

Surry County

Foot Prints

IN

THE

Hollows

P. M. COE

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2. The Discoveries of *John Carter*
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University of Virginia Press, Charlottesville, Va.
Wachovia Historical Society, Winston-Salem, N. C.

* * * *

3. The Footprints in the "Hollows"
1867-1949

or

State Department SURRY COUNTY and history
1956

and

4. History of North Carolina, Vol. 3
High T. H. Hester
HER PEOPLE

by

5. Historical Sketches of North Carolina
WILLIAM FRANKLIN CARTER, JR., and CARRIE YOUNG CARTER
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6. Life and Character
Printed by David Caldwell, D.D.

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University of Virginia Press, Charlottesville, Va.
Wachovia Historical Society, Winston-Salem, N. C.

3. The Formation of North Carolina Counties
1663-1949
by
David Leroy Corbitt
Raleigh

State Department of Archives and History
1950

4. History of North Carolina, Vol. 1
by
Hugh T. Lefler, Ph.D.
1951

5. Historical Sketches of North Carolina
from 1584 to 1851
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Col. John H. Wheeler
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6. Life and Character of the Rev. David Caldwell, D.D.
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7. The Old North State in 1776
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FOOTPRINTS IN THE HOLLOW

A footprint is an individual symbol which places the stamp of ownership wherever it is found, whether it is made by bird, beast or man and the footprints

which have crossed the valleys of this "The Hollows", tell

a story all their own.

In the long ago the only visitors to the soft earth of this region

were those of the wild creatures of the forest and fields. Then the Red Man came

and left his tracks in the soft earth of this region.

As he came the north, leaving the imprint with his proud step, the footprints

of his trails that led in and out of the hollows upland country. He left his

mark in many places when he disappeared into the vast Sandstone Mountains from

one of the tribes, the Saura, Remo, or another family tribe which inhabited the

area known as Remo Hill, Jackson River, and other places which we get the name of our

area and hollows County, and others with their legends.

The name "The Hollows" was given to the area by the early pioneers. Beginning in

the early days it was encircled by the Blue Ridge Mountains

to the east and west. Stretching from the Clinch River and eastward to where

the Clinch River entered the hollows, it was watered by the many small

streams which flow from the mountains.

The historian, E. W. Conditors, in one of his books on Evolutionary War

states that many of the legislators from Guilford County escaped the vengeance

of the British army, after the Battle of Alamance, by taking refuge in "The

Hollows" of Surry County. Here they remained until the Royal troops had returned

to their homes and were to fight again when independence was declared.

It is believed that many of the early pioneers, leaving their footprints behind as they

traveled through the hollows of things, that this book is written. Many

of the early pioneers in the hollows have left their store of family histories and their

legends which would be found in many places.

8. History of Surry County
or
Annals of Northwest North Carolina
by
J. G. Hillingsworth
1935

9. Facts about Surry County
by
J. S. Atkinson
1949

Family Genealogies
by
Lillian Reeves Wyatt

Private papers and information
contributed by
Hon. S. P. Graves
Judge W. F. Carter
J. H. Fulton
C. H. Haynes
Mrs. E. H. Kochtitzky
and
many other Surry County residents

FOOTPRINTS IN THE HOLLOWES

A footprint is an individual symbol which places the stamp of ownership wherever it is found, whether it is made by bird, beast or man and the footprints which have crossed and recrossed the hills and valleys of this "The Hollowes", tell a story all their own.

In the long ago the only visible footprints in the soft earth of this region were those of the wild creatures of the forest and fields. Then the Red Man came down from the north, marking the untrod land with his proud step, the footprints becoming trails that led in and out of this gracious upland country. He left his name in many places when he disappeared into the west; Sauratown Mountains from one of the tribes, the Saura; Renfro from a small family tribe which inhabited the ridge known as Renfro Hill; Yadkin or Yattkin from which we get the name of our river and Yadkin County, and others with their legends.

Who named "The Hollowes" is not known nor its exact boundaries. Beginning in the foothills it was encircled by the beautiful sweep of the Blue Ridge Mountains on the north and west. Stretching south to the Yadkin River and eastward to where the stately Pilot marked the gateway into it, it was watered by the many small rivers and creeks which flowed down from the mountainsides.

An early historian, E. W. Caruthers, in one of his books on Revolutionary War Times, stated that some of the Regulators from Guilford County escaped the vengeance of Governor Tryon, after the Battle of Alamance, by taking refuge in "The Hollowes" of Surry County. Here they remained until the Royal troops had returned to Edenton, then came home to fight again when independence was declared.

It is of those who came long ago, leaving their footprints behind as they builded (built) the Surry County of today, that this book is written. Many people have contributed to it from their store of family histories and their memories. To those footprints which cannot be traced we pay silent homage.

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BEGINNINGS IN CAROLINA

Long before any settlers came into Carolina there were forces at work which would send colonies into the lands south of Virginia.

The strange disappearance of Sir Walter Raleigh's colony, established on Roanoke Island in 1587, had discouraged further expeditions to these parts. The ship owners, preferring the placid waters of the bays to the dangerous reefs off that island, had richly populated the Virginia province and the shores northward while the chartered lands of Sir Walter Raleigh lay uninhabited save for the native Indians.

It was more than fifty years after the English established their first colony at Jamestown that another effort was made to occupy the lands between Virginia and the French Huegenot settlements in Florida. The year was 1663 and Charles II was King of England. His road to the throne had been rough and stormy after suffering exile following the execution of his father, Charles I.

As the new king took up his duties he may have had documents, kept during his father's reign, brought to him. Among those papers was a charter, written in 1629 granting to Sir Robert Heath, the King's attorney general, a vast tract of land in the new world. It had been given the musical name of "Carolana". Investigation proved that no colonies had been established under this charter. The king was indebted to eight powerful lords for their invaluable aid in the restoration of his kingdom and here was a handsome way to repay them. A new charter was written, the name changed to Carolina, and eight Englishmen became the owners of all the land lying between Virginia and northern Florida and stretching westward to the "South Seas". Their names have been perpetuated in the counties, towns and waters of the Carolinas. The name of one was inscribed on every original land grant in Surry County up until the year 1777. From the introduction to the "Charter to the Lords Proprietors of Carolina", written in 1663, comes these interesting sketches of each Lord Proprietor -

Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon, who had gone into exile with Charles and had been a leader in restoring the monarchy.

George Monck, Duke of Albemarle, who had been commander of troops under Cromwell, had used his influence over the army to provide decisive assistance in affecting the restoration of the monarchy,

William Craven, Earl of Craven, had contributed large sums of money to Charles' cause and he had lost much property through confiscation to the commonwealth.

John Berkeley, Baron Berkeley of Stratton, had gone to London to plead openly for the life of Charles I: consequently he had been forced to flee to Paris where he had to live in exile until the restoration.

Anthony Ashley Cooper, Baron Ashley of Winbourne St. Giles, had supported Cromwell for awhile, but later he had opposed him in Parliament and had been influential in returning power to that body as the first step in restoring the monarchy.

Sir George Carteret, Governor of the Isle of Jersey, had provided hospitality to Charles and his retinue during the exile and had contributed substantial sums for arms and ammunition for the Royalist forces.

Sir William Berkley, Governor of Virginia, had kept his colony loyal to Charles and had aided Cavaliers who sought refuge in Virginia.

Sir John Colleton, had raised troops and had contributed substantial money for King Charles' cause; he later became a planter in Barbados.

Truly a princely group, these Proprietors of Carolina!

Although control by this Charter passed out of existence before any settlers came to western Carolina, it showed such thoughtful consideration for the people whom they hoped would colonize their lands that it seems fitting to set down a few of the articles.

Two of the provisions are familiar and cherished by Carolinians today; one is representative government which reads -

.....'except in emergencies laws promulgated by the proprietors be enacted with the advice, assent and approbation of the Freemen of the said Province or a greater part of them, or of their delegates or Deputies, whom the Proprietors were to assemble from time to time'.

The second provision - religious tolerance -

In Articles 86 and 87 of the Fundamental Constitutions of 1669 it is revealed that while the Church of England is the established church in the Province, the Proprietors were given license, liberty and authority to permit all religious groups to follow their own forms of worship. They expected everyone to have a religion. Quote -

"No man shall be permitted to be a Freeman of Carolina or have any estate or habitation within it that does not acknowledge a God and that God is to be publicly worshiped...but since the natives of that place, who will be concerned in our plantation, are utterly strangers to our Christianity, whose Idolatry, Ignorance or Mistake gives us no right to expell or treat them ill; and those who remove from other parts to plant there will unavoidably be of different opinions concerning matters of Religion, the liberty whereof they will expect to have allowed them, and it will not be reasonable for us, on this account, to keep them out; and that civil peace may be maintained amid a diversity of opinions, and our agreement and compact with all men may be duly and faithfully observed... therefore any seven or more persons agreeing in any religion shall constitute a church or profession to which they shall give some name to distinguish it from others"-

Article 88 provided that -

... "The terms of admittance and communion with any church or profession shall be written in a book and therein subscribed by all the members of said church or profession".

Contained in Article 90 -

"It shall be lawful for slaves, as all others, to enter themselves and be of whatever church any of them shall think best, and thereof to be as fully members as any Freeman."

These are but a few of the many rules and regulations contained in the Carolina Charters and Constitutions, and as the colonies progressed toward statehood the observance of these laws remained in the hearts of the people.

Slaves attended the church of their owners where space was provided for them; marriages were performed and funeral rites said by a minister of the church wherever possible and each family had its own graveyard on the plantation with a section for the slaves. It was in these churches that the slaves heard the Bible stories which they formulated into the hauntingly beautiful old negro spirituals which have come down to the present times.

The granting of this Charter, which is now preserved in the North Carolina State Department of Archives and History at Raleigh, marked the beginnings of colonization in the Carolinas.

The eastern section along the coast and inland as far as the rivers were navigable, became rather thickly settled by 1730 but west of these settlements was virgin country, the home of the native Indians. There were a few trading posts in the interior where traders came and met to barter with the Indians, the traders coming from Virginia and from the Spanish settlements to the southwest. One of these trading posts was on the Yadkin River, called Yattkin by the Indians and was well known to the early settlers.

The Granville District

Since all of this section of North Carolina was contained within the Granville District it seems fitting to give a brief explanation and description of it. In 1729 the rule of the Carolinas by the Lords Proprietors came to an end when all except one of them sold their interest to the English Crown. Lord Carteret, first Earl of Granville, refused to sell his share, retaining his property rights but relinquishing all governing authority. The question of the location of his property was one which took time, many surveys and several sets of appointed commissioners to answer. The final settlement gave to Lord Granville a tract beginning on Hatteras Island, crossing the state about midway and continuing to the mountains. The northern boundary was the Virginia line. To understand these measurements it must be remembered that the Carolina Grant included what is now North and South Carolina, Georgia and a small part of Florida. Thus the Granville District covered about half of the state, excepting grants made by the Crown before the final settlement in 1744.

The Earl of Granville is said never to have come to see the vast and richly endowed land that was his in the New World but administered his property through agents who executed grants and collected rents. Most of these grants were for a few hundred acres though a person could have more than one grant. A notable exception was the very large grant made to Moravian leaders in Saxony, Germany in 1752. This tract contained 100,000 acres, known as Wachovia Grant and was located within the original boundaries of Surry County.

All the lands not sold within this district became the property of the state of North Carolina by the passage of the confiscation Act of 1777. The Granville heirs did not give up their title without a fight which was carried on through the courts first, through the Treaty of Paris, 1783, and later through the U.S. Minister in Paris. The case was then tried in the U.S. Court, (Circuit), at Raleigh in 1805. On February 4, 1817, the case was finally dismissed with the Granville heirs failing to recover any of their vast holdings.

(Lefler's History of North Carolina, Vol. 1).

Note - The Confiscation Act declared all land to which any person had title on July 4, 1776 and who on that date was absent from the United States and still absent or had attached himself to the enemy, or who, since that date had removed from the United States and remained absent, was confiscated unless the owner should appear before October of 1778 and become a citizen.

John Lederer, Explorer

The people who settled the eastern shores of North Carolina made no attempt to penetrate the western parts of the grant. To do so meant to travel through the dangerous territory of the Tuscaroras so it was from the north that a door was opened into central and western Carolina.

A young German medical student is credited with being the first European to explore the Piedmont section and leave behind a record of his travels.

John Lederer had come from Germany in 1668 or 1669, visiting the Virginia colony. Here he became greatly interested in the American Indian, his habitation, his customs, beliefs and way of life. He wanted to go into the country where they still reigned supreme, without the presence or threatened interference of the white man. In Governor Berkeley of Virginia he found the patron he needed. The Governor, one of the Lords Proprietors of Carolina, was anxious to open the western part of their dominion and in John Lederer he saw a daring young man who might well fill the requirements; however, two years previous to this the Virginia Assembly had commissioned a Major Harris to explore the mountains and western parts of the country.

So it was Major Harris who was in charge of the expedition which set out on the 20th of May 1670, with twenty colonists, five Indians and Lederer. Their primary purpose was to find a way through the mountains to the west, solving the mystery of what lay beyond. Did the China Seas break its waves on the other side of the mountain ranges? The Indians often spoke of great waters - were they rivers or seas?

The party traveled west for ten days or more to where they reached the foot of the mountains. Here they found the going too rough for riding whereupon they decided to turn back, all but Lederer. The Major ordered him to return with the party and would have forced him had Lederer not shown him a commission from the Governor, granting him permission to continue his travels even though the others turned back. When the Major saw this he gave Lederer his gun and bade him a last farewell, or so he thought.

Lederer with one Susquehanna Indian named Jackzetavon, set out on what was to be an exciting and rewarding journey into Indian country.

At the end of his long and dangerous expedition, instead of receiving the acclaim due him, Major Harris and his party, through influential friends, managed to discredit all that Lederer had done and practically expelled him from the colony.

Lederer had kept a diary of his trip, written in Latin, and this he gave to William Talbot, Secretary of the Maryland Province, who befriended him after he left Virginia. Talbot carried the diary to England where he had it printed in English in 1671. It is from reprints of this diary that we are able to travel with this young explorer into a strange and sometimes frightening country.

After leaving the party, Lederer changed his course to go south by southwest. Avoiding the mountains he entered Carolina near the center of the state, going westward until he crossed the Yadkin River, then south to the present South Carolina line. By charting his course from one village to another, he was able to travel the trails of the Indians, making his journey less hazardous. He found that all the tribes spoke the same language though they differed in dialects. Quoting from him on the manners and customs of the Indians inhabiting the western parts of Virginia and Carolina -

"The Indians now seated in these parts are none of those the English moved from Virginia, but a people driven by an enemy from the Northwest, and invited to sit down here by an Oracle above four hundred years since...for the ancient inhabitants of Virginia were far more rude and barbarious, feeding upon raw flesh and fish until these taught them to plant corn and showed the use of it.

"But before I treat of their Ancient Manners and Customs, it is necessary that I should show you by what means the knowledge of them has been conveyed from former ages to posterity. Three ways they supply their want of letters: first by counters, second by Hieroglyphicks, thirdly by Tradition, delivered in long tales from father to son, which being children they were made to learn by rote. For counters they use either pebbles or short scantlings of straw or reeds. Where a battle has been fought, or a colony seated, they raise a small pyramid of these stones, consisting of the number slain or transplanted. Their reeds and straws serve them in religious ceremonies: for they lay them orderly in a Circle when they prepare for Devotions or Sacrifice: and that performed, the Circle remains still; for it is Sacrilege to disturb or touch it; the disposition of the straws and reeds shew what kind of rites have been celebrated, as invocation, sacrifice, burial, etc. An account of time and other things, they keep on a string or leather thong tied in knots of several colors...

"They worship one God, Creator of all things, whom some call Okaee, others Mannith: to him alone the High Priest, or Peruki, offer sacrifice: and yet they believe he has no regard for sublunary affairs, but commits the government of Mankind to lesser Deities...good and evil spirits."

As Lederer travels into this unknown territory he says of it,

"I had just cause to fear these Indians because they had been in continual hostilities with the Christians, (whites), for ten years before; yet presuming that the truck I carried with me would procure

my welcome. I adventured to put myself into their power, having heard they never offer any injury to a few persons from whom they apprehend no danger; nevertheless they examined me strictly whence I came, whither I went and what my business was."

After three stops in villages in Virginia where he finds each a monarch with their own names and laws, Lederer reaches Oenock in Carolina. This village was built around a field where sports were a major attraction.

"Their houses were built of, not bark, but 'Watling and Plaster', round in shape with a small oven nearby for cooking. Their fields were planted with grain in abundance. Their government was a Democracy where the old men formed a council which enacted the laws."

Fourteen miles southwest Lederer comes to Watery. Here he finds a monarch whose subjects are slaves to him. Their barbarity fills him with such horror he hurries away. His next stop is with the Sara Indians. Here, he says, he is not far from the mountains which the Spaniards call Suala. This has been placed by later writings as probably near the Trading Post on the Yadkin River. Explorers who came into this region after Lederer found the Saras had moved up to the Dan River, north of Pilot Mountain, establishing an upper and lower Saura Town. From these villages probably comes the name Sauratown Mountains. These names are found on eighteenth century maps long after the villages were deserted. From Sara, Lederer traveled south by southwest for three days to reach Wisacky, a Waxhaw village, the largest he has yet seen. While spending two days here he learns of a powerful nation of bearded men who are only a day or two journey to the southwest. Thinking they may be Spaniards and having no desire to meet them, he turned homeward.

Although Lederer was discredited by his former companions, his advice, given freely to those who sought it, was invaluable to later travelers. He told of how trails were blazed by notching trees, of the supplies most suitable, such as parched meal instead of bread which soon molded; he advised on the way to approach a village and how to behave after being received; he marked the early dawn as the time to be on guard against attack, and he specified the kind of gifts to carry for trade and goodwill tokens.

The villages which Lederer visited were stable communities, made up of individual tribes, each village with a distinct name and the Indians living in the village being known by the name of his village or taking the name of the chief.

The Indian Nations

Jesse Hollingsworth's History of Surry County gives a comprehensive study of the Indian Nations inhabiting this western part of Carolina at the time of its settlement by the whites or palefaces, as they were known to the Indians. The Cherokees, the Cheraws, the Catawbas and the Sauras were all found west of the Tuscaroras' lands which occupied the central and eastern part of the state. The Cherokee being the strongest of these, they had gradually forced the others south-east toward South Carolina and Georgia. Col. Byrd in his report of the survey of the Virginia-Carolina line, in 1728, showed two Saura villages along the Dan River, but a few years later they were abandoned because of attacks from Cherokees and/or other tribes.

"The Cherokees were the mountaineers of the Southern Indians. Records show them to have been an aggressive people, and since their relations with white man began they have showed a tenacity of purpose that is difficult to match. In fact so wedded were these people to their mountains that even today they are in possession of a small part of their former empire and all the efforts of the national and state governments have failed to remove them from their mountain fastness.

"The original Cherokee territory comprised about forty thousand square miles. These Indians were especially fortunate in the type of leaders they had for the greater part of their dealing with the white men. One of the early travelers stated that the Cherokees in their disposition and manners 'are grave and steady, dignified and circumspect in their deportment; rather slow and reserved in conversation, yet frank and cheerful, humane; tenacious of the liberties and natural rights of man; secret and determined in their councils, honest, just, liberal and always ready to sacrifice every pleasure and gratification, even their blood and life itself, to defend their territory and to maintain their rights.'"

The Cherokees claimed all the mountain lands from Georgia to the Ohio River, including Kentucky. Holding as they did the great mountain barrier between the English settlements on the coast and the French garrisons along the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers gave them great power which they failed to make the most of because of divisions among the chiefs.

The Cherokees had their villages, farms, orchards, their individual family lives in which the marriage ritual consisted of an exchange of gifts and the approval of the women's council. The young warriors were allowed freedom of courtship and the process of divorce was as simple as the marriage rites. The woman simply returned to the home of her parents or the warrior left his dwelling for good. The children usually went with their mother.

Renfrow

Prior to settlements in the "Hollows" there was an Indian village along the Ararat River - or so there is reason to believe - built by a tribe of the Cherokees with a chief named Renfrow. The village, according to tradition was built along the river above the present community of Bannertown with the Chief's house on a high hill overlooking the village. The earliest settlers in these parts found this hill to be named Renfro Hill, a name it kept for at least two-hundred years, remaining a landmark in the town of Mount Airy until it was leveled to form the site for a new postoffice in 1932. A further cut was made through the hill a few years later for the construction of East Pine Street.

The stream which forms the eastern boundary of the town was known, it is believed, as the Renfrow Creek until it joined Lovill's Creek below town to become the Ararat, called Tararat. Several of the early deeds seem to point to this opinion

Indian Trails

"Prior to 1760 there was a network of Indian Trails which traversed the Piedmont and mountain sections of this state. There is a marked

similarity to our present day railroads and highway systems. The chief trail that traversed Surry County was the southwest fork of the Saura-Saponi trail; it joined the Occonee trail - the east and west route of travel - near where Boonville is located, crossed the Yadkin River to the north side and followed the course of the Ararat River to a section near present Mount Airy, then turned eastward, crossing north of the Sauratown Mountains and formed a junction with the Tutela-Saura trail near Martinsville, Va.

"There was another much traveled trail that followed the course of New River; the beginning of this one was at Tutela, near Salem, Virginia, and connected with the Occonee trail in the vicinity of present Wilkesboro, N. C.

"Between these main north and south routes there were less frequented trails along the Elkin, Mitchell, and Fishe Rivers, up the face of the Blue Ridge Mountains to points along the New River Trail."

-from Hollingsworth History of Surry County

First Settlers

Between this beautiful but isolated part of Carolina and the populous regions along the coast was the barrier of non-existent roads and no navigable rivers. The Yadkin River which might have afforded an open gate had it flowed east across the state, turned its course south into South Carolina where it lost its name as well as its waters in the Pee Dee River.

The lands of the powerful and hostile Tuscaroras also acted as a barrier between the East and West so it was from the North that settlers came, traveling down the "Great Wagon Road" from Philadelphia. The North Carolina maps of that day called this road the "Great Road from the Yadkin River through Virginia to Philadelphia". To the many who traveled it the only claim to greatness lay in its length as they slowly made their way along it with their horses, wagons, cattle and families.

"The road began at Schuylkill River ferry on the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania thence through York to Williams' Ferry on the Potomac where it entered the great valley of Virginia, passing through Winchester, Strasburg and Staunton, crossing the James River at present Buchanan and turning almost due south to the present site of Roanoke, thence eastward through Staunton Gap of the Blue Ridge, then southward, crossing the Blackwater, Irvine, and Dan Rivers on to Wachovia on the Yadkin River. By 1756 it had reached the present site of Salisbury."

-This information from Lefler's History of North Carolina, I

As this road came down into Carolina along the Sauratown Mountains, we assume that some of the travelers turned west instead of following the road south, and faced toward the curve of the Blue Ridge Mountain ranges. Perhaps they followed Indian trails as they came into the great saucer that stretched from the Yadkin River to the foothills. Here in the "Hollows" they came to make their homes, (far

from the persecutions of the Old World and the exactions of the English Government along the coasts), and to know freedom in its sweetest sense.

Among those who came were Germans from war-torn Europe where for an hundred years there had been no permanent peace between the French and Germans, Catholic and Protestants. From the highlands of Scotland they came, and the Scotch-Irish, descended from the Scots who had been taken from their lands by the English in 1609 and transplanted to the swamps of Ulster in Ireland. They were so successful in turning the bogs into farms and grazing lands and the manufacture of their wool into goods that they found the hand of England raised against them. In 1699 an Act was passed prohibiting the exportation of any of their goods to any place except England and Wales. This was followed by a law excluding them from holding public office, practicing law or teaching school. Many of their churches were nailed shut. Their livelihoods and liberties thus curtailed, many of them sought transportation to the new world. According to writings of James A. Froude, an English Historian, this exodus to America "Robbed England of its bravest defenders of English interests in Ireland." "Twenty thousand left Ulster after the destruction of the woolen trade...Men of spirit refused to remain in a country where they were held unfit to receive the rights of citizens...Vexed with suits in ecclesiastical courts, forbidden to educate their children in their own faiths, treated as dangerous in a state, which, but for them would have no existence, they left it for the hope which was offered in America."

It was the Scotch-Irish who first detected the growing encroachment of English infringements on the right of the colonists. They were in the majority of those who organized the Regulator movement in Granville, Orange and Guilford Counties. In Mecklenburg they helped write the first Declaration of Independence from England that was penned in America.

The German Protestants who came down the Great Road to found the Lutheran communities in the Piedmont area were equally brave, industrious and militant.

It was here, in 1753, that the Moravians came, natives of the provinces of Moravia and Bohemia who had moved over into Germany to escape persecution for their religious beliefs. They came to settle on the vast land grant which had been purchased from the Earl of Granville. At this time the Moravians were living in Saxony under the leadership of a noble and consecrated Christian, Count Zinzendorf, though they had colonies in England before they came to America. Their first colony in America was called Bethlehem. It was in Pennsylvania. In 1752 the leaders in London applied for lands in Carolina and in the fall of that year, Bishop Spangenberg of Pennsylvania with five other members of the Bethlehem community came down to Edenton. They traveled the long miles from there to the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains looking for the most suitable location for their colony. The further west they came the more pleased they were with the land, the climate and the resources. The springs, creeks and rivers kept it well-watered; there was much timber as well as open fields for farming on the site they finally selected. From this report the secretary of the London Society obtained grants to nearly 100,000 acres of land in the three forks of Muddy Creek on the east side of the Yadkin River. The tract was named "Wachovia", probably from Wachau, the name of the estate of Count Zinzendorf. On October 8th, 1753, the record reads - "Twelve unmarried men set out from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in a large covered wagon drawn by six horses to begin the settlement of Wachovia. In the group was a minister, a physician, carpenters, farmers and men of other trades. From the first these men kept records of their daily activities, these becoming valuable histories

of the times and peoples of the section. In their records they state that settlers have already taken up lands west of the Yadkin River.

The Society of Friends, also known as Quakers, came into The Hollows between 1740 and 1760. They were of English descent, part of a colony which migrated from Pennsylvania to North Carolina. One group traveled down into the Piedmont settling in what would become Guilford County. The other came into The Hollows by way of the Sauratown Mountains taking up lands along Big Creek, Tom's Creek and other streams north and west of Pilot Mountain.

Other English settlers who came down into Carolina were for the most part from Virginia, some of them native born, others newcomers from England who found the prices too high and land too scarce in the Virginia Colony.

In the seventy years since Lederer had gone out from there to visit the Indians of Carolina, Virginia had become a land of vast plantations, worked by slave labor, and great houses copied from the mother country. There was much wealth in a society of leisure living while the small land owner was forced further west or south. The English custom of keeping a large estate intact at the death of the owner by bequeathing it to the eldest son, was followed here. Other sons received sums of money and a slave or two, while others had only the proud name of the family. These adventured into the uninhabited lands west and south of the Colony. The records of many who came to make homes in The Hollows show them to belong to families of those earliest settlers of Virginia.

Frontier Life

The life which opened up for these pioneers was a combination of hard work, privations, dangers and hardships flavored with the sweetest of all gifts from Heaven, freedom. Only people who have known the terrors of oppression can fully appreciate that word in its full meaning.

With high hopes for the future they set about constructing houses of logs and native stone and clearing lands for farming. The forests and fields offered game in abundance while the streams were abounding in fish. There was plenty of wild fruit in season and soon the vegetables would be appearing in the rich garden soil. The few cattle they were able to bring into the region would soon become herds and sheep would range the hillsides.

The houses were built with a great stone fireplace in the center of a wall and here all the food would be cooked. Crude furniture was made to add to the few pieces they were able to bring with them. The skins of animals furnished material for much of the clothing and for shoes. Deer skin was preferred for hats and leggings. The hides of large animals were tanned and made into harness, saddles, rugs and numerous articles; the bear skins being especially prized for making rugs. The cobbler's bench was a familiar object in many homes with its wooden molds for shoes ranging from a man's size to the tiny baby's mold that would fit into the hollow of a hand.

Nature had provided iron ore along some of the streams and this they mined and forged into farm implements, kettles, pots of various sizes and many of the needed commodities used in building, such as hinges, latches, iron bars; andirons, horse shoes and the crane which hung in the chimney. One such mine was located on the Tarrarat River, another on Tom's Creek near Pilot Mountain.

On the farms was grown a plant called flax, the fiber of which was used in making cloth. In nearly every home there were flax wheels set up which spun the flax into thread, the thread being transferred to heavy wooden looms where skillful hands wove it into cloth for clothing, bed and table linens. In the same way wool from the sheep was woven into clothing and blankets. Wood was most commonly used for making basins, bowls, spoons, tubs, etc. The man with the whittling knife found a welcome from the housewife. After wood came pewter for plates, cutlery, candlesticks and many other articles. Later on the traveling tinker would find his way into these parts, mending kitchen wares and sometimes having new wares to sell. In those days silver and china pieces were rare and greatly cherished.

Another object which was guarded with great care was the fire which burned constantly in the fireplace, being fed with huge logs which lasted for hours. Without it no food could be cooked and there was no warmth from the chill outside. If the fire died down beyond rekindling some one had to go to the nearest neighbor with a covered vessel to beg some live coals. This custom gave rise to a familiar question of that day, "Well, what's your hurry? Carrying coals of fire?" Two hundred years later it can still be heard in certain localities, when someone pays a hurried visit.

The first manufacturing plant was the grist mill. The huge grinding stones were cut and shaped by someone with a natural gift for it, but getting it into operation must have been a community project. Many settlers living along a stream would have their own mill while others preferred having a neighbor grind their grain. Some mills became popular meeting places for the settlers and here there would eventually be a general store, the barter system being often the means of exchange.

As different skills became evident among the settlers they were encouraged to follow a trade with the result that there soon were Wagon-makers, tanners, shoemakers, gunsmiths, carpenters, cabinet-makers, blacksmiths and others with special talents among the farmers. Thus they were and remained for many years an independent society.

From the "Old Countries" had come skills in making wines and whisky. The materials were there in the apples for brandy, the abundant harvest of grapes and berries for wines and the corn and rye for whisky. Too, they had persimmon and locust for beers. The women drank sassafras tea, made from a local shrub. (The dictionary defines sassafras as "American fragrant aromatic shrub of the laurel family").

In the listing of household goods found in old wills there is often mention of a still, counting it among the property bequeathed to heirs.

One of the problems encountered in frontier life was the difficulty in obtaining a marriage license. The Colonial government had decreed that all marriages came under the jurisdiction of the established church of England and must be performed by their clergy or an appointed court official. The scarcity of such clergy along the frontier coupled with the large fees charged by the magistrates, when they could be contacted, led to many couples simply taking their vows in the presence of family and friends or to dispense with the ceremony altogether. By 1766 the Colonial government was forced to recognize the futility of trying to enforce such a law and legalized all marriages which had been performed by "dissenting ministers" in the past and granting them all privileges of performing such duties in the future.

George Bancroft's History of the United States, published in 1854, has a chapter on the thirteen original colonies. In describing the upland section of North Carolina he has this to say - Time 1754 -

"A hardy and rapidly increasing people, masters of their own free wills lay scattered among the fertile uplands. There, through the boundless wilderness, hardy emigrants, careless of the strife in Europe, ignorant of deceit, free from tithes, answerable to no master, fearlessly occupied lands that seemed without an owner. Their swine had the range of the forest, the open greenwood was the pasture of their untold herds; their young men, disciplined to frugality and patient toil, trolled the brooks that abounded in fish and took their pleasant sleep under the forest trees; or trapped the beaver; or with gun and pouch lay in wait for the deer as it slaked its thirst at the running stream; or in small parties roved the spurs of the Alleghanies, in quest of marketable skins.

"How could Royal Authority force its way into such a region?"

When the line dividing North Carolina from Virginia was surveyed in 1727 William Byrd, one of the surveyors had this to say -

"The borderers laid it to heart if their land was taken in Virginia. They chose rather to belong to Carolina where they pay tribute neither to God or Caesar."

(From Hollingsworth's History of Surry County, page 16*). Quote -

"The survey of North Carolina line, made by Col. Byrd in 1728, stopped at Peter's Creek which is in Stokes County. The line was extended westward in 1749, the surveyors starting their work at Peter's Creek and continuing it west ninety miles to Steep Rock.

"The surveyors who were commissioned by North Carolina were William Churton and Daniel Weldon; those of Virginia were Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson.

"They left a map showing settlers in the area as follows: Cossart, 4000 acres at Yadkin Falls and 5000 acres at Mulberry Fields; Peter King on the headwaters of Fisher's River; Loven at junction of Loven's Creek and Rock Creek; Easley on Johnson's Creek; and Freeman at junction of Dan River and Deep Creek.

"This map is in the Congressional Library at Washington."

Wachovia

Counted among the blessings of those who settled in the "Hollows" should be the close proximity to Wachovia, the settlement of the Moravians. In contrast to the pioneers who came in singly or in families to build their homes on large tracts of land, widely separated from each other, the Moravians built their homes close together along a common street, thus forming a settlement. Their farmlands, orchards, vineyards and pastures extended beyond the village and were held in common. Of the twelve men who formed the first party to come to Carolina, each was a specialist in a particular trade. After clearing the land, building houses and planting the farms, they set up shops where they practised their trades and taught it to others. Their families and many others followed them from Pennsylvania and soon Bethabara, the first of the Moravian villages, became an important trading center, drawing people from the south and east as well as those north of the Yadkin. The physician who came with the first group was generous in administering to all who came to him.

In 1756 the French and Indian War spread to the south and the Cherokee Indians who had been friendly with the new colonies, now found many grievances and stirred up by enemy agents, went on the warpath.

Bethabara found it necessary to fortify their village and mill by building palisades of upright logs around them. As the Indians came down into the Yadkin Valley many settlers fled to the village and found it a haven of safety. Of the many who came there were some who wanted to stay near the fort instead of again facing the dangers of isolation. For these who were mostly Germans, speaking a common language, the Moravians built another village and called it Bethania.

An old newspaper article, written by Dr. D. L. Rights in 1949, gives this interesting item -

"In 1760 Bethabara was surrounded by hostile Indians. The light from their camp fires could be seen reflected in the snow. Suddenly the Indians disappeared. No one knew why. Weeks later an express rider, a mail delivery man of those days, reported to Bethabara that he had talked with Little Carpenter, chief of the Cherokees, who told him that his war party intended to massacre the inhabitants of the fort at Bethabara but they heard the ringing of a bell and the sound of trumpets and had decided not to venture an attack."

History tells us there were many Indian atrocities along the Yadkin and Catawba rivers before the Cherokees were driven beyond the foothills.

In 1766 the Moravians decided to move from Bethabara to a place further south on their land grant and so founded the town of Salem, moving the inhabitants from Bethabara to the new location. By doing so they brought themselves nearer the seat of local government, Rowan Courthouse. At this time Rowan extended from Anson County to the Virginia line.

The Moravians set an example for their neighbors in establishing schools for their children. As early as 1762 a day school was opened at Bethania. For the inhabitants of the upper country education depended upon home teaching; this later led to private schools held in the home of the teacher. Home teaching of children was voluntary but if a man had an indentured servant or an apprentice in his home, he was required by law to teach him to read, write and do sums up to five or eight. He must also be taught a trade, if a girl she must learn domestic tasks. At the end of the "Indenture" the master must furnish him or her with Freedom dues. These varied according to the length of service and included clothing, tools, barrels of corn and sometimes a feather bed for the girl.

This system of white servitude was of great value in the economic and educational life of the colonies. It provided homes for orphans whose parents died, leaving them without relatives; for children of vagrants, and other unfortunates. And it placed them in the better homes of a community as the laws were very strict as to the character and ability of the master. He had to appear in the county courts and sign certain oaths before being allowed to take a child into servitude. Some of these old records found in the county courthouses make interesting reading.

