

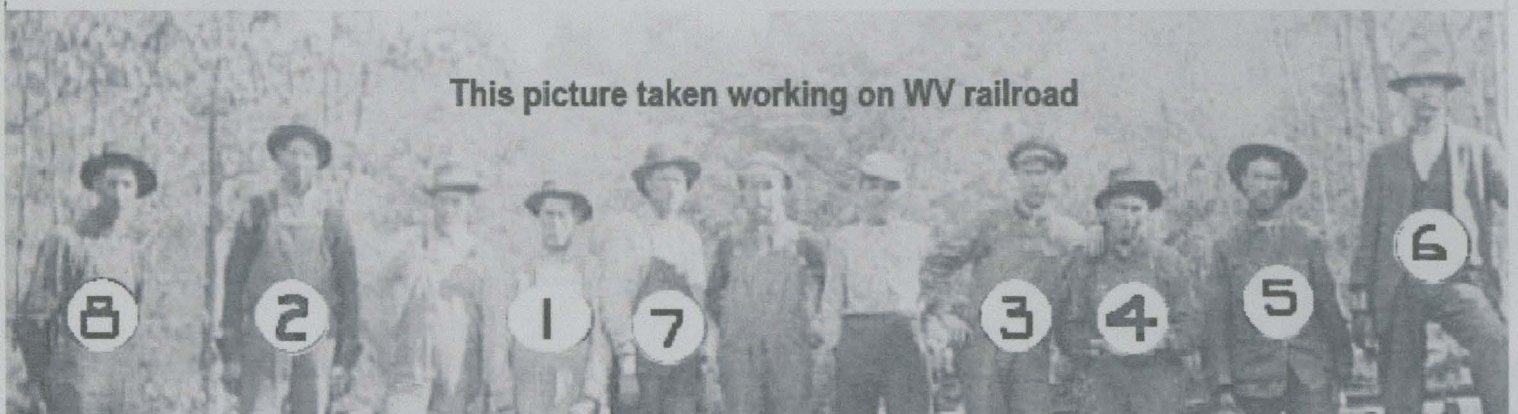
Plan-B The eight Easter brothers

JOHN 1835-1929, WILBURN 1845-1909, CHRISTIAN 1844-1934,
 PETER 1838-1916, MICHAEL 1828-1914, LEVI 1830-1917,
 DAVID, JR. 1826-1882, DANIEL 1823-1865



1 John.b:1835 2 Wilbur. b:1845 3 Christian.b:1844 * 4 Peter. B:1838 5 Michael. B:1828 6 Levi.b:1830 * 7 David Jr., b:1826 8 Daniel.b:1823 *

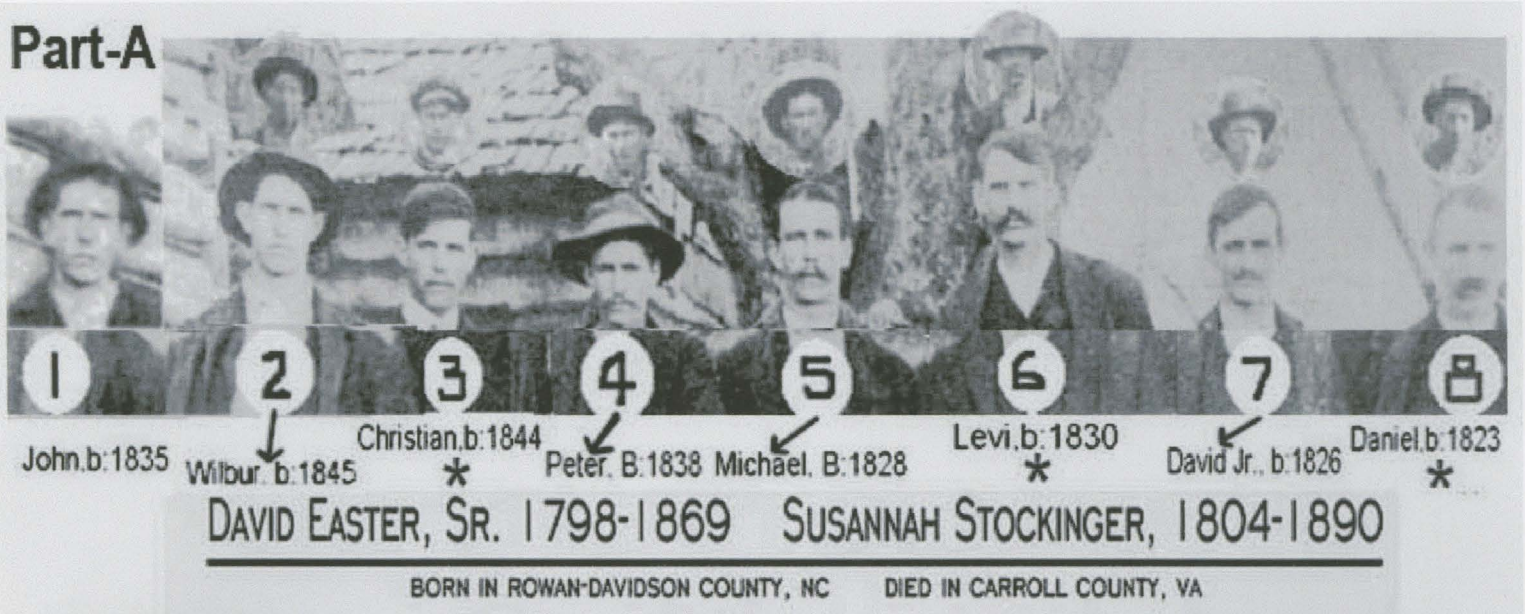
This picture taken working on WV railroad



