eng decided to enlist the help of his brother and his love. He asked for their help.

(Ruth continues her tale in her column dated August 20, 2000.)

Eng, and probably Chang, decided upon a strategy. Since they were already prosperous and had built a nice house it was decided to take Sally on a tour. The deed was done and it worked. Sally decided to marry Eng. But both sisters had an obstacle to overcome. The father did not approve of the matches, not because of their deformity but because of their yellow race. So the pairs decided to elope.

(Ruth continues with the narrative as told by Judge Porter Graves.)

"As it turned out the parents found out about the plans; and since the couples had decided to marry anyway the parents arranged for them to marry at home which they did in a private ceremony followed by a bountiful feast. It was April 13, 1843.

"The next day the couple repaired to the home of the Twins which had been furnished in the manner of the neighbors, simple, plain, but comfortable. There were the usual articles of furniture, tables, cupboards, wooden chairs of hickory and with woven bottoms of stripped white oak bark, one of which was very wide. There was also a wide, wide bed. Furthermore, not only did the house of the Twins have a set of silver spoons but a set of silver forks as well. The home was "elegant". The newlyweds were comfortable and happy.

"Here, Judge Graves makes an observation: 'It has been charged by some that these ladies were actuated by mercenary motives--a charge most unfounded in fact, as an examination of the circumstances will show. Miss Adelaide, who was undoubtedly the first to fall in love was at the time of her marriage only seventeen years of age.'

"The children began to arrive, one to each couple the first year; another to each couple the second year.

"The Twins early on had abandoned their store business and decided to devote their time and energies to farming. With the arrival of four children in two years it became apparent to the twins that they must find a better farm. There came to their ears a farm for sale near Mount Airy. The Twins, after a trip to look over the property which proved to be well watered and fertile, decided to buy which they did, paying about $3,750 for the property. The year was 1845.

"The couples moved. The dwelling house 'was one of those old buildings erected by the early settlers, constructed of weighty hewn logs subsequently weather boarded and the western end of which was occupied almost all the way across by a great stone chimney and a fireplace eight or ten feet long of capacity logs of wood. There was one main room below in which the big family bed was placed, and which was used for sleeping, eating and receiving company, two or three little bedrooms of closets, in the half-story above.'

"A reputation for honesty and strict punctuality in all their dealings having preceded them from their home in Wilkes, they were very well received when they came with their families to reside in Surry. The best people of the county called to see them; and in return were visited by them on terms of greatest sociality. It may be mentioned, in order to show fully and distinctly the terms upon which why lived among their neighbors, that a few polite ladies and gentlemen of the county met at their house of social employment.

"Now that they were fairly settled down again they went to work with great zest. The facility with which they handled all kinds of tools and instruments was really very surprising. No ax-man could excel them chopping wood or hewing with a broad-ax; as they greatly prided themselves upon the neatness and celerity with which they could 'carry up the corner' of a long building. They were almost as apt in the use of the drawing knife as the most expert wheel wright. They could plane like a joyner and used the hand saw like a house carpenter, and with the hoe they could surpass the best corn field farmer. They could nail in weatherboards, put up rafters, put on shingles, make and skillfully hang fates. They could reap and sown. They could drive four-in-hand as well as any

stage driver ever drove in the good old days, when the United States mail was carried in coaches. In short they could do almost anything that other men could do."

So the Twins settled down happily at their new homes. But the Civil War came along which impoverished them somewhat. Of course they lost all their slaves. So they decided to recoup their fortunes somewhat by visiting Europe. This they did to Russia and to England. To Russia they took two boys, one from each family. To England they took two girls, one from each family. They appeared before the monarchs in both countries, and were successful in both. They died in 1874.

(From the Mount Airy News, columns of Ruth Minick dated August 13 and August 20, 2000)

Submitted by Wilma Hiatt

Wilma,

I couldn't find one thing Brenda Ethridge asked for and returned her $10.00 check. I told her I'd try to get Mel White's address. (Don't know if he'd have any tips to help or not!)

(I sent Wilkes Co. Ann address to her.)

Grace Smith
Servant of
Bunkers

CK $10.00

Brenda Ethridge
6305 Inwood St
Cheverly, MD 20785

4/10/03

Dear Ann;

I was referred to you by Esther Johnson in Surry County, N.C. She thought you may be able to locate documents that are most Valuable to my genology search. I am an African American and am descended from a slave, Grace Gates-Smith. She was called Aunt Grace By the Eng Bunker family of White Plains, N.C. She was given to Eng + Sallie Bunker as a wedding gift in 1843, possibly by Sallie's father David Yates of (Mulberry Creek) outside Wilkes County.

My ultimate interest is locating a bill of sale or some other source that would reveal where she came from in the state of Alabama. (The US Census of 1910 states she + her parents were born in Alabama)

(Marriage) C-3400 – Can you locate death certificates for her sons Jim Smith (AKA James H. Smith) B.D. 1846) His wife was Susan Brower B.D. 1859. There may be a death certificate for Aunt Grace's two other sons Jack Smith (John) Who was 25 y.o. in 1880 U.S. Census. (He was 19 y.o. in 1870 census)? Jacob is possibly a 3rd son, listed as 20 y.o. with Jim + ~~Jack~~ Jack in 1870 Census. Death certificates may list them together as sons of Aunt Grace. This may lead me to entirely unknown family members. Also please search for death certificate or

any other source on Jerry Hayes listed in US Census of 1880 as a brother (90 y.o.) to Aunt Grace.

I realize you work in Lamar County and may not have access to Milam County sources to locate records of David Yates; However if you have suggestions on contact-sources I can contact by mail please inform me of same.

Please inform me of costs of copying any information you locate and cost of mailing.

Thank you,
Brenda Ethridge