The Rangers

Between 1748 and 1760 the French and English were in constant conflicts over the territory west of the Alleghany Mountains extending north to Quebec. This, which was to become known as The French and Indian War, affected the Settlers in the Hollows too because of the animosities created by the French among the Cherokees, Creeks and other Southern Indians. In 1754 the Assembly, mindful of the dangers from these Indians, provided a company of Rangers under Major Hugh Waddell for the protection of the western frontier. A fort was built near the present site of Statesville and named Fort Dobbs in honor of Governor Dobbs.

In 1759 there were reports of "many horrible murders" by the Indians along the Catawba and Yadkin Rivers. On the night of February 25th, 1760, a group of Cherokee warriors surrounded Fort Dobbs but were beaten off by the troops under Major Waddell. At this critical time South Carolina called on North Carolina for aid against their warring Indians and Waddell was ordered to South Carolina with his company and as many additional recruits as could be raised.

From among the settlers another company of Rangers was recruited who took over the duties of protecting the frontier. They were under the command of Gen. Wade Hampton and guarded the regions from Mulberry Fields to the Blue Ridge Mountains and along them to a fort on Black Water and lands between the upper Yadkin and Dan rivers.

The uniforms of these Rangers consisted of hunting clothes with white buckskin leggings. They made a tour of the territory once a month and slept wherever night found them.

Anson and Rowan Counties

The search through old deeds and records reveals many names, changing the settlers from a group to individuals. Names of rivers and creeks spring up as boundaries on the many tracts of land; the white oak, the black oak and the post oak stand out as favorite corner-markers. "Purchased from the Earl of Granville" was on each original deed or grant.

All of the grants made before 1750 had to be handled through Bladen County which comprised all of the Piedmont and mountain regions from South Carolina to the Virginia line.

In 1750 Anson County was formed from the western part of Bladen and three years later, in 1753, Rowan was formed from the northern part of Anson extending from the Granville line which divided the state, through to the Virginia line, bordered on the east by the newly formed county of Orange. It was named in honor of Matthew Rowan, a prominent leader of the section and who, for a short time after the death of Governor Gabriel Johnston, was acting governor.

The boundaries of Rowan were, as ordered by the Royal Government -

"That Anson County be divided by a line to begin where Anson line crossed Earl Granville's Line and thence in a direct line north to the Virginia Line and that the said County be bounded on the north by the Virginia Line and the south by the Southermost Line of Earl Granville's Land. And that the upper part of said County so laid and divided be

erected into a County and Parish, by the name of Rowan County and St. Luke's Parish; and that all of the inhabitants of the westward of the said Line, and included within the before mentioned Boundaries, shall belong and appertain to Rowan County."

"The Hollows" and the Moravian Tract remained in Rowan County until Surry County was formed in 1770-71.

All deeds to any land in Rowan had to go through the Granville agents and in all the grants there was stipulated the obligations due the Earl of Granville in the form of quit rents, which fell due in the fall and spring. Due to the misconduct of some of these agents and surveyors many conflicts arose as to rightful owners of many tracts of land. In so vast a territory honest mistakes could and perhaps were made.

Among the early grants were several to Morgan Bryan, made in 1752. These lay scattered from Mulberry Fields to the Tararat River and south to the mouth of Deep Creek. One tract of 450 acres on the Yadkin River and Hogan's Creek he deeded to Samuel Freeman in 1771. The village of Siloam was later built on this tract. Another tract west of this one was also deeded to Samuel Freeman in 1767. The Bryans lived in the Mitchell River valley.

As grants were acquired along the Yadkin and Mitchell Rivers, others were being made to land nearest the Virginia border, watered by the Tararat (Ararat) River. In 1756 a 500 acre land grant was made out to Frederick Fulkerson which lay along this river near the Virginia line. Another deed to land on the north fork of the Tararat known as Blether's Creek bore the date 1761. Patrick Cole received a grant of 400 acres in 1762, the land being sold to Jonathan Osburn in 1774 and designated as

"On a creek known as Loving, being the middle fork of the Tararat River."

Other deeds show the presence of many families here in the Hollows as William Robeson with 200 acres; John Stewart, (name also spelled Stuart); John Childress, Quintin Pooler and Mrs. Susan Bledsoe. An attorney who handled many of these deeds was Major Andrew Baillie, (Bailey). Another name belonging to this period was Faulkner, his deed being recorded in Rowan County. His holdings were in this vicinity, a creek on the property being named Faulkner's Creek. One branch of this family later moved to Tennessee and down into Mississippi, giving foundation to a claim that the famed author and lecturer, William Faulkner, was of this early Surry family. The names of those who remained here somehow came to be written "Forkner". This change in spelling happened to many of the early settlers. All courthouse records and papers were handwritten, making spelling and penmanship very important. A name given orally would be written as it sounded unless the owner was present to spell it out, and a name could sound different from the way it was spelled. Names written illegibly often had the spelling changed in the copying to other papers. Sometimes families changed the spelling of their name for personal reasons.

These lands along the Tararat River and Loving's Creek where the waters met and mingled were to be the site of the village of Mount Airy.

Surry County

In 1769 the leaders of Wachovia with a few men from the Hollows, petitioned the Governor and the General Assembly to form a new County embracing the northern part of Rowan. At a meeting in December, 1770, this petition was granted, to become effective early in the year of 1771, and two new counties were formed, Guilford and Surry. Guilford was composed of the northwestern part of Orange and the northeastern part of Rowan. Surry was to begin forty-two miles north of the Granville Line in Rowan County and extend to the Virginia Line. The surveyors who were appointed to run the lines made the survey between Surry and Guilford and between Surry and Rowan but the western boundary was left unmarked. Here the land extended west to what would some day be Tennessee.

From this vast region have come the following counties -

First - Washington District, officially recognized in 1776 as a part of North Carolina. The inhabitants who had settled south of Virginia, along the Watauga, Holston, and Nolachucky Rivers and south into Iron Mtn. had petitioned the Safety Council in that year to allow them to set up courts and elect representatives to the General Assembly. This was favorably acted upon. Later when the state of Tennessee was formed this district lay mostly in that state.

Second - Wilkes County, formed from Surry and Washington District - 1778.

Third - Stokes County, formed from Surry in 1789.

Fourth - Ashe County, formed from Wilkes in 1799.

Fifth - Forsyth, formed from Stokes in 1849.

Sixth - Watauga, formed from Ashe, Wilkes, Caldwell and Yancey in 1849.

Seventh - Yadkin, formed from Surry in 1850.

Eighth - Alleghany, formed from Ashe in 1859.

When Surry was formed, its great size combined with the fact that Guilford came into existence at the same time forming the eastern boundary while far to the west no lines were chartered, caused many queries as to its actual size. So a description was coined which aptly described the state of mind of the proud citizen on the subject. With pardonable pride he described his county as -

"South to Rowan, North to Virginia, East to God knows where and West to the Judgement Day!"

The Formation of Surry County - 1770-71

An act dividing the northern part of Rowan County and erecting a new county and parish, by the name of Surry and Saint Judes Parish.

- I. *Whereas the large extent of the county of Rowan, renders it greivous and burdensome to many of the inhabitants thereof to attend the courts and General Musters, and other public businesses appointed thereof:*

II. *Be it enacted by the Governor, Council and Assembly and by the authority of the same, that from and after the first day of April next, the said County of Rowan be divided by a line beginning at a point forty-two miles north of the Earl of Granville's Line on Guilford County Line thence running north to the Virginia Line; thence westward along the Virginia Line to the mountains, thence along the mountains to the ridge that divides the waters of the Yadkin River and Catawba River; thence along the Rowan Line east of the beginning, be thenceforth erected into a Distinct County and Parish by the name of Surry and Saint Judes Parish.*

III. *And for the administration of Justice, be it enacted by the authority aforesaid that after the aforesaid first day of April, a court for aforesaid county of Rowan be constantly held by the Justices thereof, at the courthouse in the said county at Salisbury on the first Tuesday in February, May, August and November, in each year also that court for the said county of Surry be constantly held by the Justices thereof, at Gideon Wright's on the third Tuesday in February, May, August and November in each year, as by the laws of this province, and shall be by commission to the Justices of the said counties directed.*

Origin of the name Surry

In the Old Saxon language it meant South River and applied to the Southern part of England. The Duke of Surry was a powerful feudal lord who held a prominent place in the King's Councils.

At the time Surry County was formed the Lord of Surry was a member of Parliament and one who protested the taxing of the American Colonies by Parliament.

-Corbitt

First Courthouse - Gideon Wright's Homeplace

In Article III there is the statement designating Gideon Wright's home as the place for holding court until a proper place could be decided upon. The tradition is that Wright had courted favor with Governor Tryon by joining his troops at Alamance when the battle with the Regulators was fought. Prior to this he had traveled to Newbern in the interest of obtaining the privilege of locating the courthouse on his land.

Martin Armstrong, one of the surveyors, had also been to Newbern in the interest of the new county but being in sympathy with the Regulators, he stood small chance of obtaining favors from the Governor.

When agitation for a new county was first begun, it was thought the proper place for the county seat would be at Mulberry Fields, a meeting place for the people in the Hollows. This would have been about the center of the county as it was first drawn. Wright's home was too far to the east. Dissatisfaction over the location and disapproval of Wright's part in the Regulator troubles delayed the building of the courthouse indefinitely. Those who favored the Regulators gained a victory at the first meeting of the Surry Court, according to Hollingsworth's History of Surry County.

"At the initial county court held at Wright's house a Mr. Bonn was the first Justice of Peace to be sworn in as Judge. He was required to agree to a strange oath. By popular agreement of the Freemen present the Judges were freed of their allegiance to the King and Governors."

Boundary Lines Between Surry, Rowan and Guilford

The commissioners who made the original survey were John Dunn, Martin Armstrong and Anthony Hampton. A copy of their report, which is in the Surry County Courthouse has been made available to the State Department of Archives and History by Luther N. Byrd and duly attested by John G. Llewellyn, deputy clerk of the Superior Court of Surry County. The copy was made in 1941.

Two years after Surry was formed, in 1773, the line dividing it from Rowan was moved down six miles. An explanation for this is found in reading the report of the commissioners - The East-West line dividing Surry from Rowan ran through the Moravian Tract, placing a part of it in Rowan. The new survey included all the Moravian lands in Surry County.

The courthouse established on Wright's homeplace had never been more than a makeshift affair. The animosity between him and the commissioners who were appointed to construct the new building, being such that they could not or would not work together. The Surry tradition is that in 1774, Martin Armstrong obtained permission to move the location of the county seat from Wright's place to land owned by him and William Sheppard. In the volume, "Formation of North Carolina Counties" by Corbitt, it is stated that in 1779 the courthouse was established at Richmond on land of Colonel Martin Armstrong and William Sheppard. The first date 1774 is the one that has always been held as correct by the people of Surry.

Richmond Courthouse

(now known as "Old Richmond" in Forsyth County)

The new location for Surry County courthouse was about three miles east of the first one selected. Here a town was laid off and the men started a sale of lots, hoping to develop a central community which would grow into a town.

Although the central and northwestern part of the state had become quite thickly settled by 1770, no towns had been built with the exception of Hillsborough in Orange and Salem in Surry. Of the two, Salem was the larger. Salisbury had a courthouse and a few other buildings while Charlotte was but a small village.

Richmond was the county seat during the Revolutionary War and due to these troubled times between the building of the courthouse and the end of the war, only a few houses were built. The little place was often the scene of strife between the Patriots and the Tories, the latter being more numerous in the southern part of the county where Wright was the leader of the Tories. There was a Capt. Bryan also leader of a company of Tories, who may have been of the family of Morgan Bryan who received large grants of land in the Hollows in 1752.

The story has been told of Colonel Richmond Pearson, wealthy planter and merchant who lived in the valley of the Yadkin River. When the war spread to the south he joined a regiment commanded by a Captain Bryan, but not liking the Captain's ways, the Colonel whipped him with his fists; after which he led the boys

from the forks of the Yadkin to battle on the side of the Rebels while Bryan rode with the men from Dutchman's Creek, joining the Tories.

Armstrong and Lanier were leaders of the Patriots or Whigs as they were sometimes called.

Committees of Safety

In the years between the Battle of Alamance and the Declaration of Independence lines were sharply drawn between those loyal to the Crown and those settlers who were becoming more and more in favor of independence from England. The unrest was so great in some sections that it brought about the formation of committees of safety. In the latter part of 1774 and the early months of 1775, eighteen counties in North Carolina and four towns set up Safety Committees whose members were usually chosen at mass meetings. The most active and effective of these bodies were those of New Hanover, Pitt, Craven, Rowan, Mecklenburg, Tryon and Surry Counties.

Of these bodies of law enforcement men, historian Conner says this -

"Born of necessity, originating in the political and economic confusion of the times, they touched the lives of the people in their most intimate affairs, and gradually extended their jurisdiction until they assumed to themselves all the functions of the government. They enforced with vigor the resolves of the Continental and Provincial Congresses some of which were most exacting in their demands and burdensome in their effects.

"They conducted inquiries into the actions and opinions of individuals and not only determined what acts and opinions constituted a man an enemy of his country, but passed upon his guilt or innocence and fixed his punishment. They raised money by voluntary subscriptions, fines and assessments for the purchase of gunpowder, arms and other equipment for war. In short a revolution had to be inaugurated and it fell to these committees to do it."

Governor Martin denounced these "extraordinary tribunals" as "Motley Mobs" and "promoters of sedition". They certainly were extraordinary and from the point of view of a royal governor they did promote "sedition" but they were not motley mobs. Many of the men who served on them were persons of wealth, intelligence, character and culture. Most of them were leaders in their communities, among whom were - Cornelius Harnett, William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, Willie Jones, Abner Nash, Benjamin Cleaveland and others who achieved eminence in the history of the state and nation.

Surry County's Committee of Safety Benjamin Cleaveland - Chairman

Samuel Freeman	Richard Gorde	John Hamlin	Jesse Walton
Benjamin Herndon	Charles Lynch	John Armstrong	James Doke
Jesse Hampton	Augustus Blackburn	George Lash	Matthew Brooks
John Hudspeth	John Sneed	Malcolm Curry	Martin Armstrong
George Wheatley	Paul Patrick	Joseph Winston	John Pinchley

Frederick Alberton	David Martin	John Parks	David Allen
Matthew Moore	John Dunkin	William Hickman	Jacob Ferce
William Brown	James Jones	William Hall	Elijah Isaacs
Thomas Johnson	Joseph Phillips	Charles Waddle	Robert Lanier
Joseph Williams	William Hill		

-William Lenior, Clerk.

It was stated that -

Moravians Tragott Bagge, George Houser and Jacob Blume refused a place on the committee because of religious faith which forbade the bearing of arms, but pledged themselves to always be ready to obey those in authority.

Relations between the English Government and the American Colonies had become so strained by 1774 that a call was made, informally, by the Virginia House of Burgesses, for a Continental Congress. A letter was sent to each of the colonies asking for a congress to meet "to deliberate on all those general measures which the united interests of America may from time to time require".

Governor Martin refused to call the Assembly in time for the appointment of delegates to this meeting to be held in Philadelphia on September 1, whereupon a mass meeting was held in Wilmington, July 21, where it was decided to call for delegates to meet at New Bern on August 25. Thirty of the thirty-six counties sent a total of 71 delegates to this meeting - called the First Provincial Congress in North Carolina. From this body was selected the delegates to meet with the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia, September 1774. The men were Richard Caswell, William Hooper and Joseph Hewes.

Surry County did not send delegates to the first meeting at New Bern, the distance being so great, but when the Congress met the following year at Hillsborough, five men, selected from the Committee of Safety, were appointed Surry's delegates to the Provincial Congress, August 11, 1775. These men were Robert Lanier, William Hill, Joseph Winston, Martin Armstrong and Joseph Williams.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR

A list of officers who served in the Surry County Militia during the Revolutionary War is listed here. Some of these were appointed officers in the Continental Army and served with distinction.

Col. Martin Armstrong	Lieut. James Martin Lewis
Col. Richard Allen	Capt. Joel Lewis
Ensign John Brown	Lieut. William Lanier
Major William Bell	Col. Love
Lieut. John Barton	Major Gen. William Lenoir
Capt. Joseph Cloud	Col. James Martin
Capt. Joshua Coe	Col. John Martin
Col. Benjamin Cleaveland	Col. Matthew Moore
Capt. Robert Cleaveland	Ensign William Meredith
Col. William G. Dobson	Lieut. Elisha Reynolds
Lieut. Larkin Cleaveland	Ensign Minor Smith
Capt. Jesse Franklin	Col. Joseph Winston
Major Joseph Herndon	Col. Joseph Williams
Lieut. Col. Benjamin Herndon	Lieut. David Witherspoon
Lieut. Samuel Johnson	Col. John Stokes
Ensign William Jackson	Major William Bell
Major Micajah Lewis	Robert Lanier, Commissary Officer

Note: It is to be remembered that at this time all of the state west of Guilford and north of Rowan was included in Surry County. As the counties are formed from Surry, many of these names are found to be residents of the various counties. Wilkes became a separate county during the War, 1778.

Benjamin Cleaveland

Surry County's part in the Revolutionary War can best be told in the recorded activities of some of her sons, and of these would come first that man of courage, Benjamin Cleaveland. His name has been perpetuated in the county within whose borders lies a part of King's Mountain. Formed in 1841 the record reads,

"It was named in honor of Colonel Benjamin Cleaveland, a noted partisan leader of the western frontier and one of the heroes of King's Mountain."

(from North Carolina Counties - Corbett)

When Grover Cleveland became president of the United States in 1887, an act was passed changing the spelling from Cleaveland to Cleveland.

Benjamin Cleaveland was born a Virginian, May 26, 1738, Prince William County a son of John Cleaveland. As a boy he was bold and daring. One of the many stories told of this colorful man says that at the age of twelve he withstood a band of ruffians who threatened his home in the absence of the men of the household. Not liking the role of farmer he early became an explorer and hunter. These traits served him well in this rugged section of North Carolina he was to call home, for a season.

While still a youth, Ben's father moved to Orange County and it was here that Ben married Mary Greaves (Graves), of French and English descent. They moved to North Carolina in 1769, settling on Roaring River in that part of which was soon

to be Surry County. Here he found frontier strife and dangers. The native Indians who had been friendly with the earlier settlers were not to be trusted anymore. The settlers were forced to be on the alert at all times, frequently being called upon at a moment's notice to go in small detachments in pursuit of marauding parties of these Indians. They also had to keep scouting parties out and station guards at the most accessible mountain passes. These troubles continued until the expedition of General Rutherford and General Williamson against the Cherokees in 1776, in which all the lands east of the Blue Ridge Mountains were ceded to the white man by a treaty with the Cherokee Indian Chiefs. Benjamin Cleaveland, serving as a captain and William Lenoir as lieutenant, were members of this expedition. In a later report it is stated that there was not a tent of any kind for the men and the only blankets were those brought from home, the clothing was of rude cloth made from hemp, tow and wild nettlebark and the provisions scarce.

From the termination of this campaign until the victory at Yorktown, the Whigs were engaged in constant warfare with the Tories. A fort had been built at Mulberry Fields as a protection from the Indians and it was here that Cleaveland, now commissioned a colonel in charge of recruiting and training men for Surry's militia, had his headquarters.

Near by was a small mountain called Round Mountain, the top of which contained several acres of level land and from which the country for miles around was clearly visible. According to tradition, Cleaveland had a very large hunting horn which was capable of giving forth a mighty blast. With this horn the Colonel sounded forth the signals for the gathering of the troops. Distant outposts would pick up the sounds and pass them on. A lookout on top of Pilot would get the message for the eastern part of the country. This meeting place became known as "Rendevous Mountain" and here the officers and men who were to gain fame at King's Mountain received their training. Later they would be a part of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse.

Although the British did not enter the western part of the state until late in the war, there was, as has been mentioned, constant warfare with the Tories who roved in bands, hiding in coves, stealing and burning wherever they found a house unprotected. No man ventured from home without his gun and no one, unless his character was well known, was permitted by the Safety Committee to travel without undergoing the strictest examination.

This story is told of one of Colonel Cleaveland's encounters with the Tories. The Colonel had gone alone, on some private business, to New River and was taken prisoner by some Tories at Old Fields on the River. They demanded that he furnish them with passes into North Carolina. Being an indifferent penman he was some time preparing the papers, besides he was in no hurry believing they would kill him as soon as the papers were in their hands. Two of their men had been hung at Mulberry Fields prior to this, on the order of the Colonel.

"The depredations of the Tories were so frequent and their conduct so savage that summary punishment was demanded by the exigencies of the times." (A quote from historian, Dr. Caruthers.)

In the meantime Captain Robert Cleaveland with a party had followed his brother and, coming upon them unexpectedly, fired on the Tories. They fled leaving the Colonel unhurt.

There were milder forms of punishment used for petty crimes, one being called "to thumb the notch"; this being used one day as recorded by Wheeler's History.

A meeting of the militia was being held one day when Major William Lenoir noticed someone loitering near where the horses were tied. Going to investigate he caught a man stealing a stirrup from his saddle. The Major carried him to Colonel Cleaveland who ordered the culprit to place his thumbs in a notch in an arbor fork and hold them there for fifteen lashes. The punishment was well inflicted by a Capt. Beverly whose enthusiasm carried beyond the specified number, whereupon the Colonel ordered him to stop or receive punishment himself. Tradition says that on more than one occasion the culprit receiving punishment for his misdeeds was so impressed with the fair treatment of the Colonel that he asked to be allowed to join his company.

A band of Tories had their retreat on the north side of the Sauratown Mountains in a natural cave which later became known as Tory House. From this hiding place they came to prey on the settlers in that region, stealing horses, cattle and other property. Sometimes they killed the animals and left them in the fields. On one occasion they killed five horses belonging to Matthew Moore, a prominent Whig, by knocking them in the head with tomahawks, giving the impression that they had been killed by Indians.

Let it be said here that there were many honorable men who believed the revolution was wrong, men who remained loyal to England but they did not enter into the tactics of the "Bad Tories", the lawless bands which infested the county. These were the ones who made Tory a hated word. It was such bands as these that Colonel Cleaveland had to deal with in the years between 1775 and 1779 when the war entered the South.

One biographer has this to say of the Colonel -

"It was only by prompt and harsh treatment, administered by a rough and unsparing master, that the Whig families of the communities were saved from insults, cruelty and plunder. He was known and hated by all the Tory settlements for miles around. In his dealings with the enemy he was often cruel, sometimes brutal; yet it must be remembered that he was dealing with thieves, traitors and cowards with whom milder measures would have had little or no influence. Indeed it is difficult to predict what would have been the conditions and dangers in this section had it not been for daring 'Old Ben' and other similar spirits who dwelt in its borders. Ben Cleaveland, an honest and sincere patriot who loved his people and his country; to all Tories the terror of terrors but to all others the 'Jolly Old Round-about' of the Yadkin." (end of quote)

It was about this time that a family moved down into Surry County which was to greatly enrich the heritage of its people, whose lines have reached down through the steady growth of community life to the present time. The family was that of Bernard Franklin of Orange County, Virginia, who came in 1777 to settle on Mitchell River. The seventeen-year-old son Jesse, a future Governor of North Carolina, lost no time in joining his uncle, Colonel Cleaveland, as the family aligned itself with the cause of freedom. By so doing they became targets of the marauding Tories. The trouble they had with these bands is told in the story and incident section following the account of the war.

1778 - The county was now involved with the country at large in all the hardships of war and these, sufficiently great at any time or under any circumstances, were more than doubled by the fact that the enemy with whom the war was waged was domestic as well as foreign. The frequent calls for men, military stores, provisions, etc. which had to be furnished for the army from all parts of the state, together with the reports of the successes or disasters which attended the American Army to the north, were enough to keep the people in a constant state of suspense. At each success of the British the Tories became more emboldened in their attacks on the Patriots. To quote a familiar truth - "It was a time that tried men's souls."

The Battle of King's Mountain

The war came south in the winter of 1778 when Savannah fell and all of Georgia came under British rule. On May 12th, 1789, Charleston surrendered to British forces under Sir Henry Clinton, assisted by Lord Charles Cornwallis, the newly appointed British Commander for the south. This was a terrible blow to North Carolina as well as to her sister state. From this state had gone two brigades and about 1000 militiamen; resulting in the loss of 815 Continental soldiers and officers and about 600 militia from North Carolina being taken prisoners-of-war.

Soon after this, Sir Henry Clinton sailed north, leaving Lord Cornwallis to complete the conquest and re-establish British rule. He began his march toward the west where rebellion was strongest, and was heartened by the news of the British victory over American forces under General Gates at Camden, South Carolina.

The hopes of the American Colonies were at their lowest ebb. This victory strengthened the conviction of Cornwallis that North Carolina would soon be in British hands. In England it was reported that North Carolina was considered as only a road to Virginia.

Lord Cornwallis had sent Major Patrick Ferguson, with a force of about 900 men westward to subdue the people of the mountain regions who had been stubbornly resisting the British movement at every turn. Ferguson sent a messenger into Rutherford County to warn the people to desist from their opposition to the British or he would march his army over the mountains, hang their leaders and lay waste the country.

The hopes of the patriot for his cause was dimmed and many took protection under the British standard. Tories from both states formed a large part of Ferguson's army.

Confident that Major Ferguson could handle his assignment, Cornwallis had marched his army to Charlotte, there to await his arrival when they would then continue the complete subjugation of North Carolina. But neither he nor Ferguson knew the spirit of the Carolina frontiersmen. Firm as their native mountains they refused to be turned from the course they had chosen. From the eastern borders of Surry County, across the Hollows and the Blue Ridge Mountains to the lands that would some day be Tennessee, they came to join the men of Rutherford and Burke.

Down from the neighboring hills of Virginia came a troop of 400 men. The thrilling account of their maneuvers and the battle itself is told in a report written by the officers who commanded the American forces in the Battle of King's Mountain and sent to the Continental Army headquarters.

The Report

"On receiving intelligence that Major Ferguson had advanced as far as Gilbert Town in Rutherford County and threatened to cross the mountains to the Western Waters, Col. Wm. Campbell with four-hundred men from Washington County in Virginia; Col. Isaac Shelby with two-hundred and forty men from Sullivan County of North Carolina; and Lieut. Col. John Sevier with two-hundred and forty men from Washington County, North Carolina assembled at Watauga on the 25th day of September, where they were joined by Col. Chas. McDowell with one-hundred and sixty men from the counties of Burke and Rutherford, who had fled before the enemy to the Western Waters.

"We began our march on the 26th and on the thirtieth we were joined by Colonel Cleaveland on the Catawba River, with three-hundred and fifty men from Surry and Wilkes. No one officer having properly a right to command-in-chief, on the first of October we dispatched an express to Major-Gen. Gates informing him of our situation and requested him to send a general officer to take command of the whole. In the meantime, Col. Campbell was chosen to act as commandant til such general officer should arrive.

"We reached the Cowpens on the Broad River in South Carolina where we were joined by Colonel James Williams, on the evening of the 6th of October, who informed us that the enemy lay encamped somewhere near the Cherokee Ford of Broad River, about thirty miles distant from us. By a council of the principal officers, it was thought advisable to pursue the enemy that night with nine-hundred of the best horsemen, and leave the weak horse and footmen to follow as fast as possible. We began our march with nine-hundred men about eight o'clock the same evening, and marched all night; came up with the enemy about three o'clock p.m. of the seventh, who lay encamped on top of King's Mountain, twelve miles north of the Cherokee Ford, in the confidence they could not be forced from so advantageous a post. Previous to the attack in our march the following disposition was made -

"Colonel Shelby's regiment, a column in the center on the left; Col. Campbell's, another on the right; part of Col. Cleaveland's regiment, headed in the front by Major Winston and Col. Sevier's regiment formed a large column on the right wing; the other part of Cleaveland's regiment composed the left wing. In this order we advanced and got within a quarter of a mile of the enemy before we were discovered.

"Colonel Shelby's and Colonel Campbell's regiments began the attack and kept up a fire on the enemy while the right and left wings were advancing forward to surround them, which was done in about five minutes and the fire became general all around. The engagement lasted an hour and five minutes, the greatest part of which time a heavy and incessant fire was kept up on both sides. Our men in some parts where the regulars

fought, were obliged to give way a small distance two or three times, but rallied and returned with additional ardor to the attack. The troops on the right having gained the summit of the eminence, obliged the enemy to retreat along the ridge where Colonel Cleaveland commanded and were stopped by his brave men. A flag was immediately hoisted by Capt. Depeyster, the commanding officer, (Major Ferguson having been killed a little before,) for a surrender. Our fire immediately ceased and the enemy laid down their arms - the greater part of them loaded - and surrendered themselves to us, prisoners at discretion.

"It appears from their provision returns for that day, found in their camp, that the whole force consisted of eleven-hundred and twenty-five men, but of which they sustained the following loss -

"Of the regulars, one major, one captain, two lieutenants and fifteen privates killed; thirty-five privates wounded - left on the ground not able to march, two captains, four lieutenants, three ensigns, one surgeon, five sergeants, three corporals, one drummer and fifty-nine privates taken prisoners.

"Loss of Tories, two colonels, three captains and two-hundred privates killed; one major and one-hundred and twenty-seven privates wounded and left on the ground, not able to march; one colonel, twelve captains, eleven lieutenants, two ensigns, one quartermaster, one adjutant, two commissaries, eighteen sergeants and six-hundred privates taken prisoners.

"Total loss of the enemy, 1,165 men at King's Mountain.

"Given under our hand at camp,

William Campbell
Isaac Shelby
Benjamin Cleaveland

"The loss on our side: -

<u>Killed-</u>	<u>Wounded-</u>
1 Colonel	1 Major
1 Major	3 Captains
1 Captain	3 Lieutenants
2 Lieutenants	53 Privates
4 Ensigns	
19 Privates	
Total 28-	Total 60-"

This battle turned the tide in the South as the victory at Trenton did in the North.

"The sun of American Independence, obscured, hidden behind accumulating clouds, suddenly beamed forth and sent its cheering rays through all the land, as it rose over King's Mountain."

Colonel Campbell carried this report to Hillsborough where he delivered it in person to General Gates on October 31, 1780. The following is an extract from a letter sent to Governor Jefferson of Virginia by Major Gen. Gates:

"Hillsborough, Nov. 1, 1780

Sir:

Last night Col. Campbell, who commanded our victorious troops in the action of the 7th ultimo, at King's Mountain, arrived here. He has delivered to me the enclosed authentic and particular account of that affair. I beg your Excellency will, immediately after perusal, forward it to Congress."

In a letter which Thomas Jefferson wrote in 1822 he has been quoted as saying:

"I remember well the deep and grateful impression made on the minds of everyone by that memorable victory. It was the joyful enunciation of that turn in tide of success that terminated the Revolutionary War with seal of our independence."

An adopted son of North Carolina, writing on American history in 1964 made this comment:

"It was right here between King's Mountain and Guilford Courthouse that these North Carolinians cut Lord Cornwallis to ribbons...but the boys up in Boston were writing the early histories of our country, so they made a big deal out of Bunker Hill where the Americans were on top of the hill and lost, and they forgot about King's Mountain where the Americans were on the bottom of the hill and won."

-Harry Golden

Major Ferguson was buried on the mountain from which he boasted that "God Almighty could not drive him." A brave and gallant soldier, his name was inscribed on a monument erected to the Americans who fell there. In the report it was stated that the British surrendered to Colonel Cleaveland's troops. That being true, an old tradition handed down from generation to generation in Surry's families, that Captain Depeyster surrendered his sword to Jesse Franklin with the words, "You deserve it, Sir", may also be taken as true. The sword remained in the family for many years, a cherished heirloom, until a group of young men were testing the blade one day when it broke into fragments. But it was still preserved in the form of knee and shoe buckles. The hilt too was saved to be another memento of that wonderful day on King's Mountain when the Americans fought a decisive battle with the British Army and won.

The Surry County men who fought at King's Mountain were a part of the troops who later defeated a force of Tories under a Dr. Pyle.

But even as they were engaged in the battle on King's Mountain the Tories in Surry County were collecting a large force to join Cornwallis at Charlotte. Gideon Wright, commanding a large number of men from the southern part of the county, moved out, planning to follow the route taken earlier by Samuel Bryan and his band of Royalists who had joined the British in South Carolina. But first he attacked the little settlement of Richmond, killing several of its inhabitants. This was the eighth day of October. The battle of King's Mountain had been fought the day before but the news did not reach Charlotte until several days later.

The news of Wright's atrocities at Richmond spread swiftly through Surry to the adjoining counties in Virginia where a Major Cloyd had a small troop of militia. Hurrying with this troop he joined what was left of the Surry militia and together they set out to stop the Tories.

They came up with them as they were crossing the Yadkin at Shallow Ford and fired upon them. In the meantime other Patriot leaders had sent word to General Smallwood who was in a camp in Guilford County, informing him of the Tory movement in Surry. He at once moved westward, arriving at Bethabara on October 15th. and sent out scouting parties toward the river. They returned with the following news which he reported to General Gates in this message:-

"On October 14th. the Tories were defeated at Shallow Ford by Major Cloyd with one-hundred sixty Virginia and Carolina militia. There were fifteen killed and four wounded of the Tories and only one killed and four of ours wounded. The Tories escaped, being well mounted."

Those killed were Captains Bryan, Burke and Lasey of the Tories and Captain Francis of the Patriots.

The defeat of the British army at King's Mountain was totally unexpected by Lord Cornwallis who was confidently awaiting the arrival of Major Ferguson and his troops. On hearing the news of his defeat and death the British left Charlotte hurriedly, marching all night to reach Winnsboro, South Carolina. They were pursued by Colonel Davis to the Catawba River, between which and Charlotte they left about forty of their baggage wagons. Lord Cornwallis remained in South Carolina where he was among friends until the defeat of Colonel Tarleton by General Morgan's troops at Cowpens.

On receiving information, near the last of December, that General Morgan with about five-hundred regulars and a few militia, had crossed the Catawba and was advancing toward the British Post at Ninety-Six, Lord Cornwallis dispatched Colonel Tarleton with a thousand men, the flower of his army, mostly light troops and cavalry - well equipped in every way, with orders to capture General Morgan or drive him out of the country. Instead they met with a sad and humiliating defeat. The time was January 17th. 1781. Cornwallis had again expected victory but had to accept defeat. His difficulties increasing he still kept to his original plan of another expedition into North Carolina as the only means of maintaining British Rule in the Southern Colonies.

When the battle of Cowpens was fought Cornwallis was encamped on Turkey Creek about twenty-five miles below the South Carolina line, waiting to learn the results of Tarleton's movements but chiefly for a reinforcement of 1000 men under General Leslie. Leslie arrived on January 18th. and Cornwallis moved his army immediately. His first object was to overtake Morgan and rescue his prisoners. His second to get between General Greene, then encamped on the Pee Dee River, and Virginia from which Greene was expecting troops. Cornwallis' hope was to engage Green in battle before these troops arrived. General Greene's maneuvers to avoid an encounter with the British until his army was strong enough to do battle, marked him one of the great generals of the war.

The rivers were the greatest obstacles to the armies, as they followed the travel routes which lay to the westward where the fords were not so wide or deep. The British hoped to reach the Catawba ahead of Morgan but when they arrived it

was to find that Morgan had crossed two hours earlier. Heavy rains had fallen in the mountains so the river was now impassable and it remained so for two days, giving Morgan time to make arrangements for the transfer of his prisoners, under a military escort, to a prison camp. General Greene, in the meantime, had hurried from his camp on the Pee Dee to confer with Morgan on ways to impede the British while he, Greene, built up a force large enough to do battle with the enemy.

General Greene had sent a letter to Colonel Locke of Rowan urging him to rally the militia in his county, which he did, but he was killed in a skirmish with some of Tarleton's men at Torrence's Tavern, the letter then falling into enemy hands. All the efforts of the Patriots could not raise an army of militia large enough to meet the British in battle. The men of that region had been in service nearly all of the previous year, beginning with the defense of Charleston. They had engaged in nearly all the battles and skirmishes following the fall of that town, losing many men and some of their most valuable officers. But if they could not meet Cornwallis in battle they could and did harass him and annoy him by sending small detachments to stand guard at the river fords where they would attack and then flee before the army could assemble. They could carry out surprise attacks on the rear guard where the supply wagons followed the army.