Any corrections, etc.

Contact: Ron Leonard. leonard_thebrush@comcast.net

Part-A



Easter Cuzins'.

I have took the 8 Easter bothers picture before they went into the Civil War 1961-65 and the picture when they worked on the railroad in West Virginia and have tried to match them with approval from the Easter family for a few years now.

This don't make it correct by any means, we need your input and hoping you have pictures for proof.

Opinion from the Carroll Co., VA older Easter's back to the 1960's said their parents said Levi was the tallest of the 8 brother's. (this is #6 in the picture, and I have several pictures of him). I also have several of Christian #3, I can prove him to you.

All the other 6 brother's is a question, any help will be appreciated greatly.

C. Ron Leonard, PO B337, Cana, VA 24317

RICHEY

8-2-99

Mrs. Mary Frances Easter Richey, 101, died Monday, August 2, 1999 at Springwood Care Center where she had been a resident since 1989. Mrs. Richey was born May 10, 1898 at Fancy Gap, Virginia to Levi Hamilton and Flora Payne Easter. She was preceded in death by her husband, G.W. Richey; three sons, James, Wathal, and Delford Richey; a daughter, Jacquelyn Richey; a step-daughter, Murdell Keeling; a grandson, Steve Richey; four brothers, Elbert, Garland, Henry, and Clifton Easter; and three sisters, LuLu Tilley, Ethel Farmer, and Caroline Lord. Survivors include a son, Daryl (Misty) Richey of Meritt Island, Florida; two daughters, Wanda Etoile Tesh of Richlands, N.C. and Audette (Lester) Salmon of Pinnacle, N.C.; a daughter-in-law, Kathleen S. Richey of Winston-Salem; fifteen grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren; a brother, Bernard Easter of Satsuma, Florida; and two sisters, Blanche Bunn of Hillsville, Va. and Beulah Bowman of Galax, Va. The funeral will be held Thursday, August 5, 1999 at 12:30 p.m. in the Vogler & Sons Reynolda Road Chapel by Rev. Bob Matthews. Interment will follow in Woodland Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Easter Family

All information in individuals is from the Virginia Regimental Histories Series. The 29th VA Infantry was organized on 11/5/61 and mustered out on 4/9/65 at Appomattox Court House, so they fought the entire war.

Christian Easter

Enlisted on 8/1/1862 at Wytheville, VA as a Private.

On 8/1/1862 he mustered into "F" Co. VA 29th Infantry
(date and method of discharge not given)

He was listed as:

- * On rolls 12/15/1864 (place not stated)
- * Hospitalized 3/5/1865 Richmond, VA (With scrofula)
- * Returned 3/19/1865 (place not stated)

Other Information:

born 3/17/1844 in Carroll County, VA
died 2/17/1934

After the War he lived in Carroll County, VA

Daniel Easter

Enlisted on 11/1/1864 at Camp Lee, VA as a Private.