General Morgan was keeping his distance, usually being about two days travel ahead of Cornwallis, saving his forces until General Greene was ready to do battle. He reached the Trading Post on the Yadkin on Feb. 3rd as the British were entering Salisbury. The British stayed there until the 7th, leaving in haste. They went north to Shallow Ford where they crossed the Yadkin River. The British were now in the Moravian territory in Surry County. During the war for independence the Moravians had to act with prudence and caution. Their religion forbade the bearing of arms so there was no conflict there but their personal feelings were another matter. England had granted them special privileges in America and in turn their allegiance was pledged to her. There were many societies of Moravians in England and they would be affected by the manner in which the American Colonies conducted themselves. The leader in Salem was pro-British so it was thought the people were with him in their sentiments, but not so with Bethany, (Hausertown). This was Bethania, built in 1766 to house the German settlers who moved down from the Hollows to be near the Moravian fort and the people who spoke their language. These people were nearly all in favor of the cause of Independence and their sentiments being known to Cornwallis, he chose this for his camp site. On Feb. 9th he arrived with his army and made camp. The houses were filled with officers and their servants while the camp extended for two and one-half miles. All the food and livestock including horses were seized, nor did they fail to drink their entire stock of wines and whiskys.

Having rested his troops and replenished his food supplies, Cornwallis began to leave the Moravian settlement about 7:00 a.m. on Feb. 10th. They passed through Bethabara and on to Salem where Cornwallis and his staff spent an hour, but the troops passed through without stopping. They entered Salem at about ten o'clock, passing continuously until four in the afternoon, an impressive sight in their bright red coats and shining armor.

At this time General Greene was encamped only about five miles away, but not yet having a large enough force to meet the enemy, he continued his retreat toward the Dan River and Virginia. Cornwallis followed as far as the river but finding

that Greene had already passed over, he gave up the chase and turned toward Hillsborough where, on Feb. 22nd. he set up the King's standard and issued a proclamation calling on all loyal subjects to rally at once to the Standard.

General Greene was aware of the effect the British Army in Hillsborough with the Proclamation of Cornwallis, would have on the inhabitants so he sent over his light troops under Lee, Williams and Washington, to harass the enemy's foraging parties.

Because the early histories written about the war gave the impression that it was troops from Virginia and South Carolina who fought the war in North Carolina, it seems fitting at this point to give a quote from Caruther's Revolutionary incidents, published in 1856.

"When South Carolina was over-run by the enemy after the fall of Charleston, most of the inhabitants, to save their property, submitted and took British protection; but there were a few stubborn, unbending patriots, who determined never to yield. These fled into North Carolina and Virginia. Among them were a few valuable officers; but, as appears from the Narrative of General Graham, recently published in the University Magazine, they had not more than a dozen men to each from their own state.

"Of these officers, Sumter and perhaps two or three more, were appointed to command the North Carolina troops as a matter of courtesy, and not because these troops had not officers of their own men as good as these others; for such men as Davis, Davidson, Graham, Erwin, Huggins and others, were fully equal for both skill and bravery to any others in the land. North Carolina troops then fought the important battles of Rocky Mount, Hanging Rock and others but because the commanding officer was from South Carolina, having been appointed from courtesy or respect, and not from necessity, the credit has been given to that state. When the British crossed the Catawba, General Rutherford, who had been taken prisoner at the defeat of General Gates, was still in captivity; and the militia of those western counties of North Carolina, having rallied to the number of six or seven-hundred, in completing their organization, appointed General Andrew Perkins of South Carolina, though he had not more than thirty or forty men with him from his own state, to take the place of General William Davidson who had been killed at the river. On the 10th. of February he was invested with the command and on the 11th. commenced the march toward Hillsboro, following the route of the British."

The narrative continues with the account of Colonel Lee joining forces with General Pickens who had "Five or six-hundred western men", near Hillsboro. From this we assume that the Surry Militia were a part of Pickens' troops. This is verified by the account of their pursuit of Colonel Tarleton on the Eno River. It states -

"A patrol was sent out beyond the guard under Captain Franklin, since Governor of the state. In this patrol was Major Micajah Lewis of Surry County who was killed by the enemy troop whom they encountered. He belonged to the North Carolina line and was serving as a volunteer, but without command."

These men were a part of the troops who, on Feb. 25th. met and defeated a company of Tories led by a Dr. Pyle, thus cooling the enthusiasm of the Tories and making it more difficult for the British to enroll them under the King's Standard.

One of Jesse Franklin's biographers says that in early March, Franklin was sent on a mission to the fort in Wilkes County. After riding all night he reached Salem early in the morning, weary and hungry. Although Salem was supposed to be loyal to the Crown, Franklin approached a friend, asking for food and a fresh horse, to which his friend replied, "I dare not furnish you with anything but there is meat in the cupboard and a horse in the stable. Exchange is no robbery."

Franklin helped himself to breakfast, exchanged horses and hurried on to the fort. On his arrival there he learned the families on Mitchell River were without salt. As this community could be reached with only a short detour on his way back to his post, Franklin obtained some salt and set out for his father's home. He made his way along the mountain paths, hoping to avoid any Tory bands. All went well until he was almost home when a band of Tories, lurking in the neighborhood, surprised him, taking him captive. They tied his hands behind his back and led his horse to a tree where they used the bridle to form a noose around his neck, fastening one end to the tree. They then offered him his life for his oath of allegiance to the King. He refused. Then they struck the horse expecting him to bound away, leaving Franklin hanging from the tree limb. The horse must have reared because the bridle broke and Franklin, with his hands tied behind him, sped away. The men had stacked their rifles against a tree and before they could fire the captive was far away. He spent that night in his father's barn and the next day set out with a young kinsman, named Richard Talliaferro, to rejoin the troops then gathering with General Greene in Guilford County.

The Battle of Guilford Court House

General Greene, in his retreat across the state, had reached the Dan River and crossed into Virginia on February 13th with about 1400 men. There he rested his army and prepared to return to North Carolina for the battle that would decide the fate of that state and perhaps the whole nation.

Three weeks later his army had increased to nearly 4000 through new recruits who had flocked to him from Virginia and North Carolina.

In his retreat across the state, General Greene had stopped and examined the site at Guilford Court House which he selected as a suitable place for a battle, so when he marched his army back into the state it was to take up his position here. Cornwallis advanced from Hillsborough for the battle which took place on March 15th, 1781.

Though Cornwallis claimed the victory on that day his army was so depleted he dared not risk another encounter with Greene's army though the latter had withdrawn and reformed for another attack. He, Cornwallis, was to say, so it is quoted, "I never saw such fighting since God made me. The Americans fought like demons." His losses were so great in men and supplies he had to repair to Wilmington which was then in British hands.

Instead of following Cornwallis, Greene marched his army down into South Carolina where he drove the British from the central part of the state, leaving only the seaport towns in their hands. North Carolina troops participated in all these campaigns and we are sure the men from Surry were found among them.

After his encounter with the Tory band on Mitchell's River, Jesse Franklin, accompanied by a young man named Richard Talliaferro, arrived in Guilford County in time for the battle. They took their places with Major Winston's troop of picked riflemen where they held their positions, even after General Gates had given the order to retreat. They are credited with being among the last to leave the field of battle. Tarleton's Dragoons were almost upon them when they turned to seek their horses. Jesse slashed the rein that tied his horse as he mounted but Talliaferro tried to untie his horse and was cut down by one of the horsemen. After the field was cleared, Jesse went back to search for his friend, hoping he had only been wounded, but had the sad task of burying him and bringing his personal effects home to his family.

A handsome monument stands on the grounds of Guilford Battleground bearing a lifesize figure of Joseph Winston and the following inscription:

*In memory of
The North Carolina Troops
Under Major Joseph Winston
Who were fighting the Hessians
and Tarleton's Cavalry
near this spot
After the Continental Line
had retreated
From the Field of Battle
March 15th, 1781*

On the other side of the monument:

*Major Joseph Winston
Captain Jesse Franklin
Richard Talliaferro
"Palman qui meruit ferat"*

Major Winston was later raised to the rank of Colonel as all records list him as such. On a stand near the monument, erected in recent years, is this information for the passerby:

*Major Winston of the North Carolina Militia
a veteran of King's Mountain, brought a Company
of Riflemen to the Battle.
Originally placed in the front line, these men
fired some of the last shots of the day as the
British Cavalry attacked them near here.*

Another stand erected beside two simple grave stones bears this inscription:

*Franklin and Winston
both fought in the battle of Guilford Courthouse and are buried here.
One was a Senator and Governor of this State;
and the city of Winston-Salem is named for the other.*

The monument was placed on the battlefield in 1893 by ex-Governor Thomas M. Holt with Judge David Schenck presiding at the dedication ceremonies.

As history records the events of that day, March 15, 1781, the British were the victors, but the victory was so costly Cornwallis did not wage another battle while in the state. After reaching Wilmington he marched his troops up into Virginia. The long war was drawing to a close with the appearance of the French under Lafayette, and on October 19th, 1781, Lord Cornwallis surrendered his army to the American and French troops under General Washington at Yorktown.

The War for Independence had been won but the deep scars inflicted by it were a long time healing. Neighbor had often turned against neighbor and it was hard to live again in harmony. Many families moved away but enough remained to keep the fires of ill-feeling burning. There were those who accepted the new government with good grace, becoming loyal citizens - their children's children being a part of Surry's good heritage.

The Moravians had received the commendation of both the British and Americans for their unselfish treatment of the sick and wounded of both sides.

Washington District and Wilkes County

-1776- -1778-

While the war was in progress the General Assembly went about its business as usual, and one business was that of creating new counties. Surry was deeply affected by this as they found themselves deprived of those lands that reached "West to the Judgment Day".

On August 22, 1776, the inhabitants living along the Watauga, Holston and Nolachucky rivers, petitioned the Council of Safety, saying that since they are within the bounds of this state they wanted to be allowed to set up courts and elect representatives to the General Assembly. This petition was formally acted upon and the representatives took seats in the Provincial Congress at Halifax on November 19th, 1776. Thus Washington District was officially recognized as a part of the governmental structure of North Carolina. At the Battle of King's Mountain 1780, the men from Washington County (the word "District" had been changed to county) numbered 240 men under Colonel John Sevier. All this later was to become a part of Tennessee. It now became the western boundary of Wilkes as the lines are drawn as follows:

Wilkes County

"Beginning at a point twenty-six miles due west of Surry Court House, thence north to the Virginia Line, thence west along the said line to the Ridge that divides the waters of Holston and New Rivers, thence along the said ridge to Burke County Line, thence Eastwardly along the line that divides the counties of Surry and Burke to Rowan County Line, thence along Rowan County Line to point South of Beginning, thence North to the Beginning, be erected into a Distinct County by the name of Wilkes."

To become effective February 15, 1778.

The newly formed county took from Surry many prominent families, including William Lenoir, Benjamin Cleaveland and Bernard Franklin. Cleaveland was the first member of the General Assembly from Wilkes to serve in the House of Commons 1778 and in the Senate in 1779.

Jesse Franklin, at the age of twenty-five, was made a member of the House of Commons in 1785 and served until 1793 with the exception of one year. In 1792 a part of Wilkes was returned to Surry by this act:

....."All that part of Wilkes County that lies east of the following line, shall be, and is annexed to the county of Surry; beginning on the line that divides Wilkes and Surry Counties, where the ridge that divides the Waters of Mitchell's River from those of Elkin, thence along the said ridge to the extreme height of the Appalachian Mountains, then along the extreme height of the said mountain to the Virginia Line....."

This placed many of the lands and homes back in Surry, including the Cleavelands and Franklins.

The General Assembly - 1782 - 1789

While the Continental Congress went forward with the stupendous task of welding the thirteen colonies into a central government, strong enough to be effective, the separate states were continuing their own work in their general assemblies.

One of the first acts of the North Carolina Assembly was to try to compensate the veterans of the war for their services. The treasury was empty but there were the vast lands in the west, belonging to Carolina by the Charter of 1663. The Bonus Act of 1780 set aside a military reservation, followed two years later by a supplementary law, which granted lands to soldiers and officers, ranging from 640 acres for a private to 12,000 acres for a brigadier general. A commission was appointed in 1782 to survey and lay off lands according to the claims of veterans.

Other acts removed some of the most objectionable obstacles to equality before the law courts. The much needed reform in the laws of inheritance was written - under the old English law all property rights descended to the eldest son unless a will disposed of it otherwise. By an act of the General Assembly of 1784 all children would inherit equally unless a will provided for the disposal of the property. Under the same act the part of an estate to which the widow is entitled was set at one-third provided the husband did not make a will providing for his wife otherwise.

The men representing Surry at this session were John Armstrong, Sen. James Martin and Joel Lewis, members of the House of Commons.

Members of the General Assembly from Surry County for the years 1777-1789 -

Senate

William Sheppard
1777-1782

Martin Armstrong
1783

House of Commons

1777 - *Joseph Winston, Charles Gordon*
1778 - *Matthew Brooks, Frederick Miller*
1779 - *Gray Bynum*
1780 - *Samuel Cummings, Samuel Freeman*
1781 - *Samuel Cummings, William T. Lewis*

John Armstrong
1784-1786-1788

Joseph Winston
1787-1789

1782 - Samuel Cummings,	Traugett Bagge
1783 - Wm. T. Lewis,	James Martin
1784 - Joel Lewis	" "
1785 - William Lewis	" "
1786 - " "	" "
1787 - James Gaines,	Seth Coffee
1788 - George Hauser,	William T. Lewis
1789 - Gideon Edwards,	Absolom Bostick

Of the thirteen original colonies at the end of the war North Carolina was fourth in population. Virginia led followed by Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. This gave North Carolina a strong voice in the adoption of the constitution, which she refused to ratify until certain amendments were added. The delegates from the state to the convention at Philadelphia finally signed the Constitution but when it was presented to the state convention meeting in Hillsborough, July 1778, the members refused to sign it on the grounds that it was too centralized. Until individual and State's rights were duly safeguarded by amendments to the constitution, North Carolina would not sign. The convention proposed a bill of rights consisting of twenty parts and also twenty-six amendments. The men from Surry attending this meeting were Joseph Winston, James Goins, Charles McAnnally, Absolom Bostick and Matthew Brooks.

Other states also felt the need for amendments to the original document. The matter was finally settled by James Madison who took the lead in obtaining passage by Congress of twelve amendments which were submitted to the states for ratification. North Carolina welcomed these amendments and at a convention in session in Fayetteville, 1789, ratified the Constitution. These amendments, the first ten of which are known as the "*Bill of Rights*", became a part of the Constitution.

The members from Surry voting in this convention were Joseph Winston, Gideon Edwards, Absolom Bostick, Edward Lovill and George Hauser.

As the colonies progressed toward statehood with a central government taking shape in the newly formed Congress, the people of Surry looked on with reservations. The independent spirit which had carried them through the trying years of the Revolution did not wish to bow to a central power which might deprive them of some of their newly earned freedoms. This feeling is shown in the election of Gideon Edwards to the state senate in 1791. He was the only member from Surry to refuse to sign the document ratifying the Constitution and the people of Surry kept him in office for twelve years.

Stokes County

As Surry County lost her western lands to Wilkes, so she was now to lose her populous eastern section, bordering on Guilford and Rockingham to the newly formed County of Stokes, in 1789. Into Stokes went the Wachovia Tract and the lands that would later form Forsyth County.

The Boundaries of Stokes were -

....."beginning on a line dividing this state from the state of Virginia at a point equidistant from the nearest parts of the counties of Rockingham and Wilkes and running thence until it intersects the

Rowan County line so as to leave an equal number of acres in each county.....all that part of said county lying west of said line, shall be erected into a distinct county by the name of Surry; and all that part lying east of said line shall be erected into another distinct county by the name of Stokes County."

The line changed in 1796 -

....."All that part of the county of Stokes lying south of the Yadkin River be, and the same is hereby added to the County of Surry, to all intents and purposes whatsoever".....

Again in 1811 a change is made

....."That after the county line intersects the southern boundaries of the lands formerly belonging to Samuel Kirby, senior, now Joseph Wilson, it shall run thence along the southern and western boundaries of said land to the Yadkin River; thence up the river until it intersects the present line between the two counties. In 1825 an act was passed repealing the act of 1811 and directing that the dividing line between the counties of Stokes and Surry be established. No description is given in the law." (Corbitt)

Facts about Surry County by J. S. Atkinson

In a manuscript, compiled by Mr. Atkinson in 1949, an interesting light is shed on this moving line between Stokes and Surry Counties.

".....It was customary in the early days to run county lines directly north-south and east-west without regard to topography of territory involved. Consequently the dividing line between Stokes and Surry crossed the Yadkin River three times; first at a point a short distance west of the present village of Donnaha; second, at or near where highway 421 crosses the river between Yadkinville and Winston-Salem; third, down the river at a point where the river turns due south after having made a turn direct to the west. The river was the line for perhaps two miles, thence to the Rowan County line, now Davie.

"As a result the long narrow strip from Donnaha to highway 421 was a part of Stokes; then due to the big west bend in the river the territory known as Little Yadkin, including the famous Williams estate, was in Surry and a short strip extending to Rowan County line, now Davie, was in Stokes although on the west side of the river.

"In December 1796, the General Assembly changed the line between Stokes and Surry, giving the narrow strip lying west of the Yadkin to Surry."

Stokes County was named in honor of Colonel John Stokes, a soldier of the Revolution who was desperately wounded at the Waxhaw Massacre when Colonel Buford's regiment was cut to pieces by Tarleton. After the war Washington appointed him a judge of the United States District Court of North Carolina.

When Surry was divided the old courthouse at Richmond was inconvenient for either county so it was ordered sold and the proceeds to be equally divided between Stokes and Surry, to be used toward the erection of new courthouses. The act ordered the first court of Stokes to be held at the home of Gray Bynum, and all subsequent courts were to be held where the justices designated until the courthouse could be erected. Commissioners were named to select the site and have the public buildings erected. In 1790, Germantown was laid out on land deeded to the county by Michael and Henry Fry. Germantown remained the county seat until 1849 when Forsyth was taken from Stokes. (The act establishing Forsyth County directed that the first court of Stokes after the passage of the act be held at Germantown, at which time the justices were to determine a location for the new courthouse and jail. In 1851 Crawford was established as the county seat. In 1852 Crawford was changed to Danbury.)

Rockford Courthouse - Surry County - 1790

The act dividing the county specified that the Surry court be held at the home of Richard Horn until a courthouse, prison and stocks could be erected at a central place. In 1790 Rockford was established on fifty-three acres of land deeded by Thomas and Moses Ayres for that purpose. Commissioners were named to erect the public buildings. The village was laid out on the north side of the Yadkin River where the river was wide and shallow with a rocky river-bed making the crossing easier for the inhabitants from the lower half of the county. The first courthouse was built of wood, being destroyed by fire after a few years. The second building was also a frame house, this being replaced by a handsome brick structure, the brick being hauled from Fayetteville by wagon train. Tradition says this brick had been used as ballast for sea-going vessels.

The walls of this building were made eighteen inches thick, reaching up two stories high, a wide and spacious house with a porch on one side flanked by arches of brick. Four large round columns reaching to the roof, added dignity to the front of the building. Until 1850 it served as the county courthouse passing into private ownership when the county was again divided. Although Surry County had twice been reduced in size, it still extended to Rowan County, placing Rockford near the center. At this time Rowan included the present County of Davie. (Davie was formed from Rowan in 1836.)

In the little settlement which grew along the river the stately building was an object of community pride. Three men who were later to become presidents of the United States are said to have attended court here; Andrew Jackson, Andrew Johnson and James K. Polk.

Not only is the courthouse still standing, keeping watch above the river as of old, but there still stands York Tavern with its legends of long ago days. The building has changed very little, the same winding stairway goes up to the second floor where Jackson had a front room. Another stairway leads to the attic where can be seen some of the original woodwork held together with wooden pins.

Andrew Johnson followed the trade of a tailor, using one of the small lawyer offices built along the hillside, thus financing his studies. James K. Polk was said to have used a small cabin on the premises of his kinsman, William Dobson, a lawyer who lived on a large plantation in the vicinity of Rockford.

Down the river was the large water-wheel grist mill of Bohannon, said to be the first mill built along the river.

The little village of Richmond deteriorated rapidly after the courthouse was moved. It had had its birth amid strife and its death was equally violent.

Out of a dark and stormy sky one day there descended a tornado, sweeping everything before it. The houses fell like match boxes; The doors of the courthouse were found on a distant hill and the shingles fell in Germantown, many miles away. And there was no one who ever wanted to build on the spot again.

The difficult years after the war were bringing changes, not all of them good for Surry. The hostilities that marked the footprints in the Hollows with blood were not soon forgotten. Those who had given so much of themselves for the cause of independence were now much poorer than those who had stayed clear of the struggle, taking sides with the British. The young men who had grown up during the war were looking for new worlds to conquer and the Indian lands beyond the mountains drew many of them. Some had been soldiers who accepted the government's offer of land in return for their military services. One of these soldiers was Colonel Cleaveland. After a year in the General Assembly the Colonel decided that frontier life suited him better. He remembered a section of land through which he had passed while on an expedition against the Cherokees. At that time he had promised himself that when the war was over he would come back to this virgin land which seemed in tune with his pioneer spirit, so, leaving his handsome home, located at a bend on the Yadkin River and called "Round-a-bout", he moved to a new land grant at the junction of Tagaloo River and Chauga Creek. This was in South Carolina near where Fort Madison was located. Here the old warrior died in 1806. There was a tradition that he made one more journey. The long one, back to his boyhood home in Orange County, Virginia, where he was buried on the family plantation.

Many of the sons of Surry went to the west and southwest, pioneering in new states being formed after the war. At one time there were four Congressmen from that many states giving their birthplace as Surry County.

This period of immigration from the county was balanced by other families coming into it. The Indian barrier having been removed from the central part of the state, many came from counties east and south of Surry. The healthful climate with cool summers and winters that were tempered by the shield of mountains surrounding it, beckoned those looking for a better location. The Moravian settlement attracted many of German descent who became some of Surry's most substantial builders of men and industry.

There has been the supposition that many Scotch-Irish settled in Surry, but according to historians these people left Ireland to gain religious freedom as well as political freedom and it is said that wherever they went a "Kirk and School" followed. Since there is no record, (which the writer could find) of any Presbyterian Church being established in the Hollows before 1856, it follows that Surry had few Scotch-Irish. Most of the inhabitants were English, coming down from Virginia.

Now that peace had come the people could turn their attention to improving their farms and building new homes or improving those which were constructed when they had only logs to lay upon each other for a shelter. These log houses were now covered over with planks and more rooms added at the front; or the log house would be left to serve as an out-door kitchen - a frame or brick house being built a few yards in front of it. The food would be prepared in the kitchen and carried to the "big house".

Most of the houses were built in the familiar style of a capital T - two rooms separated by a hall, across the front, two stories high with porches, then at the back an ell two rooms in length, a porch extending the length of it. The ell was often two-stories. The more pretentious homes had ten, twelve or more rooms, all spacious enough to accommodate the high four-poster bed and large chest which were a part of such bedroom furnishings.

In the master bedroom, which was always on the first floor, there would be a narrow, enclosed stairway leading to a bedroom upstairs which had no other outlet. There the children slept and as they grew older it became the "Girls' Room". There was another stairway leading up from the central hall to other bedrooms. In the larger homes still another stairway would be built in the kitchen, giving access to the rooms above.

The house was usually built near a flowing spring; here there would be built a springhouse through which would flow the spring drain along a wooden trough. Milk and butter placed in crocks, in this ever-changing stream of icy water remained fresh for days. It was a good place to keep other foods as well as water-melons and apple cider in season.

The easiest and most pleasant way to travel was by horseback though wagons and carriages were used for family journeys.

In those days and years the people were dependent on each other for entertainment so visiting was a favorite pasttime, singly and in groups.

Music - they made for themselves with song and fiddle, harps and harpsicord. Games, indoor and out, were entered into with zest, while dancing - they loved it! Life was simple but they made of it an enjoyable affair.

It seems fitting here, at the close of the Colonial period in America, to enclose a few sketches of some of the Revolutionary War leaders as they served our section of the state. The material is taken from early histories and records.

Revolutionary War Leaders

Captain Jesse Franklin
Soldier, Statesman, Governor of North Carolina

The name of Jesse Franklin has appeared frequently on the pages of this narrative of the people of Surry County, but those were the acts of a youth in military service. In the light of his contribution to the county, state and nation through the remainder of his life, it is thought fitting to insert that record here where he ended a brilliant military career and took up an equally honorable political life.

Jesse Franklin was a third generation native-born American, his two grandfathers having been born in Albemarle County, in a section of Virginia that produced the Madisons, Jeffersons and Washingtons; and when the war was over he went back to Virginia for his bride, Miss Meecha Perkins of Buckingham County.

Although Jesse had received only a few years of schooling in his early youth he made up for any lack of formal education by his diligent study of all the affairs of government. This is proved by the fact that at the end of his life he was considered one of the best informed men of his day.

After the war ended Jesse returned to his home on Mitchell's River. Though only twenty-one at this time his war record marked him for public service. His father's home being at this time in the newly formed county of Wilkes, Jesse was elected to serve in the State's General Assembly from that county from 1784 to 1793 with the exception of one year when the office was held by Joseph Herndon.

In 1793 the county line between Wilkes and Surry was moved, giving Surry the Mitchell River section. In that year Jesse represented Surry in the General Assembly. In 1795 he represented his district in Congress for one term. And it was in 1795 that Jesse established his own home, buying four-hundred and eleven acres on Fisher River in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains for the sum of three-hundred and ten pounds of Virginia money. This land was part of an original grant made to Henry Kirby and was in a beautiful location; on a slight eminence overlooking the sparkling waters of the river, facing east across the lowlands with the sheltering curve of the mountains to his back, Jesse built the house that was to last down to the present time known far and wide as the "*Jesse Franklin house*". No matter who lived in it in the years after the Franklins were gone, it was always his house.

The years between 1795 and 1797 were exciting ones for Franklin as he took up his duties as Congressman from the fourth district - this comprised the counties of Surry, Wilkes, Rowan and Ashe.

Congress held its sessions in Philadelphia and Jesse is said to have ridden horseback the entire distance, not only this time but many times after, as he served his people in the Nation's capitol.

The Capitol site on the Potomac River had been selected in 1790 and work on the buildings was going forward with the members of Congress taking a lively interest in the proceedings. Committees were appointed from time to time to report on the progress of the work. Family tradition says that Franklin was a member of one of these committees.

In 1797-98 Franklin represented Surry in the state assembly and in 1799 this body elected him to a seat in the United States Senate to succeed the able and brilliant Alexander Martin. Some indication of the standing and influence enjoyed by Franklin in Congress is shown by the fact that in 1804 he was made president protem of the Senate which position he held until the end of his term in 1805. At this time Nathaniel Macon of North Carolina was speaker of the House. (North Carolinians were standing tall in the Nation's Capitol).

In 1805 Franklin was made chairman of a committee appointed to investigate and report on a matter relative to the exclusion of certain Cuban Slave-holders from the territory north of the Ohio River. The report of this committee resulted in the exclusion of slavery from this territory.

At the end of the term Franklin returned home to again be called to serve in the General Assembly. At that time the Assembly met annually and as no permanent site had been selected for the capitol, the sessions were held in the most important towns - New Bern, Fayetteville, Hillsborough or Edenton, all of them a long ride from the mountain counties.

In 1807 Franklin was returned to the U.S. Senate to serve until 1813. At this time the most absorbing issue before the nation was the War of 1812, which Franklin openly and persistently advocated in the halls of Congress.

At the expiration of his term he returned home with the intention of retiring permanently from public office of any kind. He was now 53 years old and had seen 26 years in the service of his state and nation; but again he was singled out for service and responded.

The call came from President Monroe in 1816, appointing Franklin a commissioner with Andrew Jackson and General Merriwether to form a treaty with the Chickasaw Indians.

They met on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River where the treaty was signed. The city of Memphis is built on this bluff.

Franklin was also appointed a commissioner with James Mebane and Robert Love to survey and sell lands acquired by treaty with the Cherokee Indians. These lands embraced more than a thousand square miles of territory lying in northwest North Carolina. He spent the summer of 1820 in performing this duty. When he returned from this mission he was elected Governor of this state. The terms ran for one year and at the end of the term, Franklin refused to run for re-election because of ill health.

Between 1813 and 1816, Franklin served two years as Councilor of State.

Governor Franklin's message to the General Assembly, Nov. 20, 1821, was broad and constructive - in it he recognizes the vast importance of the Union and urged upon all the necessity of cherishing that enlightening spirit of compromise in which it was formed. The Supreme Court he regarded as of great importance; he recommended that the Superior Courts be separated from the Courts of Equity, for which he gave some very plausible reasons. He recommended, in strong terms, the organization of the militia as the only safe reliance for the defence of the country; he recommended a prudent, steady and progressive system of internal improvements.

It was said of Franklin that he was a student rather than an agitator, a statesman rather than a politician, a councilor rather than an orator. That he was a modest man is proven by the fact that he would never sit for a picture or a painting, that he refused to wear ruffles on his shirts, the fashion of the day but proclaiming a vanity he did not feel.

The description of him is of a man above medium height, grave, dignified, but always friendly and ready to council with all who sought him out.

Jesse Franklin was far ahead of his times in advocating public schools where every child had an equal opportunity - the schools to be paid for with public money.

Jesse Franklin died in September 1824, in his 64th year and was buried on his plantation in the family graveyard. Eighty-two years later his ashes were transferred to Guilford Battleground and placed near a monument erected to the heroes of that battle.

Sons of Jesse and Meecha Franklin

James Macon - Hardin Perkins - Bernard

Daughters -

Sarah Panill - Ann (Nancy) - Mary Cleaveland - Elizabeth - Matilda

Colonel Joseph Winston

The name of Joseph Winston, admired and loved by the people of his day, did not die with the passing of that generation but lives on in the name of a city which has perpetuated it - Winston-Salem.

Like many another of North Carolina's distinguished settlers, Winston came from Virginia. His parents lived in Louisa County where Joseph was born in 1746. At age of seventeen he was fighting Indians beyond the Shenendoah River with Capt. George Moffitt. In one of his first skirmishes his horse was shot from under him and he crumpled in the underbrush with a bullet wound. It was said that he carried the bullet until he died, suffering from it in rainy weather.

He came to North Carolina in 1769, settling on the Dan River in a section which would be included in the newly formed county of Surry the following year. His land purchases were many as recorded in the old Surry County books. With Waightstill Avery and Robert Lanier he formed the treaty of Long Island of Holston as commissioner from North Carolina, July 1777.

He was a member of the first group to meet in Hillsborough to consider a break with England, 1775. From that time until the end of the war he was engaged in continual warfare with the Tories. One of his successful battles was fought with a band of Tories who had a hiding place on the north side of the Sauratown Mountains. This was a natural cave and later became known as "*Tory House*".

Winston had trained a group of militia who became famous as "*Winston's Riflemen*". They fought as a unit at King's Mountain where a tablet is erected to "*Major Winston's Foxhunters*". At Guilford Courthouse this group was credited with being the last to leave the field, still fighting after General Greene had given orders to retreat.

After the war, Joseph Winston represented Surry in the State Senate from 1787 to 1789. On the partition of Surry he became senator from Stokes 1791 and 1802; again in 1807 and 1812. From 1793 to 1795 and from 1803 to 1807 he was the Twelfth Congressional District Representative in Congress.

Joseph Winston died in 1815 at the age of 69. His ashes were moved to Guilford Battleground in 1906 to lie near a monument erected to him and other patriots who died there.

Colonel John (Jack) Martin

One of the most colorful characters of the Revolutionary War days was another transplanted Virginian, John Martin. His father, Joseph Martin, who came from England in the early 1700s, was of distinguished ancestry being descended from the barons of Pembroke County, England. John was born in Albemarle County, Virginia and came to North Carolina in 1768 at the age of twelve years, settling with his family in the vicinity of the Sauratown Mountains. In the years ahead he was to become one of the wealthiest and most influential men of his day.

His army career began when he left Surry Courthouse at Richmond as a Lieutenant in Captain Smith's company - they being ordered to join Colonel Rutherford's expedition against the Cherokees in 1776.

His brother, Joseph, was a noted Indian fighter and afterwards was made an agent of the Cherokee Reservation.

From 1776 until the end of the war with England, Jack Martin was engaged in constant warfare with the Tories - took part in the Battle of King's Mountain and was with Major Winston at Guilford Courthouse.

Before the war started, Martin had laid the foundation for a house which was to be famous as the "Rock House" of Col. Jack Martin, for more than a century. It was a stately house, four stories in height, built throughout of native stone with walls said to be three feet thick. The stones were laid in cement. The outer surface was coated with white stucco, and as it stood on an eminence it could be seen for miles around. The dining-room and kitchen were in the basement which had a fireplace so large an ox could be roasted in it. The upper rooms and halls were used more as a fortress than a home and at times the entire neighborhood gathered there for protection from the Tories and Indians.

Surry tradition claims it was from this house that Col. Martin, with the use of field glasses, discovered the hiding place of Tories on the mountain-side by watching their campfires. So when one of Major Winston's neighbors was robbed of all his personal belongings, it was Col. Martin who knew the right direction to take when pursuit was being made.

After the war was over, Col. Martin turned his attention to work on his house which was finished after his marriage to Miss Nancy Shipp of Surry County. It became famous for its beauty and the hospitality dispensed within its walls, making it one of the social centers of northwest North Carolina.

It was claimed that Mrs. Martin had the finest set of china in the state; her parlor furniture was ordered from England and her bedroom furniture was of the finest cherry wood.

There were few records kept by the settlers of these western counties which did not mention the Rock House and its popular hosts.

Through the marriages of his brothers, Joseph and William, Jack was related to the Cleavelands, the Winstons and through his ten children the family lines extend to many prominent families of today.

Col. Martin served in the General Assembly in 1798-99 as a member from Stokes County - (Stokes having been formed from Surry in 1789).

At the same time he was serving as magistrate in the Stokes County court, a post he held for thirty years, where his wit and humor along with his judicial knowledge, became proverbial.

Col. Martin died in 1822. "The Rock House" remained in the family until after the Civil War, a famous landmark until it was partially destroyed by fire in 1897. Only the great walls remained, a monument to a way of life long gone.

The Williams Family

Among the biographies found in Wheeler's History is one of the distinguished family of Colonel Joseph Williams of Surry County, who settled on the Yadkin River and Panther Creek before the Revolutionary War. Col. Williams was one of the delegates to the Provincial Congress at Hillsborough, August 11, 1775. He was appointed a member of the Committee of Safety for Surry County, held the rank of Colonel in the Surry militia and was active in all political as well as military affairs.

Col. Williams had eight sons - Robert served as Adjutant General of the state during the war and was a member of Congress, 1797-1803. John was a colonel in the militia, moved to Tennessee where he distinguished himself in the warfare with the Indians. William, Thomas and Alexander also moved to Tennessee, Thomas becoming Chancellor of State.

Lewis brought honor to his state through his public life. He became a member of the House of Commons in 1813. In 1815 he was elected a member of Congress and served continuously until 1842. At this time, North Carolina had only three Congressmen for the entire state. Williams was so much esteemed by his colleagues that he received the title "*Father of the House*".

The home on Panther Creek of the Williams family was one of the finest estates in Western Carolina; the house, a handsome mansion surrounded by beautiful gardens and stately trees with rich farm lands, was often host to famous people of that day. Among those who came to visit the popular Congressman was Henry Clay, a colleague in Congress.

Lewis Williams died at his post in Washington, February 23, 1842. Joseph Williams, Jr. was clerk of the court in Surry County until his death in 1828.

Nicholas remained in Surry County, occupying the home place. He did not enter politics but became well-known as the manufacturer of a brand of whiskey with the name of "*Old Nick's Whiskey*", or "*Old Nick Whiskey*". This product was sold in many states and remained a popular sales item until prohibition became statewide.

Dobson - William C.

A name that has been perpetuated in the last of Surry County Courthouse locations is that of an English family named Dobson who came into the County before the Revolutionary War.

William C. Dobson, founder of the Surry County family, was married to Jane Knox Polk, a sister of James K. Polk's father. They settled at Bethania, living there while he served as a colonel in the war and it was he who administered the oath of Allegiance to the Moravians after the war was won. He must have moved east of Salem after this as George Washington's diary states that the President's party had breakfast at Mr. Dobson's house after leaving Salem on the way back home. A marker in Kernersville, near Salem, confirms this - the place being known as "Dobson's Cross-Roads".

A son, William Polk, born in 1783, married Mary Hughes of Surry County, daughter of Capt. John Hughes and Ann Moore Hughes, in 1802. They made their home in the house at Rockford known as "Dobson Hill". The house, a handsome structure, had been built in 1786, the date having been cut in one of the chimneys. The kitchen stood apart and the slave cabins set along the crest of the hill among pine trees, all of it overlooking the lowlands toward the river.

It was here that James K. Polk lived with his cousin while he studied and practised law in the courthouse. Later at the convention which nominated him for the presidency of the United States, William P. Dobson was present, making a speech in his behalf. The newspapers spoke of him (Dobson) as the "*silver tongued orator of the South*".

William Polk Dobson was the father of twelve children. The oldest son, John Hughes, was clerk of Surry County Court for a number of years; Joseph, the youngest son, also followed the practise of law, being solicitor in his district for twenty years, moving to Yadkinville which was the center of the District. Like his father he was a gifted speaker and very witty. Another member of the family, John Hamlin, served as solicitor for Surry County and represented the county for several years in the legislature. His son, John Hamlin, Jr., a bachelor, was the last Dobson to live in the old house. He died in 1966. The house still stands, alone and empty.

Lord Cornwallis

When Mother England found that she must use force against her rebellious colonies to bring them back to their proper place among her subjects, she sent the best of her military might to America.

Lord Cornwallis, who was sent to take over the southern provinces, was a proven statesman as well as a celebrated general in the King's army. That he had high ideals of behavior in war as in peace is proven by his orderbook which was found after his departure from the state and is preserved at the University of North Carolina. A few items are copied here.

Headquarters, Salisbury, 5th Feb., 1781

"It is with great concern that Lord Cornwallis acquaints the army that he has lately received the most shocking complaints of the excesses committed by the troops. He calls in the most serious manner on the officers commanding the Corps to put a stop to this licentiousness, which must inevitably bring disgrace and ruin on his Majesty's service. He is convinced that it is in their power to prevent it, and has seen so many proofs of their zeal for the service of their country that he cannot doubt of their utmost exertions to detect and punish offenders without which the blood of the brave and deserving soldiers will be shed in vain, and it will not be even in the power of victory to give success."

Headquarters, 6th Feb., 1781

"All officers are most earnestly requested to seize any militia of followers of the army who go into houses to commit excesses, and report them to headquarters. As soon as the troops come to their ground, any officer who looks on with indifference, and does not do his utmost to prevent the shameful marauding which has prevailed in the army, will be considered in a more criminal light than the persons who commit these scandalous crimes, which must bring disgrace and ruin on his Majesty's arms."

Headquarters, Dobbin's house, 17th Feb., 1781

"Lord Cornwallis is very sorry to be again obliged to call the attention of the officers of the Army to the repeated orders against plundering. He desires that the Orders given on the 28th., Jan., 4th., Feb., and the 16th., Feb., may be read at the head of each Troop and Company on each of the first halting days and he assures the Officers that if their duty to their King and Country and their feelings for humanity are not sufficient to enforce their obedience to them, he must however reluctantly make use of such power as the military laws have placed in his hands."

Lord Cornwallis returned to England after the surrender at Yorktown, 1781 and was appointed Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in India where he greatly distinguished himself by his victories over Tippoo Sahib; still later he was Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. In 1802 he was Plenipotentiary of Great Britain to negotiate the Peace of Amiens.

Appointed in 1805, Governor-General of India for the second time, he died while on his way to assume command of the troops.

Time 1789-1825

Near the close of the history-making eighteenth century, Surry County had a population of 7,181 - of this number 698 were slaves and 17 were free negroes.

Members of the General Assembly for these years were as listed below:

Senate		House of Commons	
Joseph Winston	- 1789-90	Jonathan Haines	Absolom Bostick
Gideon Edwards	- 1791-1803	Jesse Franklin	Jacob Sheppard
Peter Eaton	- 1804	Hugh Armstrong	Henry Speer
Jesse Franklin	- 1805-06	Francis Poindexter	Micajah Oglesby
Thomas Wright	- 1807-17	Meshack Franklin	Thomas Wright
William P. Dobson	- 1818-19	Joseph Williams, Jr.	Nicholas Horn
Solomon Graves	1820-23	Nathan Chafin	David Davis
Pleasant B. Roberts	1824	William Dowling	David Scott
Henry B. Poindexter	1825	Charles Taliaferro	Lewis Williams
		Edward Sweatt	Mathew M. Hughes
		Josiah Hatley	Gabriel Hanby
		Edward Lovill	Solomon Graves
		Henry Poindexter	P. D. Roberts
		E. Thompson	Thomas Hampton
		Golihi Moore	David Durratt

Each term of office was for one year but many served more than one.

United States Congress

Jesse Franklin - Elected to Congress - 1795-97
 United States Senator - 1799-1805
 elected president pro tem of the Senate - 1804
 United States Senator 1807-1813
 Elected Governor North Carolina 1820-21

Meshack Franklin - (younger brother of Jesse)
 Elected to Congress - 1807 - served until 1815
 Counselor of State - 12 years
 Helped rewrite the state constitution - 1835

Robert Williams - Elected to Congress - 1797-1803
 moved to Tennessee where he was prominent in state government.

Lewis Williams - Member of Congress - 1815-1842

As noted above in the list of office holders, Jesse Franklin was a U.S. Senator from 1799 to 1805. In 1803 the state of Ohio was admitted into the Union, the question of slavery coming up when a Cuban slaveholder sought residence in the state. Senator Franklin was chairman of the committee to consider this problem and he used his influence to have the ordinance of 1787 upheld, which excluded slavery from the Northwest Territory.

The report of the Senate Committee's findings incorporated the contention of Mr. Franklin - (from North Carolina Booklet, January 1907)

Andrew Jackson

In the fall of 1787, as court was in session at Richmond Courthouse, a young man walked in, a stranger from the South Carolina border, who was to carve for himself an enduring place in history. One of the cherished papers in the Surry courthouse is the one recording the granting of a license to Andrew Jackson, Esq., to practise law in the County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, in Richmond, in the County of Surry.

Jackson later practised law in Rockford which was made the county seat in 1790. Many stories were handed down in the village which he enlivened with his presence. One of these has to do with an unpaid bill at a local inn.

The story goes that Jackson left the village after one of his appearances at court without settling for his room and board. The inn-keeper noted the entry from time to time, thinking the young lawyer would be coming back.

The years went by and the old ledger gathered dust among other forgotten papers. But the restless feet of Andrew Jackson had carried him to the new lands opening up beyond the Appalachian Mountains. He obtained land in the new state of Tennessee, took part in the formation of the state and helped write its constitution, then he was off again. This time to join his country's military forces as the war of 1812 broke upon our shores. One biographer says this was his second encounter with the British. He had joined the Continental Army at the age of thirteen, was taken prisoner and, refusing an order to shine the shoes of the captor, was slashed across the face with a sword. The scar remained with him for life.

When news came to the little village of Rockford, telling of the end of this second war with Britain, with an account of the part Andrew Jackson had played in its victory, the inn-keeper searched his shelves for the old account book, took it down and wrote in bold script -

"Paid in full at the Battle of New Orleans"

It was in that campaign Jackson became known as "Old Hickory", a title given him by the men who fought with him and learned to know and idolize him. It was said of him that he had the personal charm and magnetism which drew people to him. With prideful interest the footprints of this man was followed as they led away from his native state to mount at last the long flight of steps to the nation's Capitol where he became the seventh President of the United States.

That he was a very colorful character is attested to by this description of him by a fellow citizen - *"The horse-racingest, cock-fightingest, pistol duelingest President of them all!"*

Though childless, he and his wife, known affectionately as "Aunt Rachel" were said to have adopted and reared eleven children. There is no more beautiful spot anywhere in all our southland than "The Hermitage", the home Jackson built for his beloved Rachel, near Nashville, Tennessee. In a secluded corner of the garden are the graves of the Jackson family. The home has been preserved and is open to the public.

Below is a copy of the paper in Surry Courthouse recording Jackson's appearance before the court:

* * * *

State of North Carolina

At a County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions begun and held for the County of Surry at the

House in Richmond on the second Monday in November, being the 17th. day in year of our Lord 1787 and in the 12th. year of America's Independence

Present Wm. Hughlett, Esquire

Adjourned till tomorrow at 9 o'clock.

Tuesday, 13th, court met according to adjournment

Present George Hauzer)
 Wm. Hughlett) Esquires
 Jno. Randleman)

The Grand Jury being impannelled and sworn
Patrick McGibbony, Foreman-

Wm. Martin
 John Lynch
 Joseph Gentry
 John Wright
 David Riggs

Wm. Hickman
 Sam Smith
 Gabriel Waggoner
 Joseph Banner

Thomas Briggs
 Wm. Crutchfield
 Hugh Morris
 Reuben Shore

- 1 A Deed
- 2 A Deed

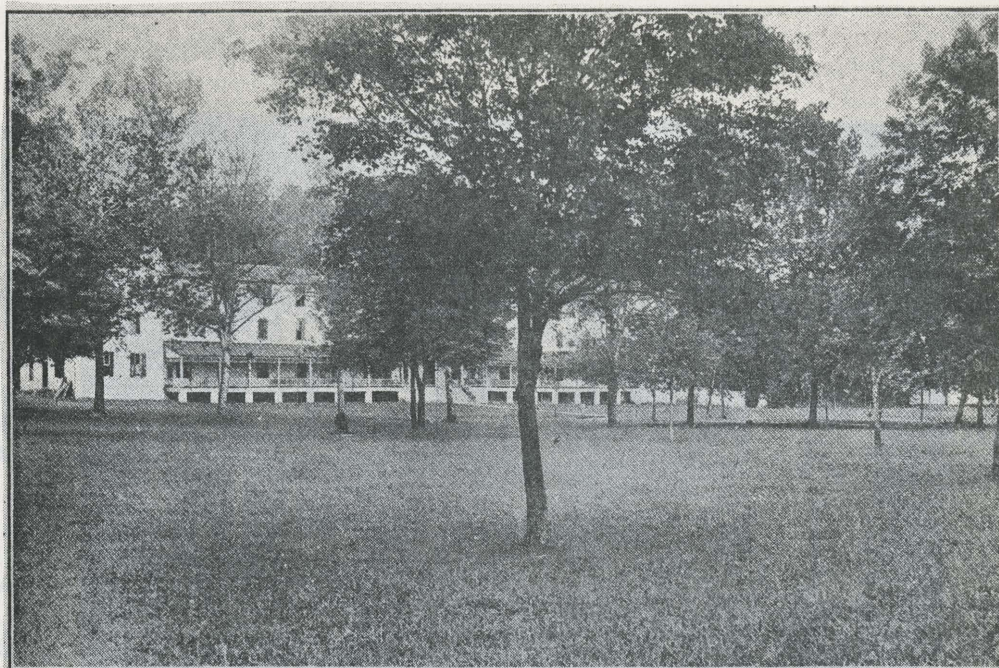
Wm. Cupples and Andrew Jackson Esquires. Each produced a license from Honorable Sam Ashe and John Williams, Esquires, two of the Judges of the Superior Court of Law and Equity, authorizing and empowering them to practise as attorneys in the Several County Courts of Pleas and Quarter Sessions within this state with Testimonials of their having heretofore taken the necessary Oaths and are admitted to practise in this Court.



"Cedar Point", the home of Richard Gwyn, Sr., was built around 1832. The town of Elkin grew up around the farm on which this house was built. Formerly the home of Mrs. J. F. McNeely, it is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Randleman.



This handsome structure in the heart of Elkin was built in the 1850's, the home of Richard Ransom Gwyn. General Stoneman, of Civil War fame, is said to have stopped here.

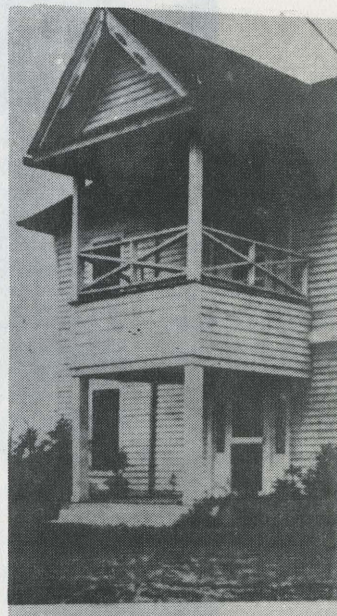


*White Sulphur Springs Hotel, a well-known resort area
in Mount Airy around the turn of the century.*



*The old Kenlin Hotel in Dobson, operated for many years
by the Hardraker family.*

The first and oldest Masonic Hall in Surry County. The chapter was chartered between 1797 and 1800. Most recently used as Rockford Post Office.



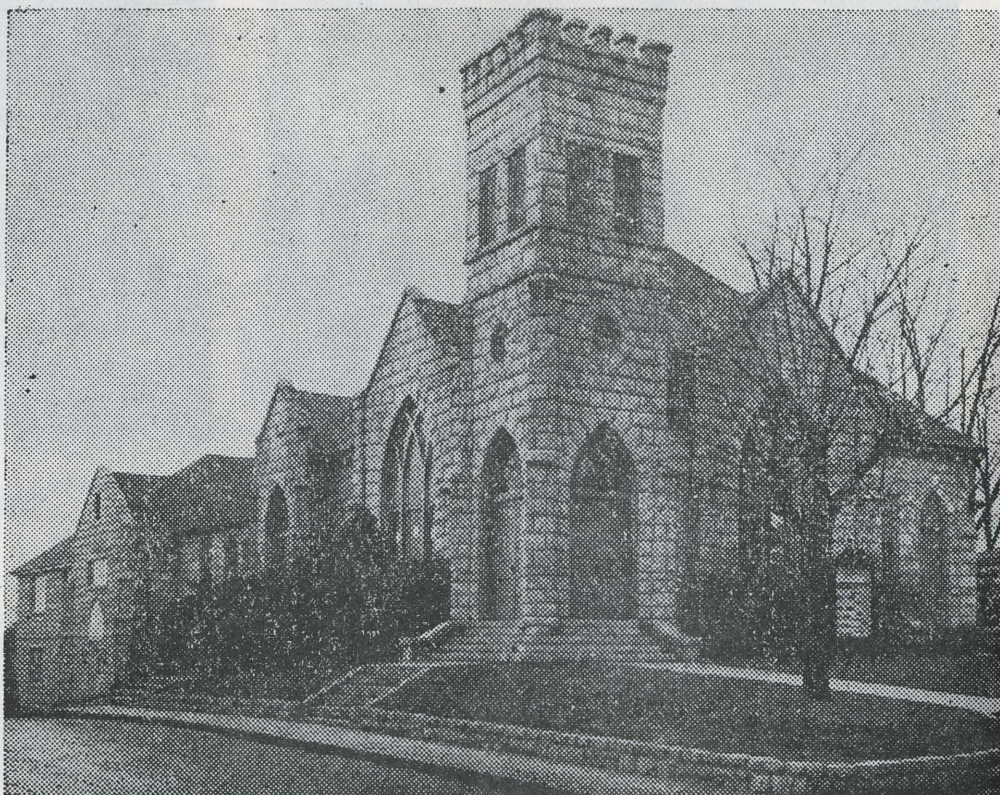
*York Tavern, Rockford
Built in the 1820's.*

Rockford Courthouse built in 1830. The interior was gutted by fire in 1925, but the exterior is still an imposing structure overlooking the village of Rockford.

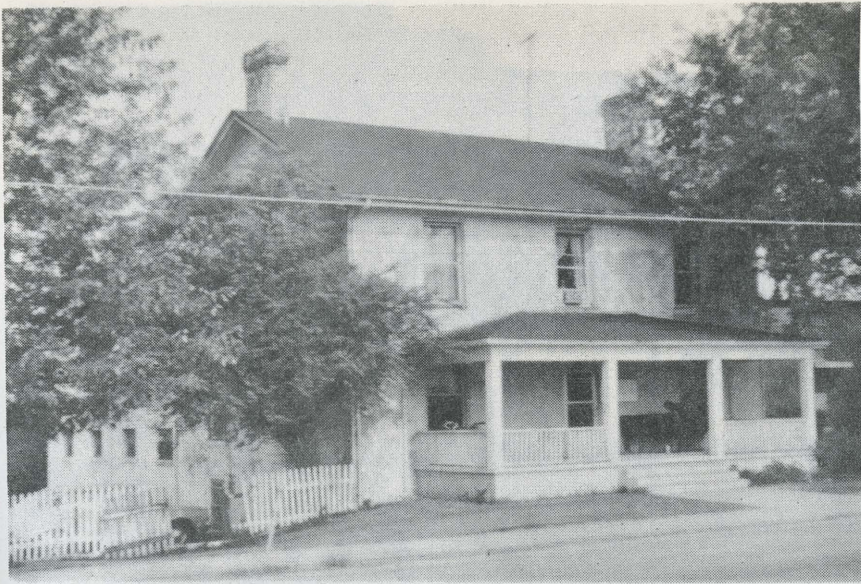
MOUNT AIRY



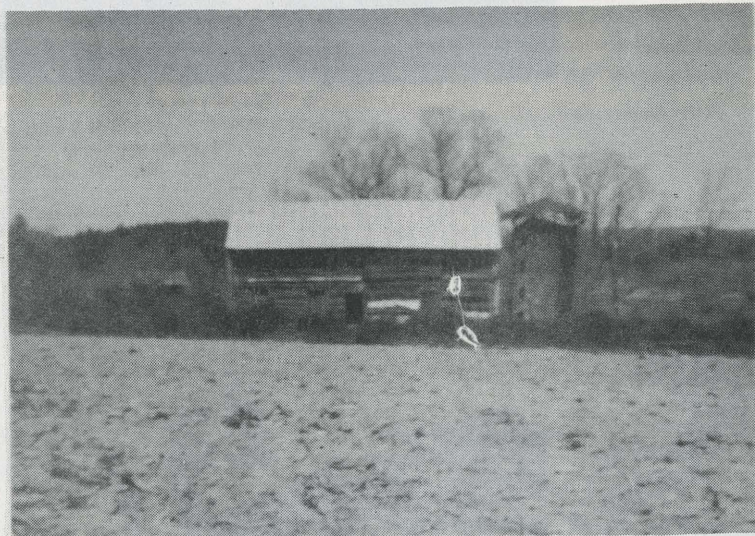
House Church (above) Organized In 1858



First Presbyterian Church - 1958

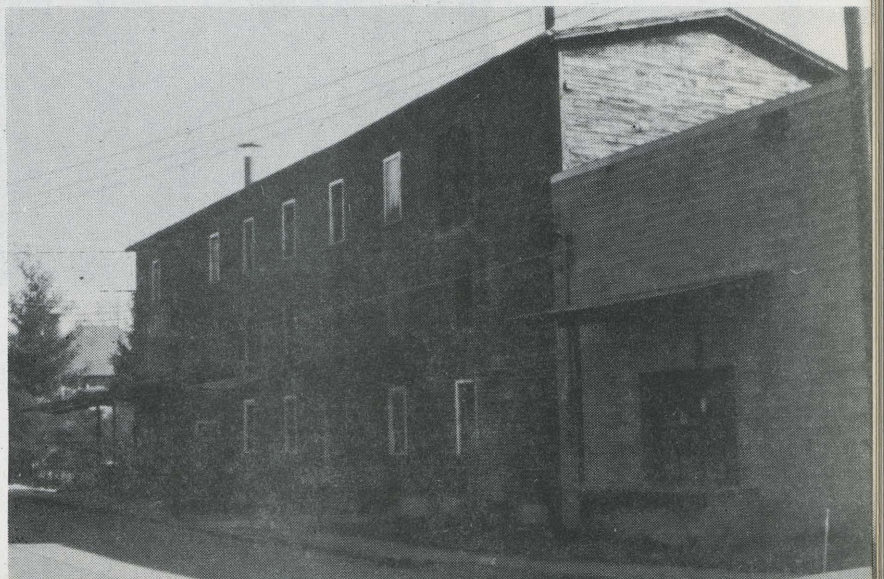


Surry County Jail - New jail under construction in 1976.



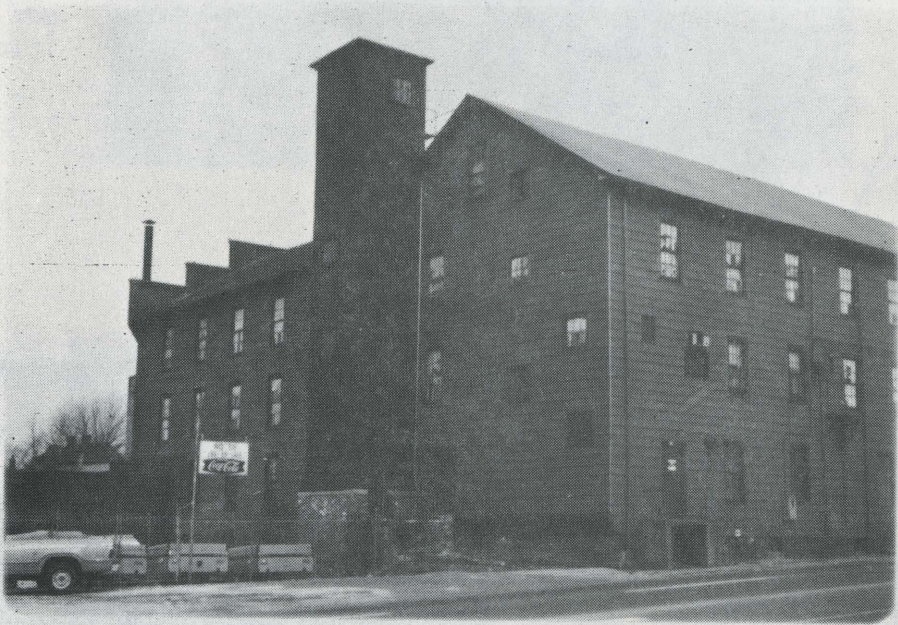
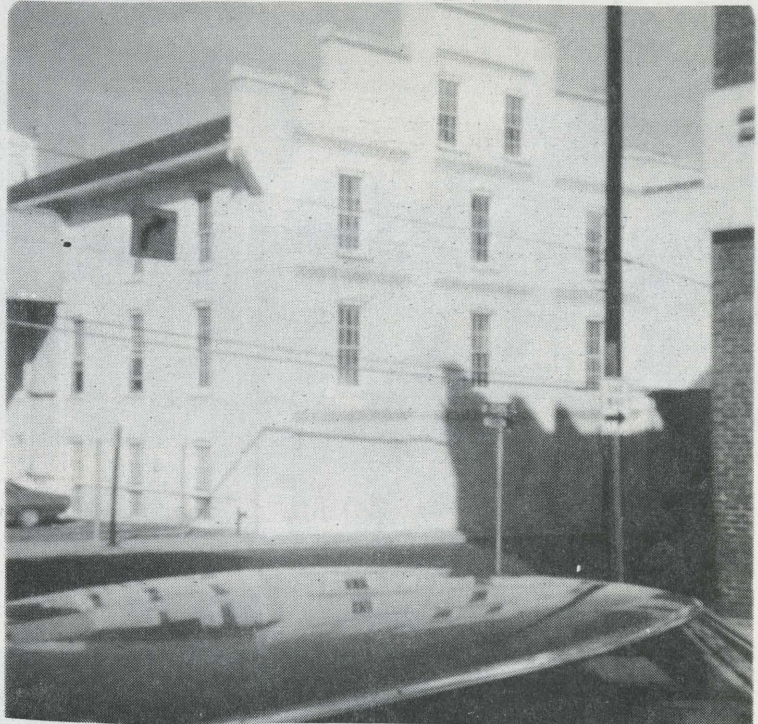
Smith-Sparger Tobacco Factory, Mount Airy. Probably built in the 1870s. Silo was added after factory was turned into a barn.

Tobacco factories became more pretentious such as this one of William Ashby & Sons. (Bray's Mill of Mount Airy)

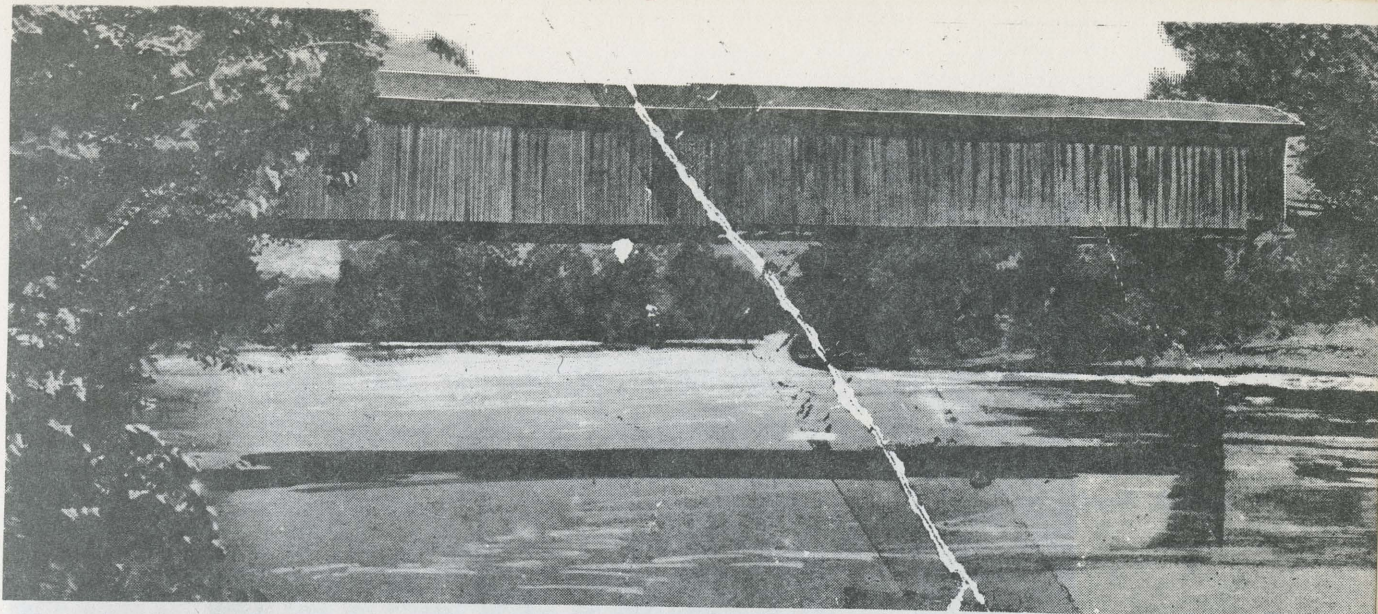


*Sparger Brothers
Tobacco Factory
(now Spencer's
and Renfro) in
Mount Airy.*

*These factories
were squeezed
out in the late
1890's by the
American Tobacco
Trust.*



*Smith-Hadley Tobacco Factory at the end of
Pine Street in Mount Airy.*



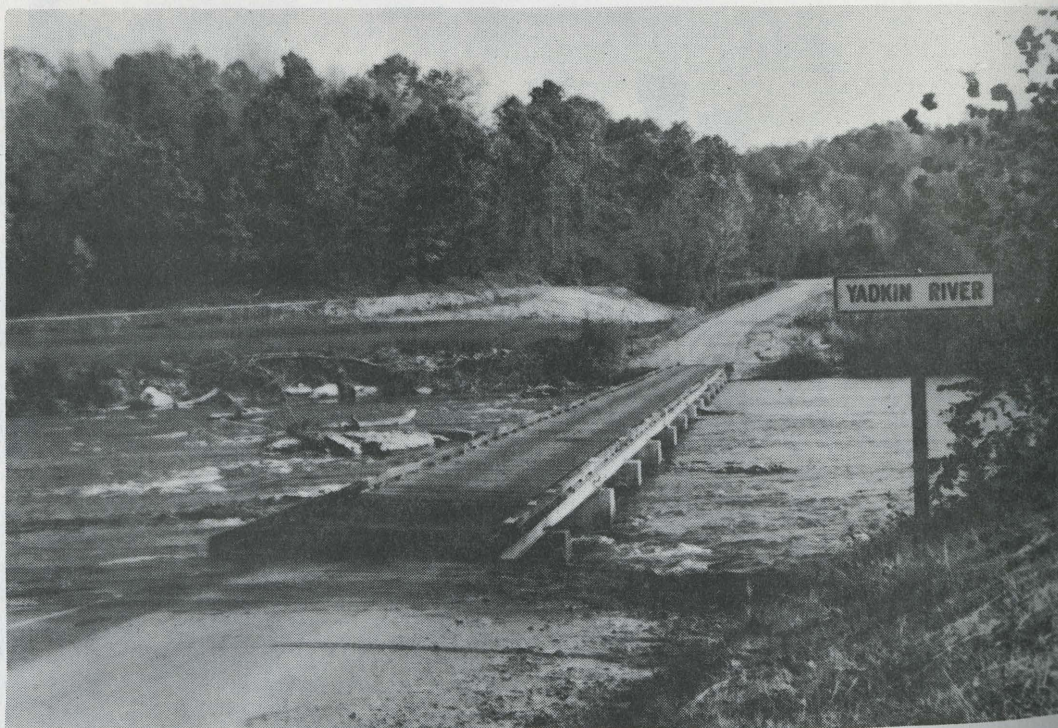
Covered bridge that spanned the Yadkin River between Elkin and Jonesville for 41 years. Photo is from old post card belonging to James B. Darnell. The postmark date is June 4, 1909.

Elkin Depot - Flood of 1916 (Photo - Courtesy of James B. Darnell)





Grant-Burrus Hotel, Rockford. This picture was made by Jane McRae just one month before the structure was practically destroyed by fire in November 1974. It was built in 1794, and has the distinction of housing such notables as Andrew Jackson, Aaron Burr and probably Andrew Johnson.

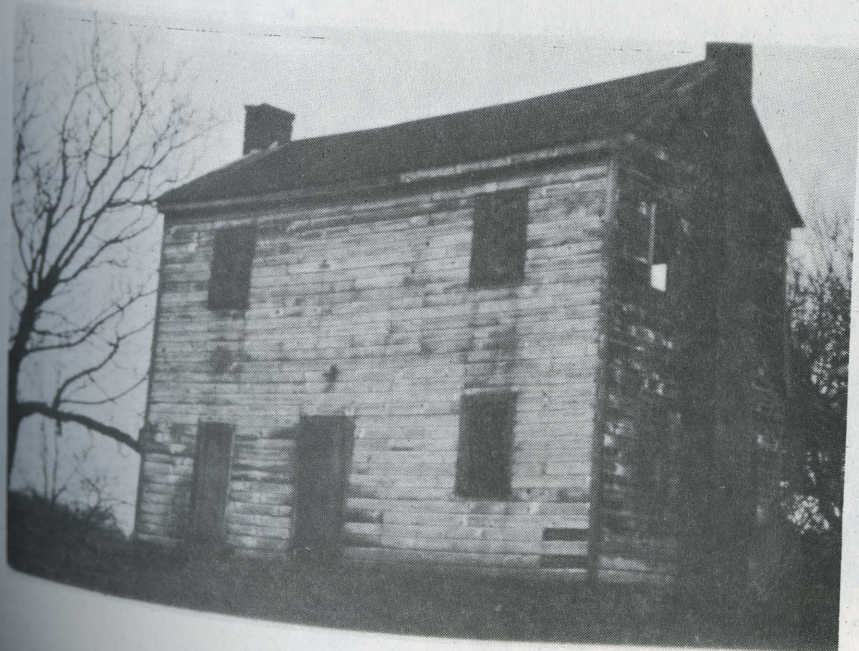
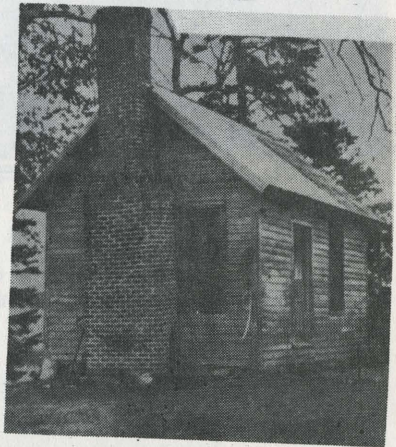


Low water bridge spanning the Yadkin between Surry and Yadkin Counties. This bridge replaces the ferry that operated until the flood of 1940.