On 11/1/1864 he mustered into "C" Co. VA 29th Infantry
He died of disease as POW on 4/28/1865 at Point Lookout, MD
(Died of pneumonia)

He was listed as:

- * POW 4/6/1865 Farmville, VA
- * Confined 4/9/1865 Point Lookout, MD

Other Information: born in 1823 in Davidson County, NC

Buried: Point Lookout Confederate Cemetery, MD, grave 1591

David Easter

Enlisted on 11/9/1863 at Dublin, VA as a Private.

On 11/9/1863 he mustered into "D" Co. VA 8th Infantry
(date and method of discharge not given)

He was listed as:

- * Absent without leave 3/19/1864 (place not stated)

- * Returned 8/24/1864 (place not stated)
- * On rolls 12/31/1864 (place not stated)

John Easter

Enlisted on 8/1/1862 at Wytheville, VA as a Private.

On 8/1/1862 he mustered into "F" Co. VA 29th Infantry
(date and method of discharge not given)

He was listed as:

- * On rolls 4/15/1863 (place not stated)
- * Arrested 7/15/1863 (place not stated) (Arrested as deserter)
- * On rolls 4/15/1864 (place not stated)
- * On rolls 12/15/1864 (place not stated)

Other Information:

born 12/7/1835 in Carroll County, VA
died 7/22/1929
Buried: Carroll, VA, family cemetery

Levi Easter

Enlisted on 5/15/1862 at Wytheville, VA as a Private.

On 5/15/1862 he mustered into "F" Co. VA 29th Infantry
(date and method of discharge not given)

He was listed as:

- * On rolls 4/15/1863 (place not stated)
- * Absent without leave 4/15/1864 (place not stated)
- * On rolls 12/15/1864 (place not stated)

Other Information:

born 10/15/1830 in Carroll County, VA
died 9/14/1917 in Carroll, VA
Buried: Flower Gap Church, VA

Michael Easter

Enlisted on 5/15/1862 at Wytheville, VA as a Private.

On 5/15/1862 he mustered into "F" Co. VA 29th Infantry
(date and method of discharge not given)

He was listed as:

- * On rolls 4/15/1863 (place not stated)
- * Deserted 6/15/1863 (place not stated) (Estimated day)
- * Arrested 7/15/1863 (place not stated)
- * Absent without leave 4/15/1864 (place not stated)
- * Hospitalized 6/19/1864 Richmond, VA (With fever)

- * Returned 7/1/1864 (place not stated)
- * On rolls 12/15/1864 (place not stated)

Other Information:

born 6/21/1828 in Carroll County, VA
died 2/6/1914 in Carroll, VA
Buried: Easter family cemetery, Carroll County, VA

--- or --- not as likely, but possible or a cousin

Michael Easter

A 35 year-old Farmer, enlisted on 4/10/1863 at Boone Co., WV as a Private.

On 4/10/1863 he mustered into "A" Co. VA 45th Battn Infantry
(date and method of discharge not given)
(Prior service in Co. K, 2nd VA State Line)

He was listed as:

- * On rolls 4/1/1864 (place not stated)
- * Absent, sick 12/31/1864 (place not stated)

Other Information:

born in 1828 in North Carolina

(Married Margaret Dolin, remarried Letha Halstead 10/26/77.)

Peter Easter

Enlisted on 4/3/1862 at Saltville, VA as a Private.

On 4/3/1862 he mustered into "F" Co. VA 29th Infantry
(date and method of discharge not given)

He was listed as:

- * On rolls 10/15/1862 (place not stated)
- * Absent, sick 12/15/1862 (place not stated) (At home)
- * Absent, sick 3/15/1863 (place not stated) (At home)
- * On rolls 4/15/1863 (place not stated)
- * Deserted 6/15/1863 (place not stated) (Estimated day)
- * Arrested 7/15/1863 (place not stated)
- * On rolls 4/15/1864 (place not stated)
- * On rolls 12/15/1864 (place not stated)

He also had service in: VA Carroll Cty Mil Infantry

Other Information:

born 9/15/1838 in Carroll County, VA
died 6/6/1919 in Carroll, VA
Buried: Flower Gap Church, VA

William Easter

Enlisted on 4/3/1862 at Saltville, VA as a Private.