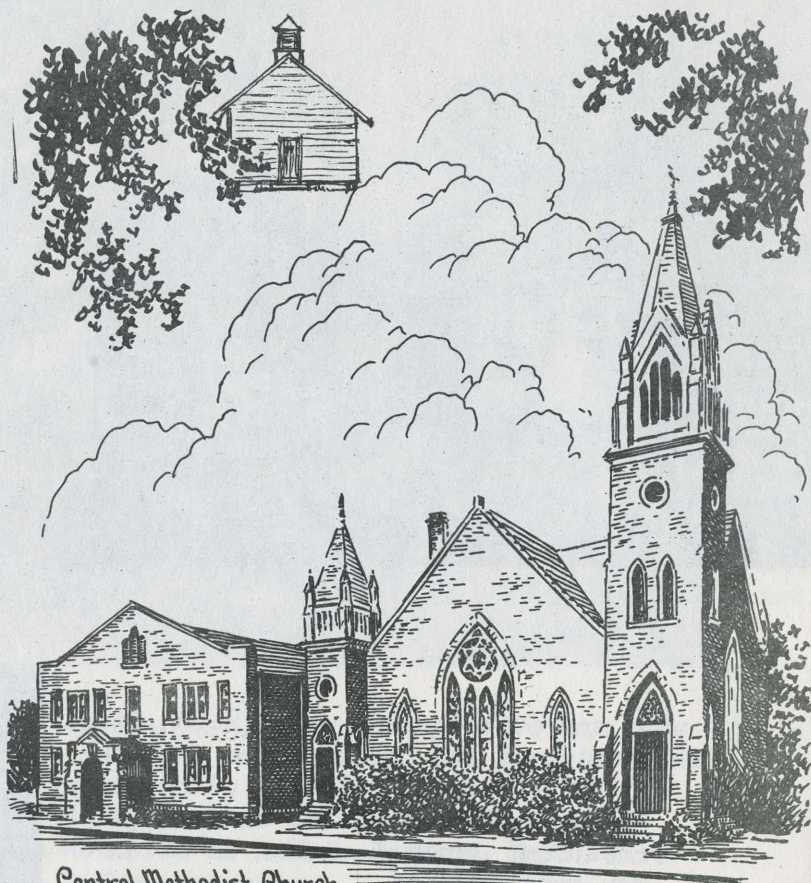


*Winston Fulton home,
probably built in the
1850's. Mr. Fulton
had one of the first
tobacco factories
around Mount Airy.*

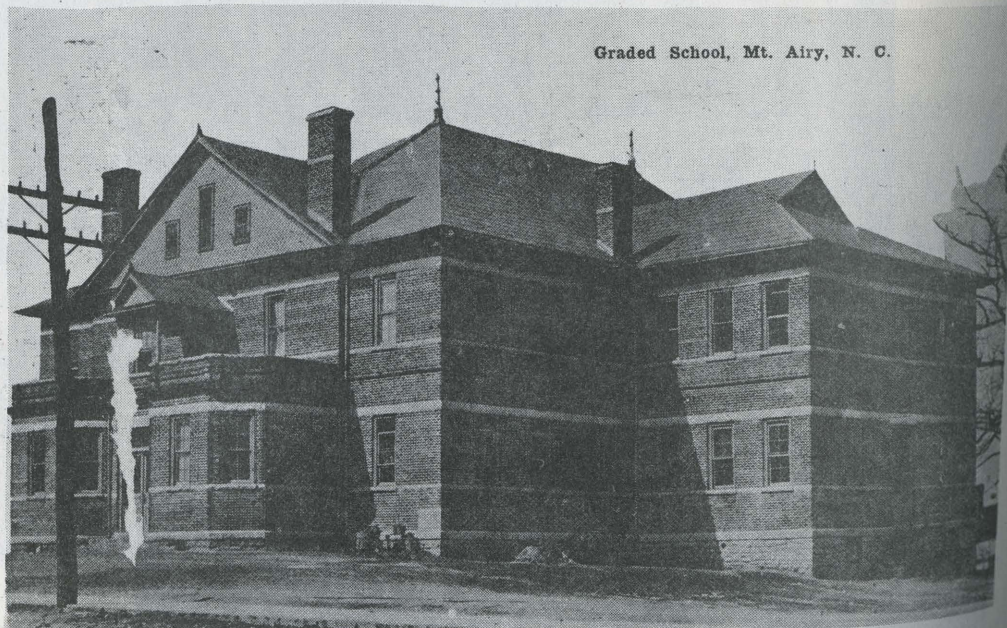
*The Dobson cabin where
President James K. Polk
may have studied.*



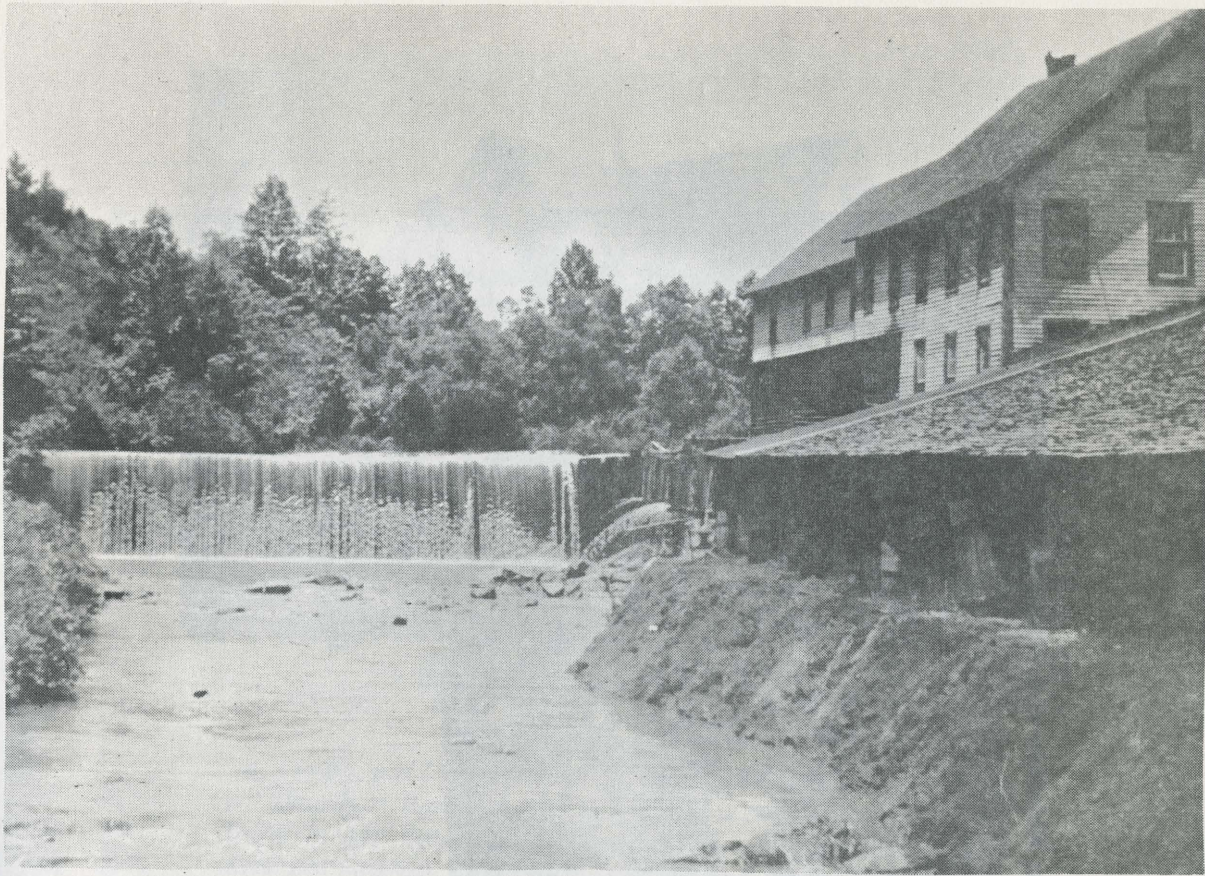
*Ruins of the W. P. Dobson
home, about five miles
east of Rockford.*



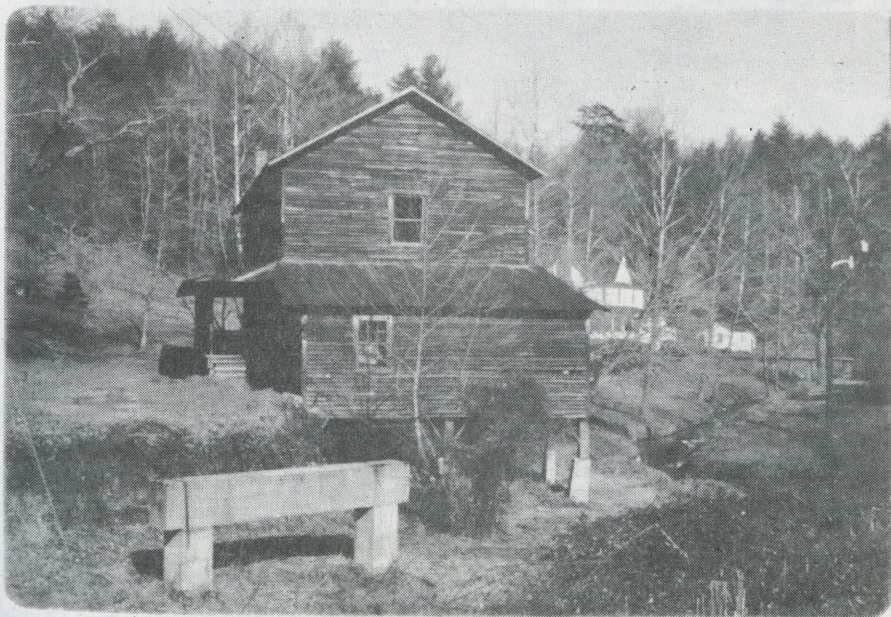
Central Methodist Church
Mount Airy - North Carolina
Its Early Years
1829-1900



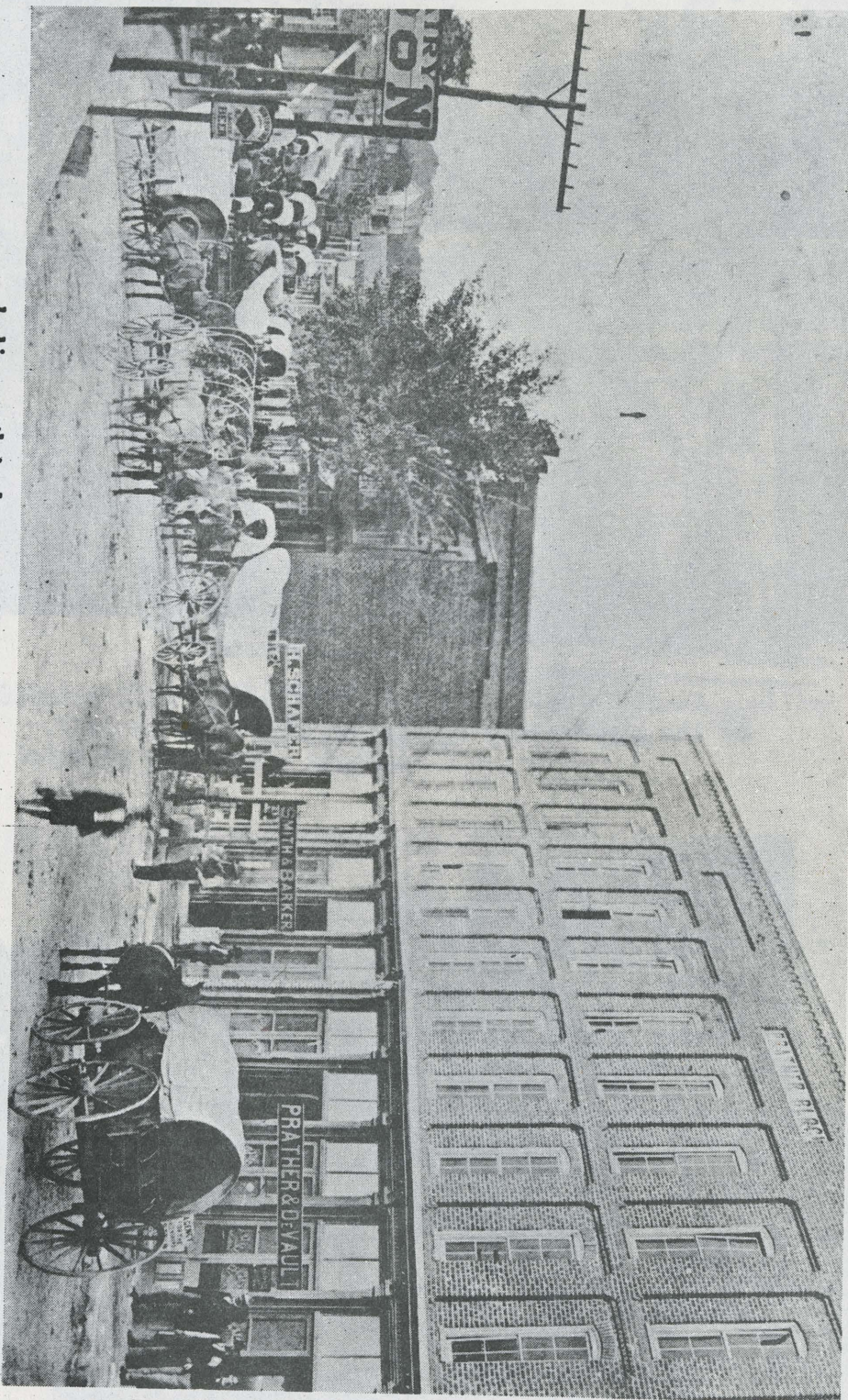
Graded School, Mt. Airy, N. C.



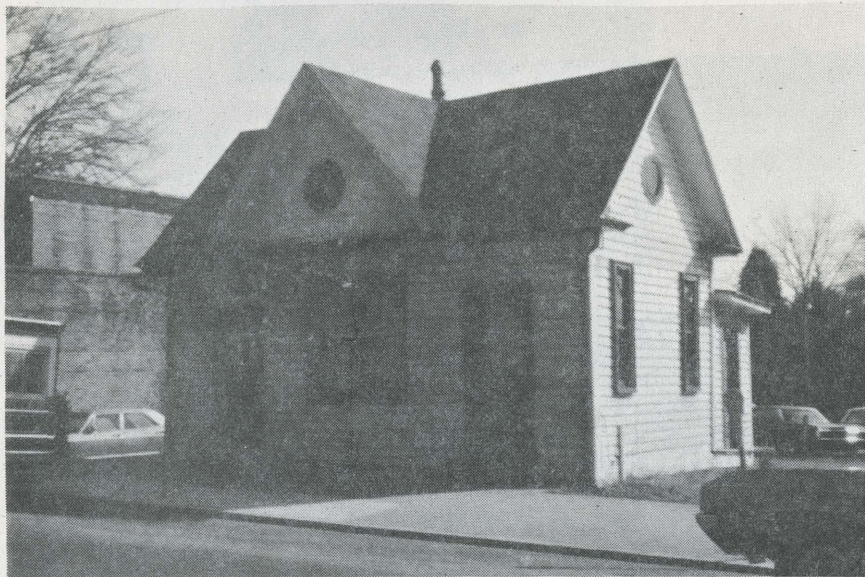
*Spillway in Elkin Creek and the first woolen mill established
by the partnership of Chatham and Gwyn, in 1877.
(Photo - Courtesy of Mabel Sale)*



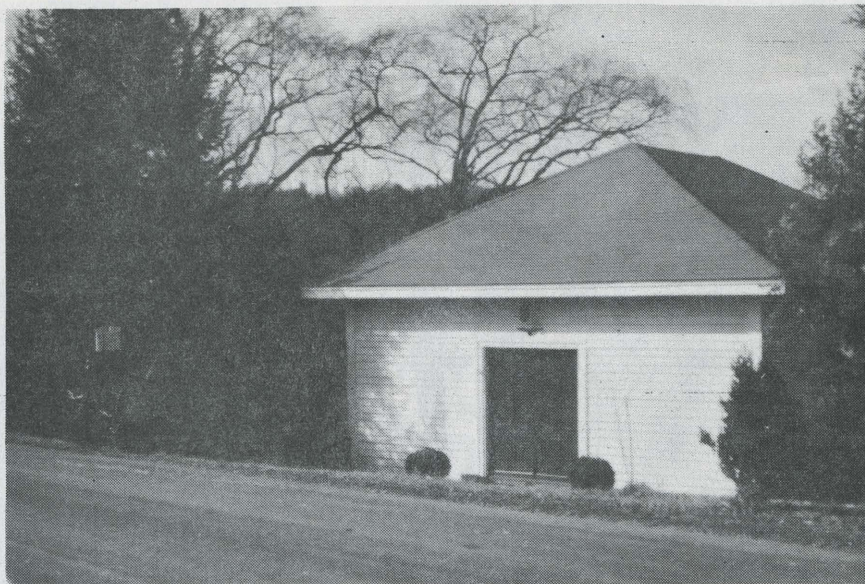
*Kapps Mill on Mitchell's River. Built
around 1827. Early settlers took their
corn to mills such as this. Few such
structures are around today.*



... looking north in downtown Mount Airy around the turn of the century ...



The first railroad station in Elkin. First office of Chatham Manufacturing Company. Later used as Duke Power Company office, Elkin Public Library. Now serves as the bus station and Auto License Bureau.



Richard Gwyn Museum on Virginia Road, Elkin.

*Elkin's first schoolhouse and first church.
Now owned and maintained by the D.A.R.*



Pilot Mountain



*Depot Street in Pilot Mountain around the turn of the century.
Some of these buildings were destroyed by fire in 1918.*



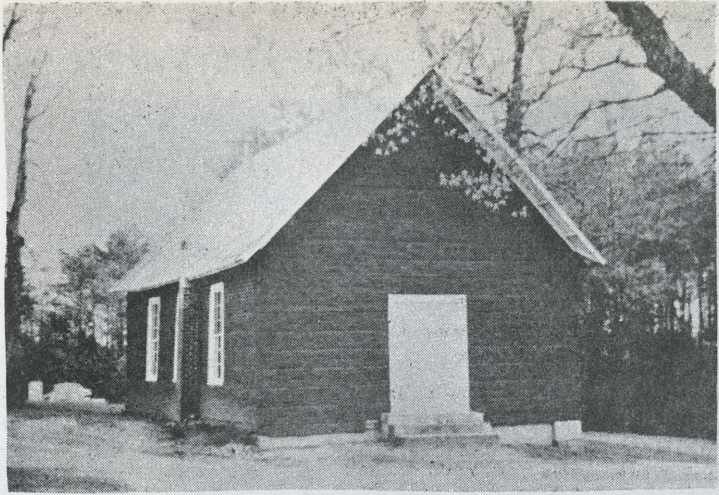
*Bernard Franklin's
mansion home,
now being restored
by the Surry County
Historical Society.*



*Colonel Waugh house, presently known
as the Llewelyn house in Dobson. It
was supposedly built just after the
Civil War.*



The World's Largest Open Face Granite Quarry, Operating Since 1889.



*ROUND PEAK PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Built around 1825*

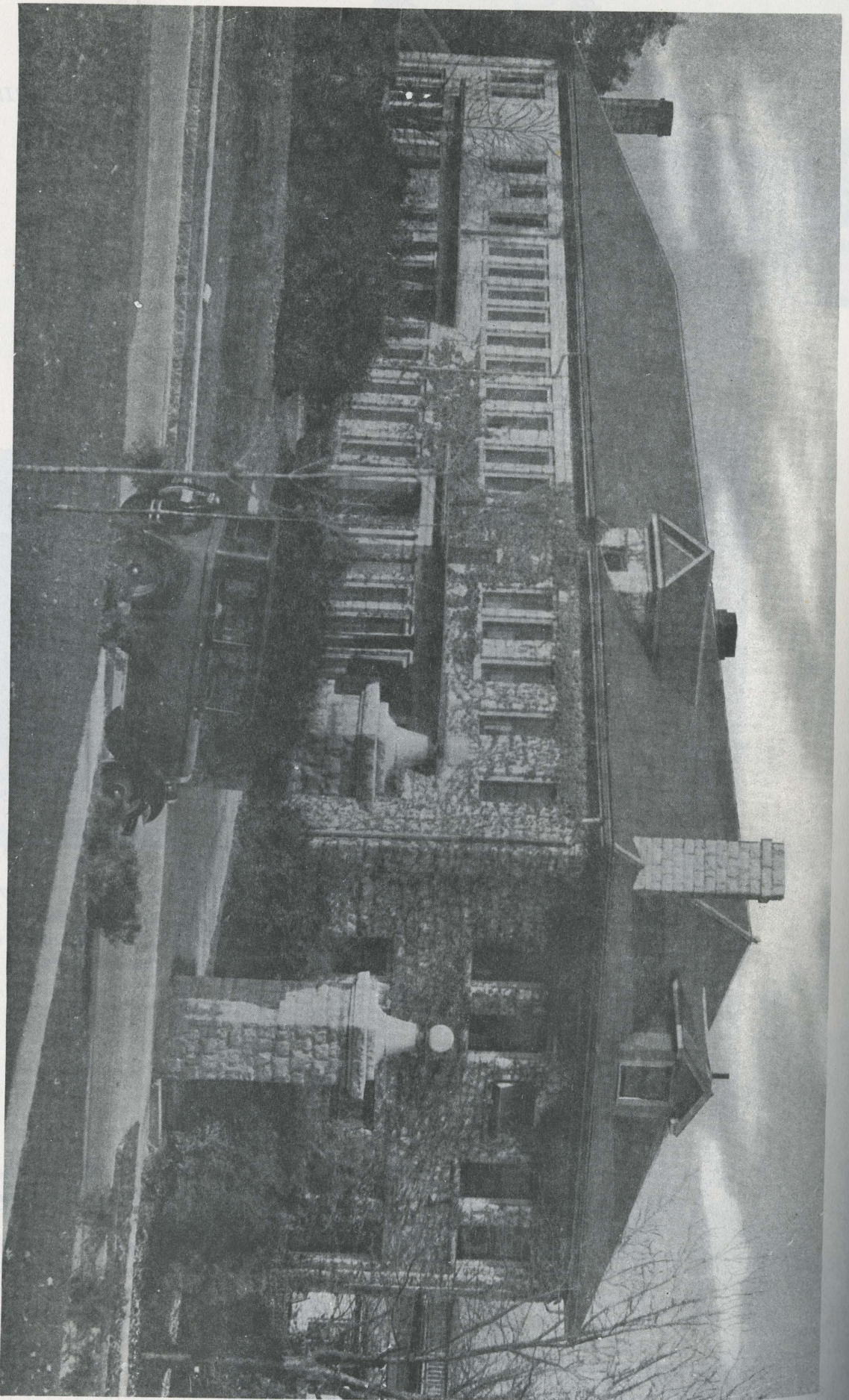


The home of Solomon Graves, Mount Airy's first lawyer, built around 1840. Known locally as the old Fulton house, it is thought to be the oldest house in Mount Airy.



*Franklin Church or
Flat Top Church.*

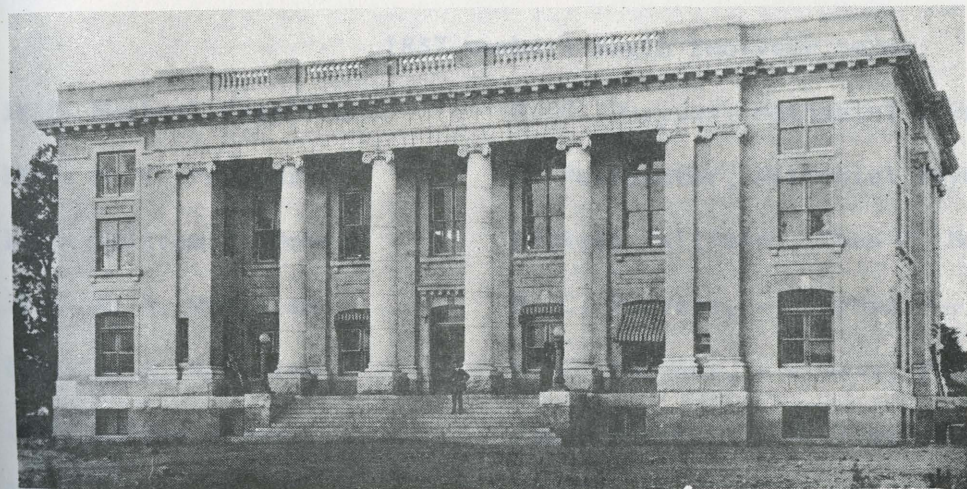
Said to have been started by the Franklins, near Fisher River where the Franklins moved in 1792.



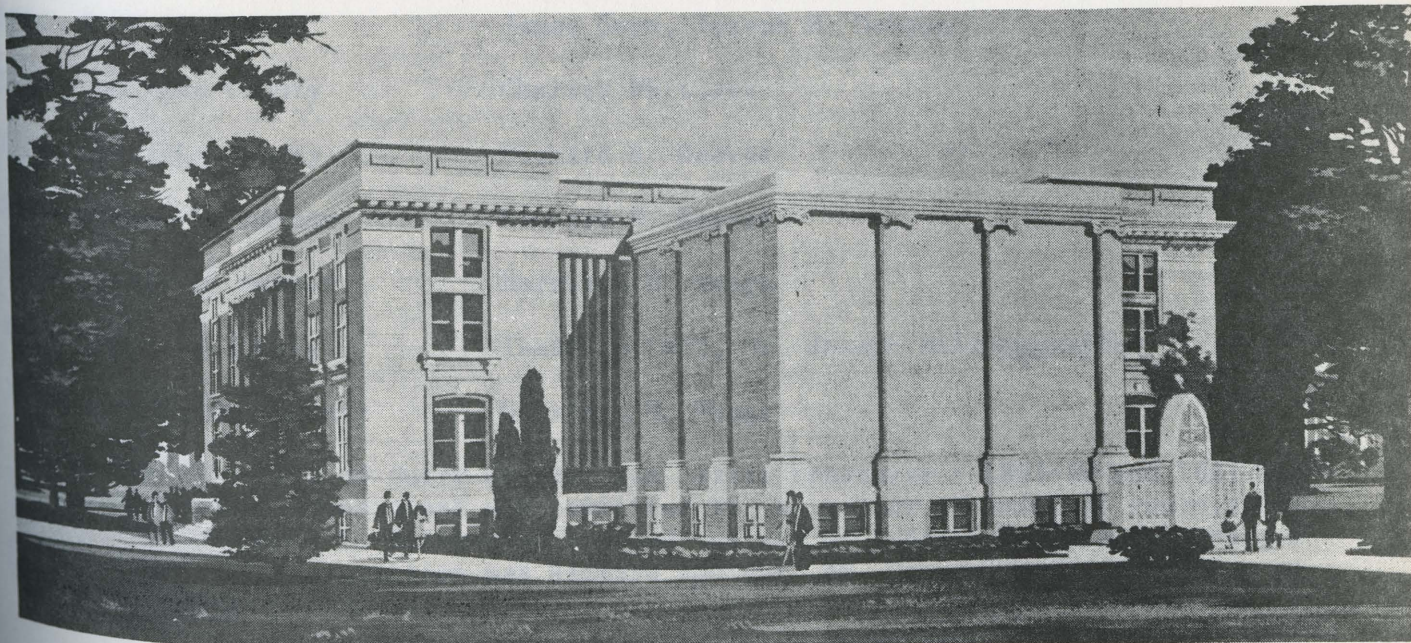
Martin Memorial Hospital, Mount Airy - Established in 1915. Destroyed by fire in 1953.



*Original Dobson Courthouse
Built around 1853*



*Dobson Courthouse
1917*



Dobson Courthouse

renovation in 1973

Architects' Plan

SURRY COUNTY - 1826-64

Members of the N. C. General Assembly from Surry

Senate

1826- Pleasant B. Roberts
 1827- William P. Dobson
 1829- Meshack Franklin
 1829- Meshack Franklin
 1830- William P. Dobson
 1831- William P. Dobson
 1832- William P. Dobson
 1833- William P. Dobson
 1834- William P. Dobson
 1835- H. M. Waugh (Harrison)
 1836- William P. Dobson

House of Commons

Elisha Arnold, Gallahue Moore (Gollihue)
 William Douglas, Ephraim Hough
 Mordecai Fleming, Alfred Moore (C)
 Alfred C. Moore, Ephraim Hough
 Mordecai Fleming, Alfred C. Moore
 Mordecai Fleming, Daniel J. Courts
 Thomas J. Word, Daniel J. Courts
 Thomas J. Word, Daniel J. Courts
 Thomas J. Word, Daniel J. Courts
 H. M. Waugh, Pleasant Henderson
 Thomas J. Clingman, Mordecai Fleming
 Daniel J. Courts, P. H. Roberts, James Calloway

1837 members begin two-year terms:

1838- Meshack Franklin	R. C. Puryear, Nathaniel Boyden, H. Oglesby
1840- R. C. Puryear	B. Poindexter, Nathaniel Boyden, Columbus Franklin II
1842- William P. Dobson	Dickson Taliferro, Theo C. Houser, John J. Conrad
1844- A. B. McMillan	R. C. Puryear, --- Brown, --- Taliaferro
1846- A. B. McMillan	R. C. Puryear, --- Gwyn, James Sheek
1848- George Bower	James Sheek, --- Williams, --- Oglesby
1850- George Bower	J. R. McLean, James Sheek, Joseph Cockerham
1852- R. C. Puryear	James Gwyn, Joseph H. Dobson
1854- see Ashe County	Charles Whitlock
1856- see Ashe County	Richard R. Reeves
1858- Joseph H. Dobson	Richard R. Reeves
1860- Joseph H. Dobson	Harrison E. Waugh
1862- see Ashe County	Isaac Jarrett, Dr. Joseph Hollingsworth
1864- see Watauga County	Harrison M. Waugh

Daniel W. Courts of Surry County was state treasurer -- 1837-39 and 1852-62. In 1815 the Federal Government was committed to a policy of internal improvement. The majority of the N.C. delegation opposed the use of Federal Funds for state projects. Leading the opposition was Richard Speight of Craven, Nathaniel Macon of Warren and Lewis Williams of Surry.

Education

In the state's history of this period education was a matter of private concern. Those families who could afford it provided teachers and tutors for their children but most of them felt no concern for the education of those children whose parents were unable to meet this expense. There was still too much of the old world's customs and feelings of rank and privilege. And it was members of this class who dominated the State Assembly. Jesse Franklin disagreed with these views as he pled for public schools, financed by all the people. He believed in the dignity of the individual and this could be safeguarded only by education. While he was in the State Senate he worked toward this goal of free schools and in his address as Governor in 1821 he had this to say -

"The gradual growth of the free school idea reveals the slow development of two important principles of education which are present today in every adequate and sound public school system. The first of these is the democratic principle that education is the function of the state rather than a family function or parental obligation, and the responsibility of providing the means of education rests primarily with the state; the other principle is that the state has the power and the right to raise, by taxation on property of its members sufficient for adequate school support. Both of these are now generally accepted in North Carolina though here, as elsewhere, they have won acceptance in the face of bitter opposition and cold indifference."

Franklin's desire for state supported schools was not realized in his lifetime but in 1825 the legislature passed a law creating a literary fund. Though this fund was not enough to be of material value in aiding the local tax districts in financing public schools, Surry County voted for it by a substantial majority. The tax amounted to twenty dollars for each district which was supplemented by twice that amount from the literary fund. The literary fund was badly managed, adding little to the state's educational needs, so the subscription schools continued to be operated. These schools would run three or four months in the year, sometimes longer. Surry was fortunate in the quality of leadership in these subscription schools and it followed that the schools opened here attracted wide attention from other counties and states.

In 1811 a subscription school was opened by a professor Hickman, an excellent teacher who attracted pupils from surrounding counties and from Virginia. His school was located on Rockford Road, probably near the site of the present Rockford Street School in Mount Airy as this place later had an academy built on it. The Hickman School operated until 1820. It was about this time that the Academy idea became popular. Chartered by the state, these schools were for boys only. The state records show that one of these schools was established at Jonesville, receiving its charter in 1818. This school was under the auspices of the Methodist Church which was taking a leading part in the religious life of the state. Methodism, which was an offspring of the Church of England, gained ground quickly after the War. It became the popular religion of the English descendents in America who had, to a degree, lost touch with the mother church during and after the years of strife. This new form of their old church, stripped of much of its formal ritual, fitted in with the democratic ideas of the new republic. Surry County was fortunate in having two of their most distinguished bishops, Coke and Asbury, spend some time as "Circuit Riders" in the county, establishing Methodist Societies. These became churches in which the Sunday School was strongly advocated. They also established day schools when possible. In 1794, a school was being operated south of the Yadkin River which was named the "Cokesbury School".

The interest of the Moravians in education has been mentioned in an earlier chapter and one more religious group should be credited with their efforts toward education for their people - these were the Friends, or Quakers, who were firm believers in education with special emphasis on primary and secondary schools, but like the Moravians they wanted their children to be taught by members of their religious sect. New Garden, a boarding school for boys and girls was established in Guilford County as a means for providing this kind of education. It received a charter in 1833.

In 1836, Professor Blakely of Virginia had a school at Old Hollow Meeting House, one mile west of Mount Airy, with about 100 boys enrolled. After five years he moved to Georgia and was succeeded by F. M. Gambrill of Wilkes County. The school continued to have an enviable reputation with sons of the most prominent residents in attendance.

Governor Franklin's dream of public schools began to be realized in 1839 when the matter was put to a vote in the state. Sixty-one out of sixty-eight counties favored state supported schools, Surry being among the number. The first public school in the state is said to have been opened in Rockingham County. By 1846 every county had one or more schools but they were beset by problems. There was no state superintendent or supervisor, there was opposition to being taxed for the schools and the damaging idea that public schools were charity schools. Equipment and trained teachers were lacking. There was the hostility of the academies and other private institutions of learning so the public schools were sort of "step-children". Up to the twentieth century, private schools were favored over public schools for the education of the youth.

Between 1850 and 1860 there were some private schools in Surry County which attracted wide attention. One of these was at Rockford for both boys and girls, taught by Mr. and Mrs. West, a couple held in high esteem among the state's educators. After some years they moved to Mount Airy, having separate schools for boys and girls. There was a music teacher, Miss McQueen from Nova Scotia, who set up a music department in the school. This school had pupils from Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia. The Wests were succeeded by Mr. and Mrs. Reed, who taught the schools for several years.

The War between the States brought difficulties to the school system. For some time after the start of the war the schools continued to operate but later the call to arms closed the boys' private schools and crippled the public schools. The local tax funds were diverted to more urgent needs of county government, also male teachers were not exempt from military service, thus taking away the ablest instructors. Miss Gilmer, a teacher of girls, was called to teach in the Statesville Female College during the war years.

At the close of the war Mr. and Mrs. Reed renewed their educational work at Mount Airy, being succeeded by James S. Hill who conducted a boy's school for a short time, turning the work over to Gus Grayhan. Some time later the Academy was managed by Sam Burton. It was under the administration of Rufus H. Smith that the Academy again had a wide reputation for the quality of its education. In 1880 this school was conducted by J. F. Davis. The female schools were taught in Mount Airy by Miss Lizzie Gilmer, in Elkin by Miss Metta Folger and in Dobson by Miss Lucy C. Journey.

At this time public schools for both white and negro children had greatly increased. Rev. J. H. Llewelyn had assumed the duties of county superintendent of schools, continuing in this office for thirty years.

In 1890 Miss Lizzie Gilmer was continuing her school for girls at Mount Airy while the school for boys was being conducted by R. H. Skeen at a site on South Main Street. A male academy was being operated by Mr. Brown of Elkin, the girl's school there having passed into the hands of Mrs. R. B. Galloway. At Dobson, L.M. Lyon conducted a co-educational school; at Rockford a private school was conducted by Prof. Cundiff, this being moved to Siloam at a later date. At Pilot Mountain, the Trinity Academy was under the leadership of Joseph B. Sparger and Miss Lula Elma Case, Assistant.

In 1899, Mount Airy organized the first graded school in the county, supported largely by local taxes and donations from the Peabody Fund. (These school facts were obtained from the *History of Surry County by Jesse G. Hollingsworth, with his consent.*)

Richmond Hill Law School

This famous school was built on the Yadkin River opposite Rockford, the County Seat of Surry -

Among the names of Virginians who came to North Carolina to settle along the Yadkin River in the middle of the 18th century was Col. Richmond Pearson, planter and merchant. His home, named "*Richmond Hill*" was situated in what is now Davie County. It was there his youngest son, Richmond Mumford Pearson, was born on June 28th, 1805. He graduated from U.N.C. in 1823, then studied law under Justice of the N.C. Supreme Court, Leonard Henderson. From there he advanced to a law office in Rowan County, to the legislature, a court judge then Chief Justice of the N.C. Supreme Court from 1858 to 1878.

Pearson married Margaret Williams from the Panther Creek section of Forsyth County in 1833 and lived in Mocksville until he built a magnificent brick house in an isolated spot on the Yadkin River overlooking the village of Rockford. He named this home "*Richmond Hill*", after his birthplace and opened a law school there in 1848. Surry County was fortunate in having such a school across its southern border, offering law courses to young students. It was here that J.F. Graves received the law training which enabled him to become one of the States' Superior Court judges.

Judge Pearson's classes ranged from less than twenty up to as many as fifty at a time. The students coming from across North Carolina and other southern states. They found boarding places in the community. From this school came at least three governors, six members of the state supreme court, other judges, congressmen, members of the state legislature, all taught by one of the state's greatest lawyers.

From another source comes this information on private schools - - (In 1872 a Male Academy was being operated by the Rev. J.F. Heitman, and a Female School by Misses Bettie Rawley and Mattie Rankin. These schools were in Mount Airy.)

END OF PART ONE

Part two traces the settlements - Siloam, Fisher River, Haystack, Jonesville, Stony Ridge and Shoals, Tom's Creek - Pilot Mountain, Westfield, Elkin, Mount Airy, Dobson - Sketches of Surry Families - The War Between the States and the Cape Fear and the Yadkin Valley Railroad. Tobacco factories and Cotton Mills - the growth of industry in the county as a whole.

Although there were no towns in Surry in 1800, Rockford being but a village, many communities had grown up and acquired names. The first of these was the town of Pilot Mountain, which was founded in 1780. It was the seat of the county government until 1842, when it was replaced by the town of Elkin. Other towns that were founded in the early years of the county were Jonesville, Haystack, and Fisher River. The growth of these towns was due to the fact that they were situated on the banks of the Yadkin River, which was the main source of transportation for the county. The growth of the county was also due to the fact that the land was fertile and the climate was healthy. The people of the county were engaged in agriculture and the raising of stock. The growth of the county was also due to the fact that the people of the county were industrious and hard working. The growth of the county was also due to the fact that the people of the county were brave and courageous. The growth of the county was also due to the fact that the people of the county were loyal and patriotic. The growth of the county was also due to the fact that the people of the county were kind and generous. The growth of the county was also due to the fact that the people of the county were honest and upright. The growth of the county was also due to the fact that the people of the county were brave and courageous. The growth of the county was also due to the fact that the people of the county were loyal and patriotic. The growth of the county was also due to the fact that the people of the county were kind and generous. The growth of the county was also due to the fact that the people of the county were honest and upright.

in the census of 1790 Jeremiah Early is listed as a resident of Surry. He was another distinguished Virginian, having belonged to one of the early families (Early) living in Bedford County. He was engaged in the study of law when the war broke out. He joined Washington's Army of Virginia and fought at the Battle of Brandywine. He came into Surry County where he married into the Freeman family. Other people who acquired lands in this section were the families of Atkinson, Baker, Barton, and Whitaker with others identified with Siloam. These people built up a prosperous and cultured society which was to have an auspicious reputation from the county. The rich farm lands yielded good crops of corn, wheat, tobacco, and other products while cattle and sheep thrived on the mountain lands. Orchards, planted with various fruit trees were cultivated. A will and general store were added to the activities, necessitating a line of communication.

Settlements

Although there were no towns in Surry in 1800, Rockford being but a village, many communities had grown up and acquired names. The most populous of these lay along the Yadkin River. There was Jonesville, Siloam, Rockford and Stony Ridge in the southern part, one up near the Virginia line called the Fisher River settlement, on the eastern border was the Quaker Settlement known as West Fields, down in the south east on Tom's Creek a community took the name of the stream, (this would later become the town of Pilot Mountain). As this was happening the area around the old Renfro Indian grounds came to be known as The Hollow, dropping the letter s which had been used in speaking of the whole area.

Siloam

This community had grown along the banks of the Yadkin River in the fertile farm lands of Morgan's Creek where Samuel Freeman had bought a tract of land as early as 1767, from Morgan Bryan. He purchased another one in 1771 along the Tarrarat River about two miles from where it flowed into the Yadkin. Freeman came to Surry from down in Chowan County. He was a descendent of John Freeman of Devonshire, England, who landed in Massachusetts in 1635. There he married Mercy Brewster, granddaughter of one of the founders of Cape Cod Colony, before moving down into Virginia. His son, William became a prosperous land owner in eastern Carolina where he left to each of his six sons a large plantation. One of these sons was Samuel who came up to Rowan where he married into the prominent Alexander family, moving on up into Surry where he established his permanent home. Here he immediately became involved in the activities of the day, being appointed one of the committee to have the courthouse, jail and stocks built at Richmond, the new county seat; was a member of the Committee of Safety and in 1776 was appointed by an act of the General Assembly as one of the justices responsible for erecting County Courts and for putting the laws into execution. He enlisted for service in the Continental Army. Joshua Freeman, son of Samuel, followed his father's footsteps, becoming a resident of the county and it was he who sold to John Dowden Reeves a tract of land in 1804, this being a part of the original grant made to M. Bryan in 1752.

The Reeves family background was English; coming from Dorset, England, they settled first in Virginia then moved into Albemarle section of North Carolina. John D. Reeves was born in 1759. He served in the Continental Army until the close of the war, married and moved his family up to Surry County. Here he and his decendents were to contribute much to the growth and development of the county.

In the census of 1790 Jeremiah Early is listed as a resident of Surry. He was another transplanted Virginian, having belonged to one of the early families, (1661), living in Bedford County. He was engaged in the study of law when the war interrupted his education. He joined Washington's Army of Virginia. After the war he came into Surry County where he married into the Freeman family.

Others who acquired lands in this section were the families of Atkinson, Baker, Marion, Nutt and Whitaker with others identified with Siloam. These people built up a prosperous and cultural society which was to have an enviable reputation in the century ahead. The rich farm lands yielded good crops of corn, wheat, tobacco, and other products while cattle and sheep thrived on the green pasture lands. Orchards, planted with various fruit trees were cultivated. A mill and general store were added to the activities, necessitating a line of communication

with Salem to which they sent wagon loads of produce, bringing back loads of merchandise for their store.

The people were also interested in the spiritual growth of their community. There is a tradition that the first Methodist church in Surry County was established by these people prior to 1800. It was known as Bold Springs Meeting House and was said to have been located about three miles north of the present Siloam. "Old Siloam Methodist Church", known to many residents of Surry, was established in 1808. Named for the Pool of Siloam in the Bible, it became the religious, educational and social center of the community, the name eventually being given to the settlement. The Sunday School was most unusual, having its opening at eight o'clock in the morning it continued until four in the afternoon. The Bible was the text-book, the children memorizing many passages of scripture with the Commandments, Psalms, and Beautitudes. In addition they were taught to read, write and do arithmetic. For some of the children this was all the schooling they ever received, not being able to pay the tuition fees of the subscription schools.

A family record states that Micajah Reeves, son of John D. Reeves, was the superintendent of the Sunday School until his death, after which his wife, Elizabeth Early Reeves, carried on the work. Mrs. Reeves seemed to have been a perfect example of the pioneer woman. Having acquired a knowledge of the medicinal qualities of native herbs and roots she was doctor and nurse to her family and neighbors, assisting families who could not obtain the services of a physician. This was the time when diseases like small-pox, fevers - typhoid and scarlet, were prevalent and often fatal. Quite often one of these diseases would take its toll of from three to five members of one family. Mrs. Reeves rode horseback on her missions, often staying overnight with a stricken family.

In her home was a room known as the minister's room, kept always ready for visiting ministers. Among the number named who preached in the first log church were Bishops Asbury, Howard, Coke and Lorenzo.

A deed was made to the Old Siloam Church lot by "*Joseph Howard and wife Nancy Howard to Jesse Briggs, Joseph Harrison, Tyre Freeman, Milton Cain and John Prather - Trustees - made the third day of February, 1829.*" The copy of the deed with the following interesting items have been furnished by Mrs. S. Hugh Atkinson (Ola Marion) of Siloam.

The graveyard at the old church is being cared for by the descendents of the original families. A plot on the opposite side of the church was set apart for the burial place of the slaves.

A post office was established at Siloam, February 3rd, 1837 with Micajah Reeves, postmaster. The office was set up in the Reeves store and remained there until the railroad came through in 1890, members of the family serving continuously as postmasters until 1888.

Before the railroad came to Siloam all produce was hauled by wagons to markets south and east, fording the Yadkin River until a ferry was constructed by the Reeves brothers. Later the ferry was bought and operated by J.R. and R.N. Marion until they sold it to Lucky Hall. A bridge was built in 1938. The Marion brothers, J.R., N.C. and R.N. owned the first store in Siloam, the Reeves Store being some distance from the village.

Between the time that train service became available to Siloam and the automobile era replaced the train as a means of transportation, the little village had its greatest years of success. It was a center for loading tobacco on trains for shipment to warehouses in Winston-Salem. Wagons brought the hogsheads of tobacco to the railroad where the trains stayed for hours while being loaded.

In the latter part of the nineteenth century there were several tobacco factories owned by the Reeves, Marions, and George Matthews. Large shipments of fertilizers came in by train. A newspaper item of 1916 stated that 200 wagons were in Siloam in one day that week, buying fertilizer for the spring crops and for trading in the stores in the village.

The Siloam Academy was opened about 1892, being built by interested citizens. W. Milton Cundiff was the leader of the group which included J.R. Marion, Hasten Snow, Dan Scott, Sam Atkinson, N.C. Marion, Aaron Whitaker, R.N. Marion, and others who furnished materials, labor and money for the project. S.J. Atkinson and Aaron Whitaker gave the lot on which the building was erected. The housewives of the community opened their homes to boarding students. Many people who later became prominent in the business and professional world attended school at the Academy.

The names of those who lived at Siloam, Rockford and along the Yadkin River have remained on the Surry Books as being active in the many phases of its life. Those who moved to Mount Airy, Winston-Salem, Elkin and more distant places have been prominent in the business and civic life of their times.

Three grandsons of Micajah and Elizabeth Early Reeves left Surry in their youth to find a place for their talents in New York City. There, in the 1920's they founded a textile company which has grown into the giant industry known as "The Reeves Bros., Inc."

In 1950 the youngest of these brothers, John M. Reeves, through a generous donation, made it possible for Mount Airy to build a handsome, well-equipped Y.M.C.A. In appreciation the citizens gave it the name, "Reeves Y.M.C.A."

Stony Ridge on Grassy Creek

This was one of the early communities situated near Siloam. A post office was established here in 1837 with William W. Wolff as postmaster. He served until succeeded by Henry R. Schman in 1852 but was again appointed in 1855. He was followed by Sarah Wolff, Francis A. Butner and Matthew F. Butner.

Shoals

Another community in the southern part of the county which grew through the years was Shoals. A post office was first established in 1891, Bazle E. Moser being the appointed postmaster. He was followed by Robert E. Truelove, Julius F. Owen and John A. Martin.

Fisher River Settlement

Among the settlements which dotted The Hollows in 1800, one bore the name of Fisher River. It is said that this river was first named "Fishe" but was changed when an explorer by the name of Fisher, confirmed the claim of the settlers that this mountain peak from which the river flowed, was the highest peak along the

The same writer describes one of his favorite neighbors in looks and dress -

"Uncle Billy came from the Huckleberry Ponds near Fayetteville. An unfortunate accident forced him, much against his will, to leave his native section, but he was quite a philosopher and seemed cheerful and happy in the mountains of Surry. He was ever busy cutting out mill-stones and building tub-mills across the mountain streams or hunting in the forests. Not a lazy bone in him, the Cherokee Indian being no more fleet of foot. He stood a full six feet tall, well put up for walking, more limbs than body. His rifle and shot pouch worn gracefully. As to dress he wore a smooth coon-skin cap, black and slick from constant use; a walnut-dyed linsey hunting shirt, girded with a leathern belt that might have come off one of Adam's calves. His jacket was made of calf-skin tanned with the hair on. His britches were dressed buckskin, tight as the skin with sole-leather buttons sewed on with a leather thong. Instead of shoes he wore hogskin moccasins brogued with sole-leather."

For recreation, besides hunting and fishing, the settlers enjoyed attending court at Richmond and later at Rockford. It was a meeting place for friends and for making new acquaintances. There was the courtroom with its judicial activities for enlightenment and entertainment, the tavern for fellowship, and camping in their wagons along the river made of it a real holiday. One of their number liked nothing better than to have a case for trial, and there was nothing too small to "law over". At one time he sued a neighbor for payment of - 1/2 gallon of soap grease, 1/2 pint of salt, 1/2 gallon of sifted meal and three tobacco plants.

When the long winter evenings came, shutting them away from the outside world they whiled away time with fabulous tales, each trying to outdo the other and each story having to do with their own personal experiences. One of these stories had to do with a buck and a gun. Uncle Davy Lane told how he out-smarted a wily old buck who had, for weeks, eluded his bullets by dashing around the mountains "faster urn a shootin star". Uncle Davy was a gunsmith who loved his trade and was not averse to trying new ideas. He now came up with the novel one of bending the barrel of the gun so the bullet would leave it in a curve "taking the twist" with the deer as it disappeared around the mountain. And the first time he tried it he got his buck - that's what he said-.

Another of his stories was about the time he was hunting away up on Fisher's Peak when night caught him. There was a new moon hanging so low in the sky that when he reached up to hang his shot bag on a tree limb, it caught on the silver point of the moon and was lifted beyond his reach. The next evening he returned to the same place to find the moon still carrying his old shot bag on its horn as it came sailing over the peak. Uncle Davy plucked it off and bade the moon be on its way. These and many more stories were told in the evenings as time moved slowly in these secluded hills.

Names found to be among the settlers of that section are those who have contributed much to the county - Hampton, Hawks, Holder, Cockerham, Thompson, Snow, are but a few of many. It was said in both states along the line that the finest gun-powder to be had was that made by John Thompson of Fisher River.

East of the Foothills

Haystack

Down in the valleys where the land spread out into rolling farmlands lived the Franklins, the Taliaferros, the Oglesbys, the Hughes and others of pre-Revolutionary days. At the turn of the century, Jesse Franklin was serving in the U.S. Senate while his younger brother, Meshack, was in the House of Representatives, 1807. In 1812 and 1813 Charles Taliaferro was a member of the House of Commons and Micajah Oglesby was serving in the House at intervals from 1794 to 1808. Here on the doorstep to the Blue Ridge mountains could be had news of the world outside as these men journeyed to and from the capitols in which they served as representatives of their people. And here came the people of Surry to listen and learn, to join in the festivities that celebrated the "goings and comings" of the elected ones. Pamphlets, news sheets, papers and books were available for the enlightenment of these neighbors. The Jesse Franklin home must have been a favorite gathering place for the young people with a family of eight children. There were the sons- James Macon, Hardin Jerkins and Bernard; the daughters- Sarah Panill, Ann, who was called Nancy, Mary Cleaveland, Elizabeth and Matilda.

Here three men whose names would be prominent in the growth and development of Mount Airy, came to pay court and marry into this family. They were Solomon Graves, lawyer from Caswell County, Samuel D. Moore, planter and merchant, and Jonathan Unthank of Guilford County.

Where the Fisher and Stewards Creek waters flowed south by east across the county, the lands were dotted with comfortable homes and prosperous farms. Meshack Franklin had a home here. A man of outstanding intelligence and ability, he served in the halls of Congress from 1807 to 1813; in the state he was elected to the House of Commons in 1800 and to the State Senate 1828-29, then again in 1838. He was a Councilor of State for twelve years and was appointed to assist in re-writing the State Constitution in 1835- a work so well done it stood the test for many years. It was because of the prominence of these men that a post office was established up somewhere in this region, named Haystack. It preceded the one in Mount Airy by a few months - Haystack, December 1831 - Postmaster, Thomas Hauser.

On Stewart's Creek, lived Capt. John Hughes who served in the Revolutionary War. He owned and operated an iron mine, or forge, on the river. He was married to Anne Moore, daughter of Matthew Moore. Southwest of these lands, on Mitchell's River, lived Bernard Franklin with a farm of 1040 acres in the year 1800. His son Shadrack also lived there, having married his cousin, Judith Taliaferro, daughter of Dr. John Taliaferro who was with the Surry Volunteers at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. Dr. Taliaferro lived on little Fisher River, his land joining that of the Lovill Family who owned early land grants in Surry. These families were closely related through a marriage of Judith Taliaferro Franklin's daughter and a Lovill son. Edward Lovill, who lived near Pilot Mountain about the time of the Revolutionary War, was honored in the 1790 census by having that district named the Captain Lovill District. Through the years since that time the descendents of this family have been a vital factor in the growth of many departments of Surry County life. Edward Lovill served in the House of Commons in 1828 and the name has appeared on military rolls and records of the county up to and through World War II and the Korean War in which a Lovill son made the supreme sacrifice.

John Hanna, of an ancient Scottish family, came to Surry County before the Revolutionary War and acquired a tract of land on Stewart's Creek for the survival of the name lies in a small burying ground on the farm. It contains a tombstone wearing a strange insignia which has aroused the curiosity of all who have examined it. The stone has a medalion cut into it in the form of a multi-pointed star with an insignia resembling a Maltese Cross in the center. The words on the stone read-

*"In memory of John Hanna who departed this life October 29 A.D. 1792
Aged 67 years"*

His will, which is on file at Dobson Courthouse, is rather unusual. In it he wills the unborn children of a slave to his daughters, naming them in turn, the first, second and third, and the name of each daughter as she is to inherit. The mother of these infants (unborn), he willed to his wife. Six sons are named in the will - Robert, the eldest, then living in Guilford County, was serving in the House of Commons, 1790-95 and 1807-1812. Two other sons are willed his lands in Cumberland County, Tennessee. Probably given to him by the government for his service. The other sons are remembered in the will, the home property being left to his wife. The last clause is the most interesting - it reads ... "I give unto my three daughters, each of them, a store gown." It was then signed by John Hanna and affixed with his seal.

It was up in this district that Bartholomew Hodges and his wife came in 1805 with one son, Drewery. They selected a homesite in the Big Fisher River neighborhood, becoming the founders of a family whose lines extend to the present day, including a past governor of North Carolina, Luther H. Hodges. There have been ministers, farmers, business men, tobacco salesmen and warehousemen. The first house is still standing with one of the descendents occupying it. (*Written in 1972*)

South of the Yadkin

Jonesville

The Surry lands which lay between the Yadkin River and the Rowan Line were settled about the same time as those in the Hollows and by some of the same people who came down from Virginia and Pennsylvania, traveling the route known as the Great Yadkin River Road from the north. Morgan Bryan held some of the earliest land grants here as well as north of the river. The distinguished families of Pearson and Williams were among the prominent of these at the time of the Revolutionary War. It was here in the southwestern part of the county that Bryan and Wright recruited their Tory regiments for service under Cornwallis in 1780-81. At the same time Col. Richmond Pearson led a company of volunteers to fight with the "Rebels". He joined General Greene's army in the winter of 1781, returning home after the British retreated to Wilmington. Colonel Joseph Williams who had settled near Shallow Ford, was also active in the cause of independence. A sketch of this family is found in the first section of this manuscript. Wade Hampton, who commanded the Rangers in the dangerous years of the early settlers, lived in this section as did many others laying the foundations for the counties of Davie and Yadkin.

It was here, just across the Yadkin River, and near the Wilkes County line, that the first town was incorporated in Surry County. In 1811 two brothers named Martin, laid off a town with one-half acre lots, following the plan of the Moravian villages, and presented it to the General Assembly. It was approved, an act

incorporating the town was passed and the name *Martinsborough* given to it. A few years later the name was changed to *Jonesville*, honoring Hardy Jones (1747-1819), a resident and soldier of the Revolutionary War who had fought under General Greene.

Jonesville had a remarkable growth, many people coming from distant towns to settle here on the *Yadkin River*. One of the state's chartered schools was located here, operating as *Jonesville Male and Female Academy* from 1818 to 1865. Students were enrolled from many states, the hospitable homes of the community being opened to boarding students.

An old catalog of the school, 1853-54, listed the trustees as B.B. Benham, F. A. Harris and H.G. Hampton of *Jonesville* and Richard Gwyn, C.B. Franklin, and W.B. Woodruff of *Surry County*. The principal was Rev. W.L. Van Eaton, the school being under the supervision of the N.C. Conference of the Methodist Church. The school ran successfully until the latter part of the War between the States when *Stoneman's Cavalry* came through this region causing serious damage to the building, making it one of the war casualties. It operated for a few more years but was never again a success. This was not the first school operated by the Methodist Church in the county as is found in reading *Bishop Asbury's Journal*, 1794, quote

"I came to Cokesbury School at Hardy Jones'. It is 20 feet square, two stories high and well set with doors large as others are. It stands on a beautiful eminence overlooking the lowlands of the Yadkin River."

The first bridge built across the *Yadkin River* was a covered toll bridge at *Jonesville*, connecting with *Elkin*. It was covered like a house and stood for 41 years, never being flooded, but the steel bridge which replaced it was washed away only a few years after its erection. The old bridge is said to have been the longest suspension bridge in the world at that time.

(The material on Jonesville was obtained from the History of Yadkin County, by W. E. Rutledge, Jr.)

A loved and highly respected physician of this area was Dr. Edward B. Hampton born in 1827. It was said of him that he was a consecrated Christian, one who always prayed before making any serious decisions about his patients. Soon after *Yadkin* became a county, he moved up into *Surry* where he died in 1918 at the age of 91.

Note - A post office was established at *Jonesville*, March 1825, with Richard Gwin, postmaster. *(Copied from a government record.)*

Tom's Creek Settlement - later the

Town of Pilot Mountain

The mountain, from which the settlement eventually took its name, stands 2700 feet above sea level, crowned by a large monolith which is nearly a mile in circumference. This odd formation on top of the mountain itself is called the Pinnacle and rises 200 feet above the mountain. Towering alone here this magnificent creation forms the southern end to the *Saura-town* mountain range.

The settlement here had its beginnings before *Surry County* was formed into a unit. Records in *Rowan County Courthouse* show there were settlers here as early as 1761. In that year *John Stone* was listed as a taxpayer and in 1768 the name of *Thomas Stone* appears on the tax lists. This doesn't mean there were no settlers here prior to that date. Coming down into the *Carolina* province from *Virginia* this mountain must have attracted many of the travelers. Surrounded by small streams, with the lowlands spread out in inviting farm areas, it would seem like the answer to their quest. Among those who did settle here with the *Stones* were the *Gordons*, *Venables*, *Goodes* and *Lovells* - *Capt. Lovell* settled here before the family moved up to the *Fisher River* section.

Ezekiel Stone, who was born in *Fauquier County*, *Virginia*, in 1756, came to *Surry* with the *William Stones* and volunteered for service in the militia in 1774. In the war he served with *Captain Goode's* company under *Major Winston*. As a sergeant he was in *Capt. William Dobson's* company, taking part in an expedition against the *Cherokees*.

The lands of *John* and *William Stone* were located on *Tom's Creek*, one mile west of the mountain and also along *Harris Creek* and *Heatherly Creek* which runs westerly and is located south of the town of *Pilot Mountain*.

The *Stones* were descended from *Gov. William Stone* of *Maryland* who came to *America* in 1633 from *England*. The *Stone* family is among the "Forty-nine best families" selected by the *American Historical-Genealogical Society*. The *Gordons* came from the highlands of *Scotland* by way of *Ireland* to *Virginia* about 1750. *Thomas Gordon*, who was born in *Ireland* in 1745, came to *Surry* from *Virginia* and served with the *Surry Volunteers* in the war for independence. A daughter married *William Stone*. The *Gordons* lived east of the mountain on the *Old Hollow Road*. *John Gordon* married *Berzilla Martin* and together they operated a tavern where the stage-coaches stopped for rest and refreshments. It became a favorite place of entertainment for the surrounding country side. Their son *Calvin* married *Jane Elizabeth King* of a prominent *Stokes County* family. They made their home on a farm near the mountain, owning many slaves. Their sixteen children were educated by *Mrs. Gordon* in the home where she set up a school for them and neighboring children.

A search through old records reveal other names in this area which is mentioned in 1790 as being in *Capt. Lovell's District*. *John Donnogan* and *Edward Lovell* had property located adjacent to *William Stone's* on *Tom's Creek*. In 1808 *Thomas Stanfield* owned land on *Harrefaz Creek* while *Jonathan Haines* owned property on *Heatherly Creek* in 1810, just south of the present town. *William Gordon* owned land on *Pilot Creek* in 1817. It was here that the *Hollingsworth* family first located when *Joseph* came from *Virginia* in or about 1790. He bought the iron mine on *Tom's Creek* which was operated by him and his son *James*. A sketch of this family is given in the *Mount Airy* section.

The importance of this settlement is shown by the fact that a post office was established here in April, 1832, by the name of *Tom's Creek*, operating until it was discontinued in 1880. The first postmaster was *Hugh D. Armstrong*.

Note - Much of this material was found in a volume in the *Mount Airy Library* entitled - "*The Stones of Surry*", by *Charles H. Stone*

From the United States Post Office files comes this information - *Pilot Mountain* was listed in *Stokes County* until 1868 when *Miss Stacia W. Gordon* was appointed postmistress, this appointment appears on the files of *Surry* post offices. In 1874 *Virgil Boyles* is listed as *Pilot Mountain's* postmaster.

The town of *Pilot Mountain* was incorporated on March 9, 1889 - - -

Mayor - J. A. Stone
Constable - J. F. Venable

Commissioners - Daniel Marion
V. Boyles
Job Hiatt

Westfield

This is one of the oldest settlements in *Surry County* having been started by people of the *Quaker* faith who came into this area about 1769 and settled along *Big Creek*, *Tom's Creek* and other streams in the section. They were affiliated with a similar group which settled at *New Garden* in what would be *Guilford County*. This became known as the *West Fields* of that church, and the yearly meetings were attended by members from "*The Hollows*" who made the trip once a year, going down through a gap in the *Sauratown Mountains* which became known as *Quaker Gap* - a name it still bears. Groups from the mother church came up to hold meetings in their *West Fields* and organized the "*Westfield Monthly Meeting*" in 1786.

The list of charter members includes the names of *Ballard*, *Beale*, *Bond*, *McKinney*, *Pinson*, *Puckett*, *Reece*, *Sumner*, *Simmons* and *White*. The *Quakers*, like the *Moravians*, kept strict records of births, marriages and deaths. They also listed the short-comings of their people, often recording the name of a member who had been churched for some violation of their creed. Sometimes members were voted out of the church for marrying "out of the unity".

The *Quakers* were deeply interested in education and before 1800 they had a school committee who provided for the education of their children. A western migration took many families from *Surry* between 1801 and 1822, among them thirty-six families from *Westfield*. This caused a slump in the church activities, the monthly meetings being discontinued for a time. This, however, did not affect their interest in schools which continued through the years. In 1872 a very fine school was operated under the auspices of the church. Among the latter teachers was *Miss Ellen Minthorne*, an aunt of *President Hoover*. She later married *Mr. Marshall* of *White Plains*. *Quaker* church was established there which still has a prominent place in the community.

Another meeting house and school was operated by the *Quakers* in *Patrick County, Virginia* before 1900. This was known as *Friend's Mission*. It was later acquired by the *Presbyterian* church and a high school established - there being no state-supported high school in that region. This is now *Ararat, Virginia* with a county school located on the *Old Mission* grounds.

(The material on *Westfield* (except *Ararat*) is from a paper written for the files of the *Jesse Franklin Chapter* of the *D.A.R.* by *Mrs. Luther Byrd*, 1943)

Elkin

Across the *Yadkin River* opposite *Jonesville*, a thriving village in 1800, was to emerge the second largest town in *Surry County*. Founded on a plantation owned by *Richard Gwyn* and named "*Cedar Point*", it became *Elkin* taking its name from the creek which flowed down from the hills to join the *Yadkin River* which forms its southern border. A short distance to the west is the *Wilkes County* line. Along this border families have been living since the first settlers came into the *Hollow*. *Col. Benjamin Cleaveland's* home was here on a bend of the *River*. The *Gwyns*, *Hickersons* and *Chathams* were residents of *Wilkes County*. The *Gwyn* family had been in America since 1642, according to a grant made by *Sir William Berkeley* to "*Hugh Gwyn, gent*" for extensive lands on the *James River*.

In the year 1775, one of *Hugh's* descendents, *Richard Gwyn* came to the *Yadkin* valley in *Surry County*. The part which would become *Wilkes* in 1778. He held the rank of Captain in the *Revolutionary War*. It was his son who became the owner of *Cedar Point* plantation after marrying *Elizabeth Martin Hunt* in 1820. On his plantation, *Richard Gwyn* added a mercantile business and in 1845 he built a cotton mill, operating it in partnership with *Lyle Hickerson* and *James Gwyn*. This mill manufactured cotton sheets.

Lyle Hickerson was born in *Wilkes County* in 1793, later coming to *Rockford* where he operated a general store and served as *Justice of Peace*. Later he became owner of *Col. Benjamin Cleaveland* home, "*Round-A-Bout*" on the river. About five years after the cotton mill began operation a young man, named *Alexander Chatham*, came to *Elkin* to become associated with the mill. He married a *Gwyn* daughter. Later he organized *Elkin's* first bank and was known as one of the most successful business men in *Surry County*.

In 1878 *Mr. Chatham*, in partnership with *Thomas Lenoir Gwyn*, son of *Richard Gwyn*, began the operation of a small woolen mill on *Big Elkin Creek* under the name of *Gwyn* and *Chatham*. In 1890 *Mr. Gwyn* moved to the family estate in *Grayson Co., Virginia*, selling his mill stock to *Mr. Chatham's* sons. Since that time the *Chatham Blanket Mills* of *Elkin* have become world renowned.

In 1913 *Mr. Gwyn* returned to *Elkin* to spend his last years in the old *Gwyn* home where he died in 1934 at the age of 92. He was called "*The Grand Old Man of Elkin*". A Confederate Veteran he had served as a lieutenant under *Col. Longstreet*.

After the *War between the States*, mills and factories increased in *Surry*, one successful business being a wagon and coach factory in *Elkin* owned by *J.W. Montsinger*. A shoe factory was also in operation in the town. In the early days of *Elkin*, their youth received their education at the *Jonesville Academy* across the river and at the private school at *Rockford* run by *Mr. and Mrs. West*. This before public schools became available.

A post office was established at *Elkin* June 1856, *Richard Gwyn*, postmaster.

The Town of *Elkin* was incorporated in 1889

Mayor - *Alex Chatham, Sr.*

Commissioners - *R. R. Gwyn* *A. G. Click*

G. T. Roth *J. W. Ring*

T. L. Gwyn

Secretary & Treasurer - *J. S. Bell* (later named clerk and treasurer)

The Wolfesperger name is next found in Surry County on Moravian Records-

"Dec. 9th, 1776, a man by the name of Wolfesperger, who formerly lived near Lititz, Pa., but is now in Virginia made an agreement with Br. Graff to buy 300 acres on Sparks Creek. His son will live there".

The son, whose name was also John, married Christine Frey of the Moravian community in 1777 or 1778, but it seems they did not live there but remained in Virginia where they aided the cause of American Independence in every way except the carrying of arms which was forbidden by their church vows. (A tradition handed down in the family stated that John's Uncle Phillip Wolfenbarger, a member of the First Battalion of Lancaster County, Pa., was bodyguard for George Washington while Commander of the American Forces.) In 1787 John returned to the Moravian settlement but remained there only a short time, moving to Surry County in 1792. His first deed was made in the name of Wolfenbarger but two state grants of 1794 and 1802 were made to John Sparger. The lands of John Sparger lay on both sides of Faulkner Creek, containing many hundreds of acres. Six sons and three daughters were born to John and Christine, a large family which was to produce future leaders in nearly every phase of the business, religious, educational, political and social life of, not only this county but also the state. A remarkable feat was performed by John Sparger in 1833 when, after the death of Christine, he, at the age of 79, rode horseback to Ohio, accompanying his son Henry. There he died in 1840.

Banner

The Banner family, whose roots were in England, have been associated with Surry County since its early days. Three brothers, Joseph, Benjamin and Henry came to America in the early 1700s, settling in Virginia. A son of Joseph, Joseph Jr., moved his residence to Surry County about 1770. He married Sarah McAnnalley and made his home in the eastern part of the county later to be Stokes. He was a member of the Grand Jury at Richmond Courthouse when Andrew Jackson received his license to practise in the courts there. His son, Charles, represented Stokes in the House of Commons, 1797-1803 and in the senate in 1818.

Charles married Rebecca Evans in 1798 and it was two of their sons who came up into Surry, establishing the family line which would enrich this section for generations to come. These boys, John and Elisha were educated at Germantown Academy, becoming successful planters and business leaders. The extensive plantation of John lay between the Unthank home and the Ararat River. Here, on the stagecoach road, he built his home, a large frame house with porches across the front - upper and lower -, boxwood walks, flower gardens, servants' houses in the rear, the farm extending to the river. The community of Bannertown now covers a part of the plantation. John was a leader in the county, becoming the first Worshipful Master of the Masonic Lodge in Mount Airy and an elder in the Presbyterian Church.

Elisha Banner, brother of John, purchased a large acreage on the west side of the river at the top of what is now known as Bannertown Hill. He built his house on much the same plan as his brother and operated it for many years as an Inn. It became a favorite stopping place for the stage-coaches as they came through from Salem going up into Virginia. There is a tradition that Mr. Banner had an agreement with the drivers that they were to sound their horns when a mile or two from his house, signaling their approach, as they could not keep to a schedule, and they were to give a short blast for each passenger who wished a night's lodging.

The Hollow - Mount Airy

As has been noted, the vast region known as "The Hollows" in Surry County had become divided into small settlements so that by 1820 this name had come to be associated with that part of the county lying between Stewart's Creek and east to the Ararat River. This section, which was to become the seat of the largest town in the county, got off to a rather slow start. The settlers who had deeds recorded as early as 1756-60 had not formed themselves into a community until much later. The first deed recorded in Surry after the County was formed, dated 1771, was made to William Preece to William Hale and was to a tract of land lying "on both sides of Renfro's Creek, the east ford of the Tarat River." It also appears that Loving's Creek was the west fork of the river and that the Tarat or Ararat River began where the two joined. Another supposition is that Renfro Creek was one of the small tributaries of the Ararat River whose name has disappeared from old records, the Ararat being the main stream, rising somewhere near the Virginia mountains. East of the Ararat was Faulkner Creek, bearing the name of an early settler.

The roads which came up into the county had increased and as they went north into Virginia and west toward Tennessee they looked for the shallow crossings in the Yadkin River. There was a ford at Siloam, another at Rockford and one at Jonesville but there was another road which would become the favored road eliminating the Yadkin crossings. This one came up from Guilford County, cutting across Stokes, it wound its way up between the Sauratown Mountain range and Pilot Mountain into the Hollows, across the Ararat River about where the old Renfro Indian village had been and continued northwest to where Good Spur (Fancy Gap), climbed the Blue Ridge. On it was to go through Virginia and West Virginia, cutting a road over which the great stream of motor vehicles of the twentieth century would travel on the shortest route between the Great Lakes and Florida. It was along this road that the stage-coach would come, making it a two, sometimes three-days journey from Salem to The Hollow. This being a natural stopover it became a popular place for traders who in time became shop and mill owners. The small, swift-moving streams made ideal locations for mills and tanneries. And it was on this road that a man would build a home and name it "Mount Airy".

Among names recorded in old papers were Moores, Faulkners, Barkers, Wrights, - names that have remained a part of the continuing life of Surry County. John Wolfsparger, whose history is recorded in another section, came to this locality in 1792. Brief histories are given here of some of the families who came to lay the foundations of the present town.

Moore

The Moore family in Surry dates back to the time before the County was formed there being a Matthew Moore appointed to the Safety Committee in 1771. It has been said that he was a member of the Virginia family which occupied the "Moore House" in which Cornwallis surrendered to General Washington. Matthew Moore served as a Colonel in the militia, taking an active part in the Revolutionary War. He lived in the Sauratown Mountain section and was one of those who became residents of Stokes County after it was formed from Surry in 1789. The members of this family who lived up in the Hollow were Samuel Dalton Moore and Gallahue Moore. The latter represented Surry County in the House of Commons for two terms - 1825 and 1826. In addition to his activities as a planter and politician he was a lover of sports, horse-racing being his specialty, a sport which carried his name into many counties in those early years of 1800. His home was built on a hill east of the Ararat River, the location of radio station WSYD, his lands extending up and down the river. Here tradition says he built a mile-long race track which was to furnish entertainment for many breeders of fine horses. His periodical races attracted sportsmen from Stokes, Caswell, Rockingham, and the adjoining Virginia counties who brought their favorite horses to be entered in the races. Stakes were high - not only money but pieces of property being wagered.

Samuel Dalton Moore, brother of Gallahue, was an influential resident of the Hollow. Married to Matilda Franklin, daughter of Gov. Jesse Franklin, he built his home over near Loving's Creek, about where Grace Street now enters Lebanon. He was a pioneer merchant and the first known owner of the Flat Rock. In 1800 this vast granite mound was covered with soil and underbrush, trees growing in many places. It was only as the settlers tried to till the soil that they found their plowshares bent and broken by the acres of white rock just below the surface. There were places where the rock was exposed, giving the section the name of "Flat Rock". In a limited way the granite was used for foundations, walls, steps, markers, etc., but it was not until the railroad came to Mount Airy in 1888 that it became commercialized growing into the giant enterprise of today.

Samuel Moore's two sons, William A. and Jesse F., following in the footsteps of their father became two of the most successful businessmen of their times; their names are found in many of the future enterprises in the county. Their homes were to be landmarks in the town of Mount Airy - J.F. built his on the main street, which was the old stage coach road running along the ridge between the two streams, Ararat and Loving. The house, built of brick, was demolished in the twentieth century to make way for a business block. W. A. built his home on the same street but on the opposite side, setting it far back in a grove with an avenue leading to it which is now known as Moore Avenue. The house, one of the oldest in the town, stands in the midst of ancient trees, boxwoods and magnolias. A rustic summerhouse marks the front lawn. A member of the family still occupies it.