On 4/3/1862 he mustered into "F" Co. VA 29th Infantry
(date and method of discharge not given)

He was listed as:

* On rolls 12/15/1864 (place not stated)

He also had service in: VA Carroll Cty Mil Infantry

Other Information:

born in Carroll County, VA in 1844

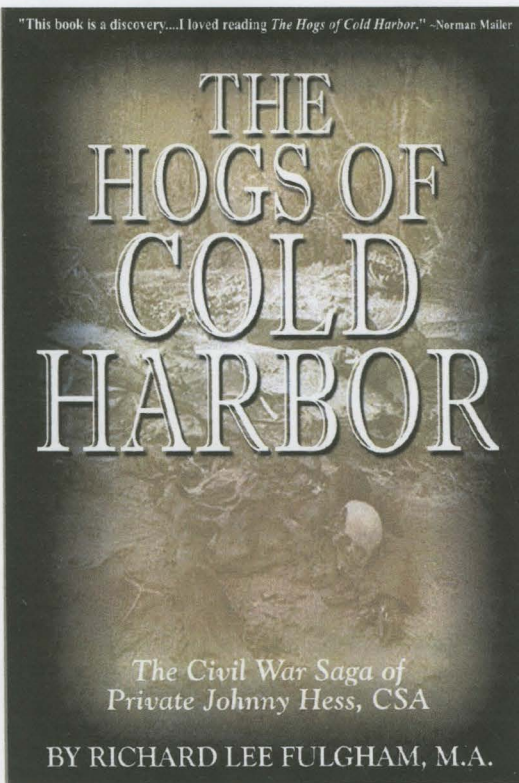
died 11/15/1909 in Carroll, VA

Note from Tucker: Soldiers were often marked down as deserters when they were on assignment, on detail or even wounded in the hospital. I found several Union soldiers carried as deserters for months until it was discovered they had been captured. The fact that no one was shot speaks volumes. Keep in the mind that the briefs from the Virginia Regimental Histories Series that I am citing here may not be as complete as the volume for the 29th you may be able to find in the Carroll County library.

See also:

<http://www.middlecreek.org/history.htm>

<http://www.8thvirginiareg.org/>



29th Virginia Infantry Regiment, "The Hogs of Cold Harbor," by Richard Lee Fulgham, M.A. "This book is a discovery. It gave me so close a sense of what it was like to be a Confederate soldier in the Civil War that I began to think of my own army experience. Old fears old excitements, even memories of my old equipment, and with it all, vivid as the sound of gunfire, came the smell of battle in the air of the book. I loved reading The Hogs of Cold Harbor. I was in the Civil War on the Southern side. That is no small education for a Northerner like me." -Norman Mailer

"The wild hogs of Virginia are vicious. They attack, kill and devour. They show no mercy and eat their victims alive. The wild hogs are smart. They strategize with their enemies. They are worthy adversaries. But the wild hogs have honor. They will not hurt or destroy their own. In the minds of some, this last, simple fact raises the wild hogs of Virginia to an ethical level far above that of Man. A hog will not kill its own. But Man will and has. The Civil War brought man against man, family against family, and brother against brother. Some fought for their God, others for freedom and liberty, still others to protect their homes and loved ones. Young men fought for the pride of their land and country and heritage. But in the battlefields, looking upon the mountains of dead and wounded, seeing the enemy's face and recognizing it as your own, a man begins to question the true meaning of honor. As the wild pigs feast upon the slaughtered masses of men, yet show compassion and solitude with their own kind, field soldiers may begin to look deep into their souls at their own morality and purpose. John Henry Hess joined the confederate army with his heart filled with pride. He would fight for his country, for his wife and unborn child, and for the right of the Lord to rule over His great land. There was not a Rebel more proud than Johnny Hess was. But in those dark fields, young Johnny Hess came to realize that there were stunning similarities between Man and Animal. The body of a man, blown apart by gunfire, is almost identical to that of a hog. There was little difference between the yearly