It was about this same time that another son-in-law of Gov. Franklin was to settle in the Hollow.

Mayor - Alex. Chatham, Sr.

Commissioners - R. R. Gagn - A. G. Gagn

G. T. Roth - J. W. Gagn

T. L. Gagn

Secretary & Treasurer - J. S. Bell (later named)

Unthank

His name was Unthank, Jonathan Unthank who came up from Guilford County where his family had settled as early as 1758. He selected a site for his home on the stage coach road, about a mile east of the Ararat River crossing. Here on a hill overlooking the lowlands he built a house for his bride, Sarah Franklin, and gave it a name, "Mount Airy". Was it so named because of its location with its magnificent view of the Blue Ridge Mountains or did the name go back to a great house of the same name situated on the Rappahannoc River in Virginia? No one knows that answer but in the early records of Virginia architecture the name of Richard Talliaferro ranks with the best of the architects. In 1749, Governor Lee, writing to the board of trade in London, speaks of him as "our most skillful architect". Many of the most famous houses of that period were designed by him: Wythe House in Williamsburg was built by him for his daughter, Mrs. George Wythe. In the will which he wrote in 1775 he mentions a grandson, Richard Taliaferro, to whom he left a negro slave. Before coming down into Surry the Franklin and Taliaferro families had intermarried, coming south at the same time. Could the young man who fell at Guilford Courthouse, 1781, have had a connection with the builder? And as Jesse Franklin rode horseback across Virginia, traveling to and from the national Capitol, first to Philadelphia and then to Washington, could he have used these mansions as landmarks along the way, becoming familiar with the names and his daughter choosing from among them a name for her new home? The Mount Airy Mansion in Virginia was built about 1760. In 1955 it was still standing and occupied by descendants of the original family. (Information from "The Mansions of Virginia, 1706-1776" by Waterman, 1955):

The Unthank house became a favorite stopping place for travelers, the mail for the Hollows brought in by a post-rider, found it to be a convenient distributing point and eventually the name of the house became associated with the settlement. When a post office was established here, February 16, 1832 it was named Mount Airy.

That the Unthank family was connected with the postal system is attested to by the following letter, copied from a small volume, titled "Folk Lore of the Blue Ridge Mountains" by W. R. Morris.

Post Office, Salem, N. C.

Mr. Morris, Dear Sir.

I received a letter from the department last mail, requesting us to inform them what time Unthank quit carrying the mail. They also informed me that Jesse Morris has been accepted as contractor in lieu of Unthank and wished us to inform them what time Jesse Morris commenced service. It was your duty to inform (notify) me when Unthank quit service but it seems you did not do it. I am therefore not able to inform the Dept. You will therefore inform me without delay at what date Jesse Morris commenced to bring the mail to this place and oblige.

to P. M. Good Spur, Va.

Yours S. B. Shults, P. M.

Jonathan Unthank died in 1842 or 1843 but it seems from this letter that the mail was still being carried by a member of the family after his death.

The Postal System

It is interesting to look back into the difficulties encountered with the delivery of mail in the Colonies and later in the States. The early colonies found the delivery of government dispatches one of its major headaches. Private correspondence did not figure at all. A law of 1715 ordered that all public dispatches be carried promptly from plantation to plantation until they reached their destination, under penalty of five pounds for each default. This law contained no provision for private letters and it proved ineffective as to public letters, these usually being sent by private messengers. The Colonial Government, (governors), tried to establish a postal system from Virginia through the state to Charlestown, succeeding in the last year of Tryon's rule - 1771. There were four postmasters in North Carolina in 1774 - at Bath, Edenton, New Bern and Wilmington. In 1773 it took two weeks for a letter to come from New Bern to Salem. The mail was carried by riders who averaged about sixteen miles a day. The mail for Surry came to Salem and was distributed from there until post offices were established in the Hollows. It is supposed that Jonathan Unthank was a post rider, bringing official mail to the home of Senator Franklin. Later, married to the daughter of the house he continued to carry the mail from Salem to the Hollows the route extending to Good Spur, Va. This is now Fancy Gap at the top of the mountain.

An interesting legend has been handed down of a post rider and a cold Saturday in February, the year supposedly being 1835. The temperature went so low on that day it was spoken of for many years as the coldest day ever experienced in these parts. The postmaster was awaiting the arrival of the mail when he heard a horse approach and stop outside the door. On going out to investigate he found the rider frozen so stiff he could not alight without help. Assisting the man into the office he was able to thaw his clothing but it was several hours before he could speak.

Graves

In the early years of eighteen-hundred, Solomon Graves, a young lawyer from Caswell County, came to Rockford Courthouse in the interest of his profession. He was born in 1784, a member of a distinguished family who had come to Caswell from Virginia in 1755 with a group including Leas, Kimbros, Patterson and others. This section was then a part of Orange County, Caswell not being formed until 1777. These families acquired large tracts of land and proceeded to create a wealthy and cultured society. One of the most celebrated personages of the county was Bartlett Yancey; born in the latter part of the century he was educated at the University of North Carolina and became a member of Congress in 1813. At this time Henry Clay was speaker of the House and from *Wheeler's History of N.C.* comes this tribute -

"The Speaker often supplied his place with the substitution of Mr. Yancey; and the latter did not suffer by comparison with that distinguished gentleman who as 'Speaker stands unrivaled'".

In 1817 Yancey was elected to the State Senate, an office he held for ten years, being Speaker of the House the entire time. At home he helped young men in their study of law and it was only natural that a young kinsman, Solomon Graves, should become one of his students.

As Mr. Graves attended court in the various counties he was attracted by the opportunities he saw in Surry and decided to make it his home. His marriage to Miss Mary Cleaveland Franklin followed in 1817. Their first home was in the Franklin Community, coming a little later to the village of the Hollow, later to become Mount Airy where he became its first lawyer. From 1820 to 1824 he served in the state Senate, being there while his father-in-law, Jesse Franklin, was governor. After this he was for thirty-two years Clerk and Master of Equity for Surry County. In his later life he was known as General Graves, a title he earned in the state militia. From 1821 to 1860 he was a trustee of the University of N.C. at Chapel Hill. The home in which he reared his family still stands on South Main Street, a sturdy reminder of the lasting qualities of those early houses. It has been the home of J. H. Fulton family for the past eighty years.

It was his son, Jesse Franklin Graves, who established the home at Rockford and Main Streets. This son, born in 1829, followed the family tradition becoming a lawyer. He studied at the famous law school of Judge Richmond Pearson on the Yadkin River near Rockford. In 1871 he was elected Judge of Superior Court, serving with distinction until his death sixteen years later. Married to Miss Porter of Wythe County, Virginia, their family included three daughters who were accomplished musicians and teachers, contributing to the education and culture of the community; and two sons, Frank and Porter. The latter became a lawyer of outstanding ability, serving as Prosecuting Attorney for the Fifth Congressional District for thirty years. Frank was a business man and twice served as Mount Airy's mayor. The second son of Solomon Graves was Barzillia Yancey, born in 1835, he married Mary Moore of Stokes County, establishing a home on a lot adjoining his father's, a house which is still occupied by his descendents. In 1861 he became a Lieut. Col. in the 21st N.C. Regiment and was wounded at the second battle of Manassas. He became the first mayor of Mount Airy when it was incorporated in 1878. His sons were William and B. Yancey, Jr.

The homeplace of Judge Graves deserves special mention as it is still a landmark in town. At the time he lived there the grounds were very spacious, extending down to Main Street with formal gardens and walks. The Judge's law office occupied a space where the Rockford Street Library stands, and Rockford Road curved around the grounds to enter Main about where the Pine Street entrance now is located. The house has three front entrances, East, North and West. On the west side there stood, on an adjoining lot, a two-storied school building. In it was a small auditorium with a stage where plays and concerts were given. Beyond this was the Male Academy. Stephen Porter Graves, inherited the homeplace; married to Katherine Hollingsworth they reared a family of four children, one of whom lives in the century old house.

Wolfesparger

Because of the Moravian settlement in Surry County, many German people came into the area. Their speech becoming English and their names, in some instances becoming simplified, they were important factors in the growth of the county. The story of one such family has been selected as an example of the true worth of those who were willing to give up their own nationality in exchange for the freedom they found in America.

It was to this section that there came a man in 1792, whose descendents have enriched not only this county but many sections of this and other states. John Wolfesparger's family had been in America since 1734, his grandfather having come from Alsace, Germany in that year. It was in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

that he obtained a land grant which was recorded under the name of Wolfsparier. Ten years later there is a record of his having received his naturalization papers. In that paper his name is recorded as John Wolfersparger. For those of us who have never seen a copy of such a paper issued by the English Government in Colonial days, this is interesting - The Document -

TO RICHARD PETERS ESQ'R

SECRETARY OF THE PROVINCE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

I do hereby certify that a Supreme Court held in Philadelphia for the Province of Pennsylvania, before John Kinsey, Thomas Grame and William Tell, Esq'rs, Judges of said Court, the tenth, eleventh and twelfth days of April in the year of our Lord one-thousand-seven-hundred and forty-four, between the hours of nine and twelve of the clock, in the forenoon of the same day the foregoing subscribed persons being foreigners and having inhabited and resided the space of seven years in His Majesty's Colonies in America and not having been absent out of some of the colonies for a span of more than two months at any one time during the seven years, and having provided the Court certificates of having taken the sacrament of the Lord's Supper within three months before the said Court, took and subscribed the oath and did make and repeat the Declaration appointed by an Act made in the First Year of the Reign of His Present Majesty, King George the Second entitled an Act for Naturalizing such foreign Protestants and others therein mentioned as are settled or shall settle in any of His Majesty's Colonies in America and there-upon were admitted to be His Majesty's Natural born Subjects of the Kingdom of Great Brittain pursuant to the directions and intent of said Act of Parliament.

*David Edwards, Proton Equed Curis
(Clerk of this Court)*

<i>Foreigner's name</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Sacrament When Taken</i>
<i>John Wolfersparger</i>	<i>Lancaster</i>	<i>1st April 1744</i>

In the above paper we find a religious requirement similar to that of the Lords Proprietors' as stated in the Fundamental Constitution of Carolina-

".....No man shall be permitted to be a Freeman of Carolina or have any estate or habitation within it that does not acknowledge a God and that God is to be publicly worshiped....."

As it was in Carolina so it was in Pennsylvania - A Nation founded under God.

It is interesting to note how family histories can be traced through church records as well as land grants. The Wolfersparger family belonged to the German Reformed Church at Campbellstown, Pa., but the family of John II or John Junior, moved to Shenandoah County, Virginia, where he was prominent in the church life as recorded in Wayland's History of Shenandoah County. In 1771 John Wolferberger (a different spelling of the same name) took oath as Vestryman in Beckwith Parish. This is explained that while the Wolfenbergers were Lutherans and Reformed Church people the office of Vestryman referred to the Episcopal Church which was the established church in Virginia at the time, and as there were, probably, not enough Episcopalians in the Parish to fill the office of Vestrymen, members of other churches were appointed. The Lutheran Church being the established church of Germany or at least the favored church of the ruling classes, it was natural to select from among them. The Lutheran and German Reforms always had joint churches in these parts. The Lutheran minister at Woodstock where the family lived, was ordained an Episcopalian in order that he might perform marriage ceremonies.

way, Merlin Sparger (near Salem Church), Murphy Allred, Squire Moore, John Banner, and Mr. Mitchell on top of Blue Ridge.

On January 30th he writes -

"Took supper with General Graves whose son had just brought home a wife."

February 2 - "Clouds skirting about. Snow on Blue Ridge, the mountains."

Sunday, Feb. 7 - "At eleven o'clock I preached at Lebanon from St. John 11-20:21. Not many persons out in consequence of the snow. Preached at candle-lighting in Mount Airy from Hebrews 4:9. Several persons out."

On Thursday, Feb. 11 - "preached at Salem to seven people. Quite cold! Gave them a short talk from St. John 15:5. People got very cold. Found here a new church though not completed, but when it is, will be quite respectable."

Monday, March 8 - "spent the day principally talking about building a church in Mount Airy." He continues with the good news that by Wednesday they "have the lot subscribed and \$815.00."

On Thursday he preached at Salem, "going home with Andrew J. Satterfield". From there he visited and "preached at White Plains, Rockford, Siloam, Mt. Hermon, Ebenezer, Indian Graves, Hollow Springs, Flat Shoals and New Hope."

May 6 - he states that "a small church has been established in Mount Airy. A camp meeting was held resulting in the conversion of 50 souls, three colored."

In 1868 Rev. Wood was again stationed in Surry County. This time he mentions going up to Salem where he "held a church trial, expelling a Mrs. ----- and John -----; the first for slander and the latter for gambling."

On July 11 - "there was a thunderstorm, the lightning striking the church in Mount Airy, doing much damage."

Hollingsworth, 1790

A name which has been honored and loved through a century of medical service to Surry County and the Virginia border counties, was that of Hollingsworth (some of the early records omit the g- as Hollinsworth). From the time Joseph graduated from Jefferson Medical School in Philadelphia in 1845 and became the first physician to reside in Mount Airy, until the death of Dr. Robert E. Hollingsworth in 1954, there was a continuing line of doctors in the family. Seven practicing physicians and two dentists, all serving the county they called home.

The Hollingsworth family was English, from Hollingsworth Hall, Hollywood, Cheshire, England. The first of the family to migrate to America settled in the Maryland Colony, one branch, later coming down into Virginia, settled in Amherst County. A member of the family, Joseph, moved to Surry County about 1790 and acquired the iron mine on Tom's Creek near Pilot Mountain. This mine had been worked by the settlers since the first pioneers came into this section. Tradition says that the old iron fence surrounding the capitol grounds at Raleigh was made in the old forge on Tom's Creek.

Joseph married Mary Matthews of Stokes County in 1793 and reared a family of six children, the eldest being James who continued to operate the iron works.

James married Elizabeth Golding in 1819 - a family of sixteen children being born to them, among whom three would become doctors, Joseph, William and Edwin, heading this clan of medical men. Joseph was the eldest, born in 1820, he attended school at Germantown Academy then entered the office of Dr. Beverly Jones of Stokes County to begin his study of medicine. Going from there to Philadelphia he enrolled in the Jefferson School of Medicine. While there he showed such a talent for surgery he was advised by his instructors to specialize in that field. This gift proved of great value when he offered his services to the Confederacy as war spread over the south. Being accepted and commissioned a Major, he rode horseback to Manassas, arriving in time to tend the wounded on the Battlefield. His speed and skill in amputation was said to be unexcelled, but it was not as a surgeon but as the country doctor that he gained his place in the hearts of his people.

No less beloved was Joseph's younger brother, William R., who followed him through medical school and joined him in 1861. They built their homes side by side on the main street, the stage coach road through Mount Airy to Virginia. Here to a little office came the sick and afflicted of Surry, Patrick and Carroll Counties. A daughter once said she had seen as many as twenty vehicles lined up along the street. It was here that Eng and Chang Bunker, the Siamese Twins, came when life together seemed almost unbearable, to plead with Dr. Joe to separate them. But all of the doctor's skill and knowledge could not guarantee that anything but tragedy would follow such a course. After long talks they would go back to their plantation homes, healed in mind if not in body, to take up life again with their old courage and same outlook.

Early in his career Dr. Joe had formed the habit of attending court in Surry and the neighboring counties of Virginia with his saddlebags filled with medicines and his surgical tools. Dr. Billy tended office at home though sometimes he too could slip away to join his brother as they gave medical aid to many people who were unable to travel the long tortuous miles down the mountain to the office. One court official remarked that Dr. Joe was responsible for the presence of more people than were the court sessions. An old inn-keeper once remarked that when Dr. Joe packed up to go home, Hillsville Court always broke!

One of their favorite patients was the mother of General J.E.B. Stuart who lived just across the Virginia line. When she had to give up her home to move to Danville she insisted that the Hollingsworth doctors remain her physicians. It was Dr. Joe who made the long trips whenever she needed him, tending her in her last illness.

In 1847 he married Mary L. Banner, daughter of John Banner and established a home in Mount Airy. Dr. Joseph Hollingsworth was the father of nine children three of whom became doctors, practicing in their home county. They were -

Dr. John Banner Hollingsworth, born in 1858, who married Mary Moore, daughter of William Moore.

Dr. Joseph M. Hollingsworth, born in 1865, who married Conway Peyton of Greensboro, N. C.

Dr. Edwin M. Hollingsworth, twin brother to Joseph, who married Cora Holcomb of Yadkin County.

Between the time when Dr. Joseph began practice in 1847 and was joined by his brother William, another brother, Edwin Fabius had finished medical school and had come home to open an office. His career was ended abruptly the following year when he contracted scarlet fever. There was an epidemic raging in the county,

many children sick and dying and the young doctor, over-worked to the point of exhaustion, became one of the fatalities. Shortly before his death, he had married Sarah E. Banner, who gave birth to a son, Edwin Fabius, in that year, 1859. On reaching manhood this son and nephew of doctors decided on a medical career but realizing that his three cousins were preparing for the same, he changed to dentistry. Married to Cora R. Moore they had a family of seven children, one of whom became a dentist, Dr. William M. Hollingsworth. Two great-grandsons of "Dr. Billy" now wear the honored title of Doctor. They are Dr. William Hollingsworth and Dr. Jesse Franklin Graves. Dr. Charles Edwin Carter is the great-grandson of "Dr. Joe".

Many are the experiences had by these early doctors and many stories recounted in later years by their children; one being of the dark night when Dr. John had an urgent call from a patient who lived west of town. An afternoon storm with torrential rains in the mountains had washed away the only bridge across Lovill's Creek, leaving the water too high and swift to be forded. Before the town began using this stream for its water supply it was a sizeable stream even in dry weather. The doctor looked at the rushing water, shook his head and turned his horse to walk along the edge of the creek until he came to where the railroad trestle crossed to the other side. This too was under water but the timbers still held as the doctor led his horse onto the tracks. With his trusty lantern they picked their way over the crossties, arriving safely on the other side. "All in a night's work", said the doctor - But what a horse!

The tragedies were the times when medical skill had no power against a malady. Such cases included rabies. Before a vaccine was discovered and developed there was no hope for a victim of "mad-dog" bite.

For many years the story was told of the man who built his own death-cell out of a crib in his own back yard and locked himself in to safeguard his family. Here food was passed to him through a small crevice by members of his household while they hoped and prayed that the dog-bite would not prove fatal. However, when the prescribed time had passed for the poison to take effect the man became raving mad and died in agony.

Brower - 1812-1868

Hamburg

The industrial growth of Mount Airy began when Jacob W. Brower came from Randolph County to buy land in Surry and began the operation of several enterprises. His land purchases included a large farm on the Haystack Road and much acreage along the Ararat River. He was later to acquire a large tract that lay between Cross Roads and the Virginia line, including Slate Mountain. Before coming to Mount Airy he had married Miss Martha Albright of a prominent family in Greensboro. They built their first house on what is now South Main Street, a large frame house with the traditional porches, upper and lower, known in the twentieth century as the "Bobby Gilmer House". On Haystack Road, Mr. Brower constructed a grist mill but it was along the Ararat River that his operations grew to include a saw mill, tannery, a shoe factory, a cotton mill and a general store. The little settlement had a name, Hamburg. At this time, Mount Airy was still a post office east of the river. Hamburg Street is the original road leading down from the main road to the river and Mr. Brower's enterprises. The North Carolina census of 1840 listed 25

cotton mills in the state, one being in Surry County, which places the Brower Mill as beginning operations in the late 1830s. Farther down the river, Mr. Brower constructed a dam and built a large brick building to house a cloth mill. Many years later the town of Mount Airy was to use this dam as a site for an electric power plant, naming it Buck Shoals.

The Browers had two sons, Thomas and John M. who became associated with their father in his many industries. John became Congressman from this District after the War Between the States. At this time he was publishing a newspaper named the Surry Visitor, 1877-78. John built a handsome home on Hamburg Street overlooking the river. When his house burned in 1929, a complete file of the newspaper with other valuable papers were burned with it.

An interesting story is told of a piano being brought to Mount Airy by the bride of Jacob Brower. This piano, said to be the first of its kind to be purchased in Greensboro, was the property of Hon. John M. Morehead, one time Governor of the state. The families of the Albrights and Moreheads were friends and neighbors, their children being playmates, so when a newer model piano was purchased for the Morehead home, Mr. Albright bought the first instrument for his daughter. The piano has been a cherished possession of Mrs. Brower's descendents, now being in the home of a great-great-granddaughter.

Gilmer

The great drought of 1845 which affected all of Piedmont North Carolina, causing many farmers and merchants to bring their grain to the mills near the mountains where the water still ran swift enough to turn the wheels, brought a man named Robert S. Gilmer to Hamburg. Having his grain ground by the Brower Mill he became acquainted with Mr. Brower, the acquaintance growing into a business association whereby Mr. Brower placed Mr. Gilmer in charge of the Cloth Mill. He moved his family up to the village and bought Mr. Brower's house which had been vacated when Mr. Brower built another home down near his store across the river. Mr. Gilmer belonged to a pioneer family of Guilford County which settled there before the Revolutionary War. The name is listed by an early historian as one to be honored among the patriots who fought for independence. Associated first with the Brower Mills, Mr. Gilmer later became a merchant and large land owner. In 1849 he bought from Tyre Glen the large section of land containing the Flat Rock: known now as the Granite Quarry. He held this land until after the railroad came to Mount Airy in 1888, making possible the transportation of the granite to distant markets. In 1890 the Woodruff family of Greensboro became the owners and operators of this new industry.

Mr. Gilmer's home was one in which history was made in religion and education. South Main Street Graded School now occupies the old Gilmer location. Mr. Gilmer's son, Jerry, became associated in business with his father while another son, was a lawyer. Samuel L. Gilmer, a nephew, was a merchant and manufacturer. A daughter, Lizzie, was to become Mount Airy's best known and best loved teacher of girls. It was considered a special privilege to be enrolled in one of her classes taught in the home. For a short time she taught in the Statesville Female College returning to resume her own school in 1866.

Robert S. Gilmer's lasting contribution to the town was the organization of a Presbyterian Church which took place in 1858 with seven members of his family as charter members. One is reminded of the religious provisions set down in the Carolina Charter which allows any group of seven or more members agreeing on any religion, to set up a church and name it. The members of this church were Mr. Gilmer, his wife Susan, their two daughters Lizzie and Martha, his sister Mrs. Allen Denny and Mr. Denny, and Miss Mary Dicks. Services were conducted in the home until a building was provided. Mr. Gilmer donated the lot adjoining his home for the church building, a frame structure. This was replaced with the present granite structure in 1908. In that year the pastor was Rev. J. A. Gilmer, nephew of the founder. Descendents of the original family have been a part of the community's growth and development through the years. One branch of the family moved to Oklahoma where they have gained statewide prominence.

1825 to 1860

The years between 1825 and 1860 saw Surry County make tremendous progress. The manufactured goods and the produce traveled by wagon trains to distant markets going as far south as Georgia. The live stock, cattle, sheep and hogs were driven on foot across the county to south eastern counties and towns while great flocks of wild turkeys from the mountains were somehow persuaded to travel by foot and flight to distant markets far from their peaks and valleys.

The road through the eastern section of the county, up Fancy Gap and across the Blue Ridge Mountains was the only graded road along these mountains for a distance of seventy-five miles and was kept in fairly good condition by public tolls. It was this road coupled with the progressive spirit of the settlers which caused Mount Airy to emerge from a post office stop to a village of considerable size before 1860. The wagon and coach factories were enlarged, the milling of grain kept pace with the growing demand, cotton mills were operating and the manufacturing of tobacco products had begun.

As the post office moved from the Unthank home to a store building of James Tucker who was postmaster from 1832 to 1833, it was coming closer to its permanent home. Thomas B. Wright became postmaster in 1835, the location moving north to be set up in 1838 in the home of Samuel D. Moore who was then living on the road near where it crossed Lovill's Creek. Mr. Moore at this time was conducting a hotel. In the year 1848 Allen Denny, proprietor of the Blue Ridge Hotel, was postmaster. This hotel which was to serve the people of Surry County for more than a hundred years, had a proud history.

From early records comes the following information:

The first hotel by this name was kept by a Mr. Perkins. It was a very large building, being erected in the eighteen-thirties. One night Mrs. Perkins was preparing for guests when, on entering a linen closet, the candle which she was carrying set fire to some lint cotton, the building being destroyed. Immediately after this, Thomas Wright built, on the same lot, a large brick hotel then regarded as the most pretentious building in Surry County. Allen Denny owned it in 1848, it then passing into the hands of Col. Harrison Waugh.

There was, in 1849, a business block extending from the hotel south to Renfro Hill, the site of the present post office, with the following merchants, Robert S. Gilmer, Samuel D. Moore, Murphy and S. T. Allred, Scott and McAdoo of Guilford County, conducting a branch of their Greensboro store, and W. R. Bray with a tailor shop. Mr. Bray had come to Surry County, traveling with his friend, Andrew Johnson who was on his way to Tennessee. Mr. Bray decided to locate in Elkin while his friend went on west where he became governor of Tennessee and U.S. Senator. Later he was nominated for the vice-presidency on the ticket with Lincoln.

Mr. Bray remained in Elkin for some years, then moved to Mount Airy where his family established the Bray Milling Company.

William L. Nance was another Mount Airy merchant. One of the earlier merchants in the area was William S. Sparger, who, on a journey from Fayetteville, where he had gone to buy goods and supplies, was robbed and murdered near that town. The time was 1836.

It was in 1849 that Tyre Glen decided to dispose of his lands and move to Georgia. An interesting man, he came from New England about 1820 as a clock peddler. His business prospered so that he was soon able to acquire a large amount of land near the village, including the rock section. A man of uncertain temper he became so angry with Mr. Brower at one time it is said he threatened to cut off the water supply from the mills by turning the course of the Ararat River. When he sold his lands, Mr. Robert Gilmer bought the section containing the Rock. Mr. Glen transferred his interest from land to slaves, becoming so wealthy that he was able to return to the state after the war and build a fabulous estate in Yadkin County.

Tobacco

The manufacture of tobacco products began as early as 1852 or 53, according to old records. The men who first ventured into this new enterprise were Jonathan Roberts, Charles Whitlock, Ewell Belton and William Rawley. The methods were primitive, wooden screws being used to "Prize the Plugs"; the using of metal screws was first adopted by either Thomas F. Prather and William M. Beamer or William Rawley. A short time later Winston Fulton, Murlin Sparger, Henderson Mitchell, Hugh Gwyn and Elisha Banner engaged in the same business. Another name belonging to this period was Wilcher Cardwell. There were many references to William Rawley affectionately known as "Parson Bill". He was a large landowner, both inside and outside the village. A farm containing a thousand acres near Stewart's Creek he sold to the Siamese Twins. Before this they had lived for a short time in the village, their home being on Renfro Hill.

Bunker

Eng and Chang Bunker, the world famous Siamese Twins, are a cherished memory in the history of Surry County. The number of articles and stories written about these remarkable men have been so numerous through the years it doesn't seem necessary to do more than present them here in a brief tribute to their life in Surry County.

It was in 1839 that, weary with world travel and public appearances, that, they came down to North Carolina for recreation. They were young, handsome and wealthy. After a season of hunting and fishing in Wilkes County they found themselves liking the people and the location so much they decided to retire and settle there among the secluded hills. They bought a small store near Traphill, became a part of the community, formed friendships and fell in love with sisters, the daughters of David Yates.

In their travels they had consulted many surgeons, the best in Europe and America, hoping to find one who would separate them, but with no success. It took courage to contemplate marriage and a normal family life with their handicap, but they had always displayed an abundance of that trait in their characters so they proposed, were accepted and married. A few years later they came over into Surry and lived in the village of Mount Airy until they bought the large farm containing a thousand acres, on Stewart's Creek. There they built two comfortable houses some distance apart and established two normal homes, dividing their time equally between them.

Here they won the respect and admiration of their neighbors, becoming excellent farmers and valuable citizens. Their descendents have been among Surry's prominent families, playing their part in peace and war. The oldest son of Chang enlisted in the Confederate Army at the age of eighteen and a grandson was a famed aviator in World Wars I and II, being one of Chenault's Flying Tigers when they won fame in the Pacific during the second World War. He flew the first bomber across the ocean, Atlantic, and was the first pilot to fly from the United States to South America over the Andes - on a mercy mission. This was Brigadier General Caleb Vance Haynes, recipient of the Silver Star and the Distinguished Service Cross.

 An article written some years ago contained this interesting item -

"Eng and Chang Bunker were considered exceptional chess players. They seemed to have natural aptitude for the game and their chessboard was almost as inseparable from them as they were from each other. One unusual fact about this is that they never played against each other. Some said it was constant observation which had made them familiar with the other's game, others said it was something intangible. Perhaps there was something like mental telepathy which kept each twin from concealing his motives from the other. At any rate they avoided contests between themselves, one reading while the other played all comers. They were rarely photographed without the chessboard in the background. Some of the sons inherited this skill both in chess and checkers. One game was remembered and recounted for years after it took place. Matched with a professor from one of the colleges, the game lasted three days before the Surry man swept all the professor's men from the board."

Fulton

The late forties brought Winston Fulton, a descendent of Col. Joseph Winston, from Stokes County, to settle north of town on a large plantation. Here he built one of the largest tobacco factories in the county, the tobacco being grown on his farm by slave labor. His two sons, James W. and Joseph H. were to follow him in developing many industries in the town. The manufacture of tobacco and bringing the railroad to Mount Airy were two of their main projects. James, or Jim, as he was known to his townsmen, lived on North Main Street in a handsome brick house while Joseph bought the Solomon Graves house on South Main where he reared his family. These homes were favorite social centers for the community.

Prather

The Prather family, of English descent, settled first in the Maryland Colony, coming down into North Carolina before 1772 at which time they were living in Rowan County. In 1829 John Prather was living in Surry County near Siloam as he is listed as one of the trustees to whom the deed to the Old Siloam Church was made in that year. While Rockford was a county seat John Prather had a mercantile business there. After the county seat was moved to Dobson many of the residents moved, Thomas Franklin Prather coming to Mount Airy. He settled on South Main Street just below the Presbyterian Church, building a large frame house which was last occupied by Dr. Taylor. He built a tobacco factory which he operated in addition to a store. In 1856 he was postmaster; in 1847 Wesley A. Prather was postmaster for a year. Thomas F. Prather was followed by three sons, Thomas W. Prather, Joseph W. Prather and Jesse H. Prather, all prominent in the business and social life of the town. Joseph was one of the founders of the National Furniture Company while Jesse was a merchant of men's clothing. There were talented musicians in the family. Their homes were handsome brick residences on North Main Street.

Gwyn of Idlewild

Hugh Gwyn, 1804-1885, a member of the same Gwyn family which founded Elkin, came from Grayson Courthouse, Virginia, about 1850 with his wife, Rosa B. Dickerson, and family. He purchased a 1200 acre tract of land four miles west of Mount Airy, and began the erection of a sixteen room house that took several years to complete. The wood was cut and sawed on the plantation, the bricks made by slave labor, the three-storied house being erected on an eminence overlooking a vast stretch of bottom land along Paul's Creek. The place was littered with Indian relics showing this to be the first habitation for a settler since the Indians moved west. This house, named "Idlewild" was considered the finest example of antebellum architecture in the county. Hugh's son, Richard, inherited the plantation and while operating the large farm, he established one of the largest tobacco factories in the county. Members of the family still maintain the home place. (1970)

Schaub

In 1856 Thomas Schaub opened a woodworking plant in Mount Airy, a forerunner of the important furniture manufacturing interests operating there today. The Schaub plant was located where Cherry Street now enters Main with the owners home, a large two-storied house, on the same lot. The early products were probably handles for farm implements and simple pieces of furniture but when his son joined him in 1871 they converted the plant into a wagon factory. Some of the wagons

were the schooner type with cloth covers. The boys in the neighborhood found it a fascinating past-time to drop into the shop and watch the men as they made the different parts and fitted them together. The way metal rims were heated in the big red hot fire and shaped for use, was something to even miss a meal to see. Their interest triggered a side line which endeared the men to the youths of all ages; it was a miniature wagon built exactly like the farmer's model and made with such painstaking care that at least one of them still exists, remaining in the family of the little boy for whom it was made nearly seventy years ago. The wagon pulled by a billy goat and carrying its owner, little Will Prather was a familiar sight in the neighborhood. The grandchildren, who coasted down the driveway in it a few years ago, now keep it piled high with firewood for the den, the sturdy little relic of a past century playing its part in this, the space age of today.

Galloway

Robert Richard Galloway, a young man from Rockingham County, came to Mount Airy about 1856. Member of a wealthy and distinguished family whose home was on the Dan River in Rockingham County, he acquired a large acreage in the northern part of Mount Airy, becoming a successful merchant and business man. His home, built on a spacious wooded lot, is now known as the Joe Haynes Home. Across the street, Mrs. Galloway deeded a large parcel of land to the Baptist congregation. Here the first Baptist Church in Mount Airy was built, a large wooden structure with a manse on the same lot. The church was later replaced with a granite structure, the manse giving way to an educational building.

Mr. Galloway had four sons, Gaston, Harry, Richard and Frank; two daughters, Aline and Grace. Frank died young; the other men married and established homes in Mount Airy. Gaston inherited the home place, later moving to Charlotte. Harry later moved his family to Arkansas while Richard remained at home. His residence was on his father's property next to the Dry Bridge where he reared his family while operating a Ladies' Dress Shop. He was affectionately known as "Mr. Dick" and for many years was the arbiter of feminine fashions for this locality. He specialized in trimming ladies' hats in a day when hats came from the factories unadorned. Ribbons and flowers were bought separately.

Mount Airy - A Summer Resort

Before Mount Airy had gained any importance as a commercial and manufacturing center it had become a favorite summer resort for people in the lower Piedmont who were attracted by the cool weather and beautiful scenery. Too they came to drink the water from the mineral spring which was known in the early days as "Gunpowder Spring". This spring, which was located four miles north of the village beside the Ararat River, derived its name from the yellowish-green deposits of sulphur which covered the rocks over which it flowed. The medicinal qualities of this water was demonstrated in the treatment of kidney and bladder ailments. Many people, claiming wonderful results, were regular patrons year after year. Others came for the gay social life they enjoyed here among the people, many of whom opened their homes to supplement the hotel facilities. The name of the spring was changed to White Sulphur Springs when a hotel was erected among the trees and a dance pavilion built beside the river near the spring. For more than half a century this was one of the most popular summer resorts in the state, losing its patrons at last to the lure of automobile travel along the newly paved roads of the twentieth century, and the medical discoveries which replaced the primitive remedies of the early settlers.

Mineral Springs were numerous over the state, each with its own special properties for healing. Down in the Sauratown Mountains were three which rivaled our own in popularity - these were Piedmont, Vade Mecum and Moore's Springs. There were hotels, cottages, and pavilions. Many Mount Airy residents patronized the Virginia resorts for relaxation, going to Mitchell's Hotel at the top of Fancy Gap, Shatley and Healing Springs at Crumpler and Patrick Springs near Stuart, Virginia.

Going to Mitchell's in a hack drawn by two horses and stopping at the "Double Branch" for lunch, picnic variety, was an adventure in itself. The party usually reached the top of Fancy Gap in time for supper at the hotel. Even though this was a graded road there were many places where two vehicles could not pass each other. When two met in such a spot it was customary for the lighter vehicle to be unhitched from its team and held over the edge of the road while the other drove past. The driver then stopped and helped get the other traveler on his way. Life was lived quite leisurely in those long past days. And patience had to be practised where farm travel was geared to a covered wagon drawn by a pair of oxen. Sometimes a line of these would slow travel for hours.

New Counties formed from parts of Surry - Yadkin County - 1850

The last whole county to be formed from Surry was Yadkin, so called from the river which divides the two. Prior to 1836 Surry joined Rowan and Iredell on the South. In that year Davie County was formed from the northern part of Rowan. When the final partition was made it placed these two counties, Davie and Yadkin between the old mother county and her first offspring.

The act which formed Yadkin reads as follows:

.....That a county be, and the same is hereby laid off and established out of that portion of the county of Surry which lies south of the Yadkin River, and also including that portion of the county of Surry known as and called by the name of Little Surry, said county to be called Yadkin.

The first court was ordered to be held at Dowellton, at which time the Justices were to adjourn to any place they wished until a courthouse could be erected. Commissioners were named to select a site for the courthouse as near the center of the county as possible. Also they were to acquire the land and lay off a town by the name of Wilson. In 1852 an act was passed changing the name Wilson to Yadkinville. This is the present county seat.

Alleghany County - 1859

Alleghany County was formed in 1859 from Ashe. Named for an Indian Tribe it is bound by the state of Virginia and Surry, Wilkes and Ashe Counties. In 1869 a part of Surry was annexed to Alleghany as follows:

.....Beginning at the county line on the west end of Saddle Mountain and running eastwardly on the highest ground to the west end of Beardrive Ridge, thence to Pine Knob, thence a straight line to the top of the High Piney Spur in the Alleghany and Surry line, be and the same is hereby annexed to and shall form a part of Alleghany County.

In 1870 and again in 1875 small slices were taken from Surry to add to Alleghany.

Dobson - County seat of Surry
1850

When Surry County was divided the last time, in 1850, the site selected for the county seat was as near the center as possible, a sparsely settled spot on a plateau from which the Blue Ridge Mountains were clearly visible. It was named Dobson in honor of a family which had been prominent in Rockford and Surry since pre-revolutionary days. The men had followed the legal profession, being lawyers of exceptional ability. (A section of this history honoring Revolutionary heroes contains a sketch of the Dobson family.)

The first courthouse was a two-storied structure of brick, facing north, the courtroom on the second floor with offices downstairs. It was set in a beautiful grove of trees, the lawn wide enough to be used as an assembly ground. Here in this ideal setting many public rallies and celebrations were held.

As the years passed the county grew and then outgrew the courthouse. The judges who held the sessions of court demanded larger quarters, so in 1916 the county commissioners decided a new courthouse must be built. This brought on a controversy between advocates of a new location at Mount Airy, the largest town in the county, and Dobson. People in the southwestern part of the county loudly objected to traveling such a distance to court. The proposition was then made to divide the county again with Elkin one county seat and Mount Airy the other. The commissioners quickly squelched this movement by giving a contract to a firm in Greensboro to build a new courthouse on the location of the old one. Then followed a petition asking that the old building be allowed to remain for the town's use and another built on one of the many available lots near by. When the commissioners refused they were met with a restraining order which would prevent them from carrying out their plans. After some delay the attorney for the county succeeded in having this order dissolved and the work of demolishing the sixty-five-year-old building began. The handsome old trees had to go to make way for a much larger building and the streets which were to surround it on all four sides. It was originally planned to have the jail and the jailer's home on the top floor but this plan failed when the contractors ran into financial difficulties. The fateful year of 1917 had arrived; building materials were not only scarce but much higher priced forcing the contractors to give up the work which was finished by the bondsmen. The brick used in the building was made of Dobson clay, fired in a nearby kiln. When the building was finally completed, old differences had for the most part disappeared, the people joining together to celebrate the formal opening of their new courthouse with Judge Webb presiding. The first court was held by Judge Shaw.

Dobson was often the scene of political battles. For many years the county was largely Republican while the towns were Democratic with the county seat right in the middle. This division of the people showed up in many ways, one which was rather amusing concerned the hotels in Dobson. There were two of these; one run by a Democratic family, the other by a Republican. When court convened the attending lawyers and judges were accustomed to spending the entire week, or weeks in Dobson, travel conditions being such as to make it almost impossible to do otherwise. It was then party lines were drawn as lawyers and officials carried their bags into the inn of their political affiliation. Quite often the Judge would ignore such practise and select the one of his choice.

To those readers who have known only paved roads and automobiles for travel, let it be said that a trip from Mount Airy to Dobson, sixty or more years ago, consumed about three hours under ordinary conditions. Winter driving was even slower.

Early Residents of Dobson

Folger

When the county seat was moved from Rockford, many of the families followed to this new locality. Prominent among them was the Folger family. The founder of this Surry County clan was Milton Y. Folger, one of the original proprietors of Nantucket Island who had come to America from England. Milton Folger became a physician, practicing medicine first in Davidson County, then moved to Rockford in 1843. He later moved to Dobson, being one of the best known and best loved men in his community. His sons followed him as valuable citizens of the county. Romulus S., the elder son, was born in 1840, grew up in Dobson and in 1861 enlisted in the Confederate Army, serving as 2nd Lieut. He was with Lee's Army at Appomatox. Returning home he studied law at Judge Pearson's school on the Yadkin and was admitted to the bar in 1866. In 1882, he was elected clerk of the court, a position he held for twelve years. Another son of Dr. Folger, Thomas W., was born in 1854 in Rockford, went to school in the village and later graduated from Trinity College. He was admitted to the bar and practiced his profession in Dobson. Thomas Folger was followed by his sons, John H. and Alonzo D., prominent lawyers and U.S. Congressmen from the Fifth District of North Carolina. Benjamin Franklin Folger, another son of Dr. Milton Y. Folger, served as tax supervisor, county accountant, and treasurer of Surry County. Among his children are bankers, government workers and lawyers.

Freeman

The Freeman family was among the first settlers in Surry County. They lived first in the Siloam community. A sketch of their history is found in the section on Siloam which tells of Samuel Freeman, a descendent of John Freeman of Devonshire, England, who landed in Massachusetts in 1735. His descendent, William Freeman, came first to eastern Carolina, where he became quite wealthy. His son Samuel moved up to Rowan County and married into the prominent Alexander family before coming up to the Yadkin River and buying a tract of land in 1767. In 1771 he bought another tract along the Tararat River. He was living there when Surry County was formed and was one of a committee to have the courthouse, jail and stocks built at Richmond. He was a member of the Committee of Safety and in 1776 was appointed by an act of the General Assembly as one of the justices responsible for erecting County Courts and for putting the laws into execution. At the age of sixty-two he enlisted in the Continental Army.

It was another Samuel Freeman, born in 1842, who moved to Dobson with his wife, Miss Sarah Waugh, where they founded the family of that name. A son, Richard C., born in 1867, studied law at the University of North Carolina, and opened his office in Dobson. In 1894 he married Miss Maude Folger, thus uniting two prominent families of that area. Among their children have been lawyers, educators and public office holders, giving of their time and talents to the growth of Dobson and Surry County.

Reeves

Another of Dobson's pioneer families was represented in the founding of the new county seat. This was J.E. Reeves who was born at Siloam in 1827 and received his law training at the Pearson Law School, opening an office in Dobson. He also owned a general store in Dobson. It was another branch of this family which moved to Mount Airy from Siloam in the early 1900s and it was three sons of this Micajah Reeves who built the great enterprise of Reeves Bros., Inc. in New York.

Llewellyn

Thomas Llewellyn, who came to America from Wales, settled in Virginia and served in the Revolutionary War. His son, Thomas Jr., married and lived in Rockingham County, North Carolina. It was there the founder of Surry County's family, James Henry Llewellyn, was born on October 10, 1830. He became a minister, coming to Surry with his wife, Sarah E. Pratt, about 1850 and settled on Fisher River, five miles from Dobson. He was the first Missionary Baptist Minister in the county with records showing he married 2600 couples and baptized about 5000 people. He was also a prominent educator, serving many years as Superintendent of Public Education. The father of a large family, his children became leading citizens in the county. James Robert, a lawyer in Dobson, was the father of Robert Cleveland, banker in Dobson, Mount Airy and Elkin.

Woltz

The Woltz name is found in the colonial records of Pennsylvania where Dr. Peter Woltz settled in 1738. His son, Jacob, a physician moved to Hagerstown, Maryland, where his son Lewis F. Woltz was born. Following the family tradition, Lewis studied medicine, graduating from the New York Medical School. His first home was at Floyd Courthouse, Va., moving some years later to Carroll County. It was his son, Dr. John R. Woltz, who came to Surry county in 1871 and settled at Dobson. This long line of medical men was followed by John Lewis Woltz. Born at Dobson in 1871, he received his medical education at Atlanta College of Physicians and Surgeons. He practiced first in Pilot Mountain, coming to Mount Airy about 1910 where he became the founder of the Woltz family now prominent in the legal and industrial life of Surry County.

The War Between the States - 1861-1865

This was a war fought to preserve those freedoms which the states had written into the Constitution in 1787. The record of Surry's delegates who signed this document made it clear that they believed in the right of the states to withdraw from the Union if and when it was deemed best for their people. They did not sign until they were convinced that this right was assured by the Amendments to the Constitution, one article of which read-

"Each state retains its sovereignty freedom and independence and every power, jurisdiction and right which is not by this Confederation expressly delegated to the United States."

When New York voted to accept the Constitution it said-

"That the powers of government may be reassumed by the people whenever it shall become necessary to their happiness."

Also Virginia, in its acceptance said -

"That powers granted under the Constitution, being derived from the people of the United States, may be resumed by them whensoever the same shall be perverted to their injury, or oppression."

Virginia resumed those powers when the state seceded in 1861. So did the other states who seceded, following South Carolina. At the time Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis were graduated from West Point, the academy was using a textbook which left no doubt of the right of a state to withdraw from the Union. This was Rawle's "View of the Constitution". (Copied from a John S. Tilley's booklet.)

General Lee had freed his slaves before the war, declaring that slavery was "a moral and political evil". Stonewall Jackson agreed with Lee in his views along with many southern leaders. They wanted a chance (without the interference of the northern states), to work out a system to abolish slavery and to right the wrongs imposed on them by a high tariff on foreign goods, shipped from England to the south. The north had their own manufacturing plants but their goods sold for higher prices than those from abroad, until Congress passed the higher tariff law. But the south was denied the Constitutional right to withdraw from the Union and the grandsons and great-grandsons of those who fought to free their country from Mother England, now fought to preserve those rights gained in that struggle.

As soon as North Carolina joined the Confederacy, Surry began to organize her military companies - Company A 28th Regiment was organized by Captain Richard Reeves; Company C 21st Regiment was commanded by Captain B.Y. Graves; Company H 21st Regiment was under the command of Captain J.R. Waugh; and Company I 21st was organized by John G. Gilmer. Another company was organized later by Captain J.C. Norman. A page in an old scrapbook, compiled by the daughters of the Confederacy describes the departure of this company.

"April 16th, 1862, Captain Norman marched his company up to stand in front of the new Methodist Church on South Main Street where they were presented with a new Confederate Flag, a beautiful silken emblem made from the treasured shawls of the mothers and wives of the departing soldiers. Miss Gertrude Bitting presented the flag with an appropriate speech."

Hollingsworth's History states that at least seven-hundred soldiers from Surry County fought with the Confederacy and perhaps a hundred left to join the Union Army. Another writer states that Surry County furnished practically her entire military age group to the Confederate Army. "There is hardly a battlefield in Northern Virginia that does not mark the resting place of one or more of her sons."

The Home Front - It is said that North Carolina was the only southern state which, under a special agreement with the Confederate Government, clothed her own soldiers. The state bought the output of 39 cotton and woolen mills in the state, sent agents into other states to purchase wool, leather and other materials and set up a factory in Raleigh to make uniforms and overcoats. By the end of 1862, the state was producing enough to supply a large quantity to the army and send to other states. The mills of Surry were, no doubt, a part of this joint effort.

Imports of coffee, tea, sugar and salt were cut off, herbs and roots were again being sought after for medicine as in colonial days, and old letters were reused to send messages to the soldiers. Wall paper was often torn from the walls to be used for writing paper. Rugs were taken from the floors and quilts from the beds to be sent to the camps for blankets. The inventive abilities of the people were stimulated in many ways. From an old newspaper comes this information:

"As early as 1862, paper was made from raw cotton in North Carolina. As there was no Red Cross to furnish bandages for the wounded, the women donated every scrap of cloth they could spare for that purpose so there were no rags left for making paper. Faced with this problem the paper mills at Salem and at Wake Forest resorted to cotton, much of which had been damaged by fire. School books printed at that time used this cotton paper and many copies of them are in libraries in the south.

"These books were compiled in 1861 by Richard Sterling, principal of Edgeworth Female Seminary, and J. D. Campbell, a professor of mathematics and rhetoric. This school was located in Greensboro. At the same time James W. Albright was publishing a weekly newspaper which had to be discontinued because of mailing difficulties so he joined the other men, printing the books in his plant. The books included a series from primer and spelling book to 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th readers, primary grammars, arithmetic and Bingham's Latin Grammar. The books were illustrated with woodcuts. The publishers sent the books to England by one of their members where they were stereotyped. He succeeded in getting them back on the blockade ship 'Advance' on its first trip. This ship was one purchased by John White, who had been sent to England by Governor Vance to obtain a ship for use in running the blockade, set up along the coast by Union forces. Before her capture by the enemy, the 'Advance' had made eleven successful trips, taking cotton to England and bringing back arms, food and supplies for the army."

The county was free of hostile invasion until 1865 when it was invaded by a Union force under Major General George Stoneman. After a successful campaign through Georgia and South Carolina, General Sherman entered North Carolina in the Southeast where he was met by General Joseph E. Johnston whose forces he defeated at Bentonville on March 21, 1865. Stoneman came into the state from Tennessee with the idea of joining forces with Sherman after he had laid waste the western counties. Stoneman set out from Knoxville, advancing through Greenville, Morristown and Jonesboro, Tennessee, entering North Carolina near Boone through the Watauga Pass. Here they met with their first resistance from home guards. With their much larger force they killed and captured the guards, taking their horses and food supplies. Crossing Stone Mountain they lost a caisson and ambulance over one of the precipices. From here the Union forces seem to have been divided with orders to reassemble in the Piedmont section. One section went north into Virginia, another southwest to attack Asheville and the main division moved toward Wilkesboro, then to Jonesville and into Surry. In a report made by Officer Gil- len who was in charge of the First Division are these facts:

"April 1st, marched into Jonesville; April 2nd, crossed the Yadkin at Jonesville and marched to Mount Airy by way of Dobson; arrived at Mount Airy about 9 p.m.; learning that a train of wagons had left that place at 3 p.m. going in the direction of Hillsville, Va., Colonel Palmer was directed to send a detachment in pursuit with orders to follow until

he captured the train....."

The command marched from Mount Airy at daylight on the morning of the 3rd, arrived at Hillsville, Va., where the failure of the party sent in pursuit of the Rebel wagons was learned. Another party was sent with orders to capture the wagons at all hazards. In a few hours the officer in charge of the party reported he had possession of seventeen wagons and a forge. At Hillsville it seems, the forces were again divided, one part attacked Wytheville and the second force made a raid in the vicinity of Lynchburg and the third party moved through Stuart toward Martinsville. At this place they reassembled and came South through Danbury and Germantown on the way to Salem. For some time Salem was used as a base of operations to send out raiding parties to cut the railroads to the north and south of Greensboro.

From local sources comes a report of a large wagon train of supplies being captured and burned near Dalton in Stokes County. The wagons were placed in a heap and burned, the place being marked for many years by a pile of wagon tires. *(The supplies were being sent to the Army of Virginia.)*

Wherever the invading army went they left devastation. The brigade which occupied Salem raided the houses, cellars, barns and fields. What they couldn't carry away they destroyed, burning the wheat in the fields.

Surry County was fortunate in that the enemy spent only one night in its borders as it hurried on to Hillsville, coming back through Stokes County. On April 9th, Lee surrendered to Grant but Sherman continued the war in Carolina until April 26th, 1865. On that date General Joseph E. Johnston surrendered his forces and the war ended.

Lefler's History of North Carolina says,

"The war for Southern Independence brought political division, bitterness and disaffection to North Carolina; destroyed much of the State's wealth; took the lives of some 40,000 of its young men; and left a depressing heritage of defeat."

As it was after the Revolutionary War when young men sought new lands beyond the Appalachian Mountains, now they, the young soldiers, migrated further west, going many of them to Texas and New Mexico. Among those who returned to help build again in Surry were two young prisoners of war who were to live long and useful lives; Christopher Wrenn Bunker, eldest son of Adelaide and Chang Bunker enlisted at the age of eighteen and served two years before being captured by the enemy. After the surrender he returned safely, married and established a home on Haystack Road where he became a successful farmer and valuable citizen. He was survived by a son, Christopher Lee.

Zachary Taylor Smith, whose family connections included three presidents; Madison, Tyler and Taylor, was born in Patrick County, Va. He joined the army at the age of fourteen as a drummer boy. Three years later, a captain, he was captured at Fort Fisher and carried to Point Lookout, Md. where he was kept prisoner until the end of the war. He often said, in recounting his adventures, that the prisoners owed their survival to the plentiful supply of oysters around the Point.

Some years after the war he bought a plantation north of Mount Airy, married Miss Susan Jackson and reared a family of six children, one of whom became Mrs. R. J. Reynolds of Winston-Salem. It was she who visioned, planned and brought to reality, the beautiful Reynolds Estate, a part of which is now Wake Forest University - The land being a gift of the Reynolds family.

Mr. Zack, as he was affectionately known, lived to be 91, an unreconstructed Rebel to the end, who never missed a Confederate Veteran's reunion. It is with regret that the complete list of those who left Surry for the battlefields, many not to return, cannot be given here.

Surry County - 1865-1869

At the close of the war, Surry again found many of its young men seeking new lands beyond the war-ravaged South. Some settled in Texas and New Mexico while others went still further west. In 1866-67 the Mormons of Utah sent missionaries into the South, some coming into Surry and Stokes where they persuaded whole families to migrate to their new Territory. A wagon train of these families left Surry in 1868 for that distant land. The soldiers who came home from the war to stay and those remaining on the home front, did not allow the defeat of the war effort to keep them from beginning again to build their country's enterprises.

Many new faces were seen in the business world; among them Rufus Roberts, John R. Paddison, A. J. Satterfield, G. W. Smith, John H. Jackson, Christopher Bunker, W. T. Thompson and others. Dr. Ed Allred had joined the medical men and Dr. Matt Banner was Mount Airy's pioneer dentist, followed by Dr. Thomas J. Mitchell. Dr. William S. Taylor came with his family about 1865. He was only a boy at the time. As a young physician he was interested in many enterprises, opening the first drug store in the town.

In 1870 there were 36 mills and factories in Surry County. Besides those at Hamburg, Jacob Brower had a cotton mill further down the Ararat River, later known as Buck Shoals. The Green Hill cotton and woolen mill was established in 1868 by J. F. and W. A. Moore and S. L. Gilmer. A few years later the Alpine Mills were built and operated by the same firm. The Laurel Bluff Mill was owned and operated by J. P. Rawley in connection with a general store. White Plains came into prominence with the largest wagon factory in the county. Elkin added a coach department to their wagon factory. The Gwyn and Chatham Cotton Mill was operating and in 1878 the Chatham Woolen Mill began operation. There were foundries, blacksmith shops, tanneries, and a saddle and harness shop at Rockford. Cabinet making was coming into its own and there was a great increase in the manufacture of tobacco. Large factories were being built on the home grounds of such men as Hugh Gwyn, Winston Fulton, Murlin Sparger, Henderson Mitchell and Elisha Banner.

A little later on came the sons of Winston Fulton, J.M. and J.H. Fulton; Wm. Martin Banner, R.L. Gwyn, John M. Brower, Wash Smith, John Sparger, Rufus Roberts, M. Sparger and sons, W.W. Ashby, William Haines, Robert Hithes, Jr., G.M. Mitchell, John Patterson, W.E. Patterson, L.F. Smith and J. L. Ashby.

At Siloam there were factories owned by R.E. and M.C. Reeves and the Marion Brothers. At Pilot Mountain a tobacco factory was owned and operated by Dix Davis and Sons. The first warehouse for the sale of tobacco was built in 1874 by A.L. Porter and J.R. Gilmer. The tobacco industry thrived for a number of years, the finished product being hauled to markets in hugh wagons, drawn by four, sometimes six horses. They went down into South Carolina, Georgia and Mississippi.

The panic of 1893 followed by the operation of the Tobacco Trust, organized by James B. Duke, forced all these small operators into bankruptcy. It was then that Mount Airy turned to the mountain forests for new industries, wood-working and furniture factories. The Mount Airy Furniture Company was the first of the larger plants to be founded in Mount Airy - this in 1895 with J. A. Yokley, J. C. Hollingsworth, C. R. Merritt, A. G. Trotter and E. H. Kochtitzky, stockholders.

In 1901 the National Furniture Company was formed by J. H. Prather, Charles J. Whitlock, T. B. McCargo, E. C. Foy and R. L. Haymore. Some years later Alfred E. Smith and John Sobotta became stockholders, assuming management of the plant. The Mount Airy Mantel and Table Company was organized in 1902 with George O. Graves, Calvin Graves and B. H. Williamson. The J. C. Hollingsworth Lumber Plant was organized in 1900; the Tesh Lumber founded by J. A. Tesh in 1901 and the Foy Lumber Company by E. C. Foy in 1903.

The completion of the railroad to Mount Airy made it possible for the "Flat Rock" to become an important commercial factor. It was about 1890 that the Woodruff family of Greensboro purchased the land on which the Rock is located and began operations. The family consisted of Thomas Woodruff and his sons, Thomas, Jr. George and William. They were of English descent, a family of culture and musical talents. In the home they built was one very large room known as the music room to which all music lovers were invited and which became a favorite meeting place for the town's people.

The business was conducted under the name of Thomas Woodruff and sons, later changed to North Carolina Granite Corporation when new stockholders were added; these being C. B. Keesee of Martinsville, Capt. J. W. Fry of Greensboro with J. A. Odell. J. D. Sargent of Vermont became connected with the granite operation in 1910, and in 1918 was made president of The North Carolina Granite Corporation.

Life in Mount Airy - 1872
by Thomas Lowery, Sr.

Mr. Thomas Lowery, Sr., a former newspaper owner and publisher, prepared the following article from memory in 1927 and gave it to "The Star", a local newspaper.

- Merchants - R. S. Gilmer and Son, Mrs. E. L. Nail, T. M. Brower,
J. W. Shepherd, Gilmer and Moore, J. M. Brower & Brother,
J. W. Davis, Galloway and Hines.
- Hotels - Blue Ridge Hotel by S. H. Taylor; Banner House by Mrs. Susan Banner.
- Doctors - Dr. Joseph Hollingsworth, Dr. Wm. R. Hollingsworth, Dr. C.L. Banner.
- Dentists - Dr. T. J. Mitchell and Dr. M. R. Banner.
- Lawyers - J. C. Gilmer and J. F. Graves.
- Ministers - Rev. J. F. Heitman, Rev. William Rawley, Rev. M. L. Wood.
- Postmaster - J. W. Davis.
- Machine Shop - Thomas Schaub and Son.
- Cabinet Makers - John M. Cook, M. Allred and Son.
- Tailor Shop - W. R. Bray, Tip Conley and Miss Mary Vernon.
- Photograph Gallery - J. H. Blackmore.
- Cotton Mills - J. W. Brower, J. F. and W. A. Moore (other mills were outside
- Shoe Factory - J. M. Brower and Brother. (of the town.
- Grist Mills - J. M. Brower and J. F. and W. A. Moore.
- Surveyors - J. L. Worth, Anderson Dunnegan.

Smith Shops - R.D Harris and Bro., William Griffith and Thomas Lowery.
 Shoe Makers - Warren Bolt, J.M. Durham, V. Montgomery.
 Harness Makers - James F. Harrison.
 Tin Shop - Gus Reich.
 Newspaper - Surry Visitor by S. Forkner.
 Masonic Lodges - Granite Lodge # 322 - Ashland Lodge # 211.
 Male Academy - Rev. J.F. Heitman.
 Female School - Misses Betty Rawley and Mattie Rankin.
 Sheriff - Jackson Williams.
 Clerk of Court - A.H. Freeman.
 Register of Deeds - C.C. Riggs.
 Chairman of County Commissioners - Murlin Sparger.

There were licensed distilleries in the County, Rockford and Dobson being mentioned as engaged in this business in 1880.

Roster of Musical Band organized 1872

J.H. Blackmore-----Leader
 Joe F. Rawley-----Alto
 James Shepherd-----Bass
 Arch Hines-----Alto
 Frank Graves-----Baritone
 Tom Lowery-----Tenor
 J.W. Schaub-----Bass Drums
 R.R. Galloway-----Alto
 Tom Bray-----Snare Drums
 Joseph W. Ashby-----Tenor
 Joe Prather-----Tuba
 Jesse Prather-----Tenor

The Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad

It was in the year of 1877 that a railroad which was to link the Blue Ridge Mountains to Wilmington by the sea had its beginning. The men responsible for this undertaking were William A. Moore, Jesse F. Moore, Winston Fulton and Joseph H. Fulton of Mount Airy; Julius Gray, D.W.C. Benbow of Greensboro, Turner Moorehead of Leaksville; A. Y. Stokes of Richmond, Virginia; K.M. Murchison of New York City; George Washington Williams of Wilmington; John D. Williams and E. J. Lilly of Fayetteville; Robert Gray of Raleigh; and W. A. Lash of Walnut Cove. Julius Gray was made president of the road which was named The Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad.

The first survey of the road coming into the town was along the Ararat River to a spot just above the location of the old Martin Memorial Hospital, and it was here that in the summer of 1877 an impressive ceremony was held with one of Mount Airy's prominent citizens, Robert S. Gilmer, turning the first shovel of dirt. The long hard task was begun - first the rights-of-way had to be obtained from land owners many of whom had objections to the railroad crossing their farms. W. F. Carter, then a young law student who had come to Mount Airy from Rockingham County for the purpose of studying law under Judge Graves, received his first fee when appointed the attorney to represent the railroad in Surry County. This was the beginning of a long association with railroads, first the C. F. & Y. V., then the Southern Railway of which he was an attorney when he died at the age of 89.

The road building began somewhere near Greensboro, one construction crew working toward the mountains while the other turned east toward Wilmington. The road bed had to be built with hand labor as there were no mighty machines to bite into the hillsides, moving tons of earth and rock with one effort, but the lowly wheelbarrows rolled ceaselessly back and forth as the work camps moved slowly upwards toward the mountains. Much of the work was done by convicts. There were times when difficulties arose and work had to be suspended for weeks, sometimes months. At one time the situation became so serious there was danger of the project being lost to the promoters and it was only the prompt action of the Mount Airy stockholders which saved it. They sent young Joseph Fulton to Winston with \$30,000.00 dollars, cash, to cancel some notes which were due the following day. The messenger rode, horseback, all night with the money in his saddlebags, arriving before the bank opened.

After eight years the camps moved up into Surry and on the fourth of July, 1885, they set up their camp on the farm of C. H. Haynes, Sr., just south of town. The end seemed almost in sight yet it was three years before the road was finally completed. In the meantime a new survey was made, coming into town by Lovill's Creek and ending at the spot where the present depot stands. Further plans were made for extending the road across the mountains to connect with a Virginia railroad and the roadbed was built part of the way with some crossties laid, but the road was never completed.

At last, in the summer of 1888, eleven years after that first shovel of dirt was turned, a train rolled into the station at Mount Airy. A special time table for the event gives the date - May 28, 1888. On that day a train left Fayetteville at 8 a.m. on a trial run to Mount Airy, arriving 12 hours later. On the following day the train made the return trip to Fayetteville, cutting fifteen minutes from its first time. (from C. F. & Y.V.R. timetable). It was three weeks later that the first official run was made with Tom Muse, engineer, and a conductor named Murphy. The account of the arrival of that train and the celebration which followed was graphically described by the Mount Airy News of that date.

The town had been in a fever of activity for weeks preparing for the celebration. Several hundred horsemen were expected to ride in the parade and to care for the horses a lot was provided in a persimmon grove at the foot of Lebanon Hill. Posts were set up with chains attached and a well dug to provide water. Word had gone out into the coves and ridges of the mountains, along the foothills across the farmlands to the east and the valley of the Ararat and Yadkin Rivers, telling of the coming of the long awaited train. All day Tuesday, June 19th, people poured into town. They came from every direction, by every conceivable mode of travel, many walking long distances to help celebrate the momentous occasion.

The celebration was to be held the following day but a huge crowd met the train which came in at seven-thirty in the evening, bringing the Governor of the State, Hon. A.M. Scales, with his departmental officers. The Governor was met and introduced to the crowd by Judge Graves. He responded with a short speech after which a group of women sang "The Old North State", accompanied by the Mount Airy Cornet Band. This band, assisted by the Lexington Silver Cornet Band which had arrived on the train, entertained the people with music during the evening.

Records state that by midnight, five-thousand visitors had arrived in town. The real celebration began Wednesday morning at 10:30 when the grand procession formed at the north end of Main Street in the following order:

1. Lexington Silver Cornet Band
2. Gov. Scales and his departmental officers
3. State and Federal Judges
4. Orators of the day
5. Special invited guests
6. Town and County officers
7. Trade and Industrial Display
8. Mount Airy Cornet Band
9. Mounted procession
10. Granite City Band - Colored
11. Citizens

The parade ended at the Male Academy where a grandstand had been erected in a grove. (Cape Jasmine and Smilax, sent up from Wilmington, was used to decorate the stand.)

Here, on the spot where Rockford Street School now stands, Mr. G.W. Sparger, Chief Marshall, called the vast assembly to order. Prayer was offered by Rev. B. R. Hall and the guests welcomed by W.F. Carter who also introduced the Governor, speaker for the occasion.

Tradition says the heat was terrific and the water shortage acute with only wells and springs for a normal population of less than a thousand people this could be true, but in spite of minor discomforts it was a memorable occasion, ending with a dance at the Globe Warehouse where, far into the night could be heard the music of the bands mingled with the rhythmic call of the dance figures.

The C.F. & Y.V. Railroad had been finished only to Fayetteville at this time where it connected with a line to Bennettsville, S.C. The road to Wilmington was completed in 1890 at which time a celebration was held with many invited guests from Mount Airy in attendance. Attorney W.F. Carter was one of the speakers on this occasion.

Note - Passenger service on the Atlantic and Yadkin Railroad, formerly the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley, came to an end on April 29, 1939, a casualty of the automobile age. However the N.C. Granite Corporation has been able to keep the freight trains operating assisted by the furniture factories.

From the Mount Airy News, May 4th, 1939

"The largest crowd in over 25 years saw Engineer W.D. Thomas bring No. 31, the last A. & Y. passenger train into Mount Airy yards last Sunday night. Over one-hundred and fifty paid passengers rode the train into the Granite City and railroad officials said there were 250 passengers at different times on the run from Greensboro ----many passengers played 'hop and go' with the train by boarding it at one station and leaving at the next stop to race by auto to the next station where they boarded it again.

"Many old timers who rode the train long ago, went to Greensboro Sunday to take that last ride. Many parents took their children by cars to stations along the way where they rode the train back home. Their first train ride."

Mount Airy Incorporated - May 11, 1885

First Mayor - B. V. Graves

Board of Commissioners - James B. Sparger, Jesse H. Prather,
W.M. Hollingsworth, R.R. Galloway
and John L. Worth - sec.

Minutes

Mayor's Office, Mount Airy, June 2, 1885

The board of commissioners met; present were R. R. Galloway, Jesse H. Prather, James H. Sparger, W.R. Hollingsworth. Mayor B.V. Graves appointed J.H. Prather and J.H. Sparger to purchase a lot upon which to build a mayor's office and lock-up to receive sealed bids at a future setting to build the house. No further business the meeting adjourned.
James W. Sparger, sec. pro tem

Mayor's Office, Mount Airy, June 11, 1885

The contract for building the mayor's office and lock-up was given to W.B. Shelton for the sum of \$315.00.

John L. Worth, sec.

Mayor's Office, July 7, 1885

The board met at the home of S.D. Idol and after examining the mayor's office and lock-up as completed by W.B. Shelton, agreed to receive the building and gave Mr. Shelton obligations for the pay as soon as the money can be collected.

John L. Worth, sec.

Mayor's Office, Mount Airy, N. C., July 31, 1885

B.V. Graves tendered his resignation as Mayor (having been appointed postmaster). John L. Worth was appointed to act as mayor until his successor was named. W.O.T. Banner tendered his resignation as Marshall and Joseph M. Hollingsworth was appointed in his stead.

John L. Worth, sec.

Mayor's Office, Mount Airy, N.C., August 4, 1885

Board met and unanimously elected Samuel L. Gilmer, Mayor. He declined the office and Lafayette W. Ashby was elected.

John L. Worth, sec.

Mount Airy's Original City Limits

"Beginning on the north bank of Lovill's Creek where the lands of M.D. Armfield and R.R. Galloway join, running down the creek as it meanders by the Needham ford to the ford on Rockford Road, thence a degree line to the Worth ford on the Ararat River, thence up the river as it meanders to the mouth of the branch passing by Galloway's tan yard, thence to the forks of the road above Galloway's old house and thence to the beginning."

Other Items from the Town Records

On Jan. 2, 1894, in a meeting of the town board they voted to pay Mr. R.T. Joyce \$20.00 a year for keeping the clock, erected on his store, in proper order and wound and regulated.

In 1891 the Mount Airy Power and Light Company was formed to serve the town with electric lights and waterworks. About 1901 the water system was built. This was followed by the building of the power plant at Buck Shoals.

On March 6, 1894, the board voted to put a garbage wagon on and appointed Messrs Welch and Sparger a committee to buy a mule and make contracts for boarding it and to hire a man to drive the wagon.

A graded school system was established in Mount Airy in 1895. The first high school building was constructed on South Main Street in 1916. The lower grades continued to use the building on Rockford Street.

Mount Airy, N. C., January 19th, 1888

In compliance with a request made that young men of our town would meet at T. L. Williamson's Store at 7 o'clock, for the purpose of organizing a military company. They met and W. C. Newbill was elected chairman. The object was stated by Messrs. Ford, Graves, Roan, Moore and others and the enlistment ordered. The following residents of North Carolina enlisted for the term of five years upon condition that the state furnish uniforms for the company.

L. W. Seabalt	G. M. Reed
J. B. Jackson	W. T. Thompson
J. F. Allred	W. T. Haymore
A. L. Sparger	W. A. Campbell, Jr.
Jas. G. Banner	C. W. Banner
W. T. Stover	J. R. Hundley
J. L. Harrison	J. D. Griffith
J. L. Banner, Jr.	S. F. Lowery
W. M. Griffith	John E. Banner
R. W. Bray, Jr.	M. F. Bray
R. W. Bray, Sr.	Edward B. Ashby
Constain Dennigan	Ed Creed
J. M. Banner	C. A. Banner
B. F. Graves	Thomas B. Ashby
A. W. Farrington	E. G. Hackett
J. B. Nutt	M. D. Moore
R. T. Nutt, Jr.	S. P. Graves
J. C. Hollingsworth	R. J. Galloway
J. W. Stewart	H. D. Jones
W. E. Jones	Charles H. Jones
George T. Coleman	A. Beasley

The chairman then ordered an election of the commissioned officers to wit: A Captain and 1st. and 2nd. Lieutenants as prescribed by the code.

Upon a written vote for Captain, the ballot resulted in the election of S.P. Graves. The vote stood: S. P. Graves - 42; G. T. Coleman - 3; M. D. Moore - 1.

Upon motion of M. D. Moore the election was made unanimous. The Captain ratified and adopted the suggestion of the company by announcing the non-commissioned officers as appointed. The company then proceeded to elect a treasurer - J. C. Hollingsworth, and a secretary - Charles H. Jones. By a unanimous vote of the company, Dr. T.B. Ashby was elected Surgeon. A meeting was ordered for Tuesday night, January 24th, at the Male Academy.

There being no further business the Company adjourned.

W.C. Newbill, Chairman

Charles R. Jones, Secretary

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