slaughter of the farm hogs and the slaughter of men on the battlefield. Except that a hog would not kill its own, as he had done. The Hogs of Cold Harbor implores readers to question our history as well as themselves. Author and historian Richard Lee Fulgham, M.A. crafted this haunting tale of the good and evil that dwells within us all based on the diaries of Southwest Virginian John Henry Hess, Pvt., CSA (Company G, 29th Virginia Infantry Regiment, Pickett's Division, Longstreet's Corps, 1862-1864). Is Man truly no better than the animals he commands and destroys? The Hogs of Cold Harbor is a powerful, haunting story in which Richard Lee Fulgham delves deep into the timeless questions of our existence. Are we Man? Are we Animal? And what is the difference? About the Author Richard Lee Fulgham, M.A. grew up in the Deep South and remembers all too well the world he describes in *The Hogs of Cold Harbor: The Civil War Saga of Private Johnny Hess, CSA*. He served upon the USS Raleigh during the Vietnam era and later earned his bachelor's degree from Columbus State University in Georgia and his master's degree ten years later from the University of Kentucky. Mr. Fulgham has published dozens of articles in national magazines and authored four traditionally published books: *Appalachian Genesis*, *Man's Laughter*, *The Embracing Woods*, and *Lion: Nietzsche Contra Christ*. Mr. Fulgham is a member of Sons of Confederate Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and is a charter member of The Norman Mailer Society. A native of Georgia, the author and his wife, Janet, currently live in Bel Air, Maryland.

Originally published in 2005 by Whitmore Publishing Co., 926 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 ISBN # 0-87426-058-2 341 pages, includes Appendix with passages from War Diary of John Henry Hess, cost \$ 29.00. You can contact the author directly at [Richard Fulgham](#)

Confederate Army of Northern Virginia

31 December 1864¹

Commanding General: Robert E. Lee

1st Corps: Lieutenant General James Longstreet

Pickett's Division: Major General G.E.Pickett (6,372)

Steuart's Brigade: Brigadier General G.H.Steuart

9th Virginia Infantry Regiment

14th Virginia Infantry Regiment

38th Virginia Infantry Regiment

53rd Virginia Infantry Regiment

57th Virginia Infantry Regiment

Corse's Brigade: Brigadier General M.D.Corse

15th Virginia Infantry Regiment

17th Virginia Infantry Regiment

29th Virginia Infantry Regiment

30th Virginia Infantry Regiment

32nd Virginia Infantry Regiment

Hunton's Brigade: Colonel H.Gantt

8th Virginia Infantry Regiment

18th Virginia Infantry Regiment

19th Virginia Infantry Regiment

28th Virginia Infantry Regiment

56th Virginia Infantry Regiment
Terry's Brigade: Brigadier General W.R. Terry
1st Virginia Infantry Regiment
3rd Virginia Infantry Regiment
7th Virginia Infantry Regiment
11th Virginia Infantry Regiment
24th Virginia Infantry Regiment

Other 29th soldiers and a good song: <http://www.firstfarthestandlast.com/ancestors.html>

Christmastime 1940
 Story courtesy of Wayne Easter



Back home Christmas

The year was about 1940, and by mid-December our whole family was in good

spirits. We were no longer dying in the hot summer fields, all the tobacco had been sold and we had extra money. My brother and I were especially glad, because we had new shoes and clothes to wear to school and Christmas was coming.

With the help of Blum's Almanac and the latest calendar from Kasco Feed and Seed Store on Market Street, it had been a good year. Firewood was cut and stacked for winter, "canned stuff" was in the basement and corn, fatback and black walnuts were in the grainery. We were way ahead of the game. For now, the wolf was going to have to find himself another door to scratch on. It was the most peaceful time of the year at our house and there was much satisfaction in knowing we had done the best we knew how.

As the year deepened into winter, the thoughts of young people dwelled on Santa Claus. Christmas was in the air and you could smell it in the white pine and cedar trees. They looked greener than at any other time of the year. We cut a small white pine somewhere in the woods, nailed it to a flat piece of lumber so it would stand upright and decorated it with paper chains and popcorn on a string.

We made wreaths of running cedar and holly with red berries. With craft paper, (from school) flour paste glue and scissors, my brother and I made Christmas cards for everybody and Santa.

I guess Santa got his cards because they were always gone on Christmas morning. It was still a long time until Christmas and a long time to try being good. I wondered if I'd ever make it that long.

The days dragged slowly along and Pa didn't help matters much. He said, "If Santa comes down my stovepipe, I'll shoot him with my shotgun." I halfway believed him because the gun was very much a part of our lives and Pa knew how to use it.

For some reason, we started locking our doors at night and even though we had a chimney, we had no fireplace. On top of all that, our chimney wasn't big enough for any ordinary person to get in, let alone Santa. He might not even come to see us and if he did, how was he supposed to get in our house if the door was locked?

If he did come, wonder what he would bring? Our

parents told us, "things are not good this year, boys, and Santa probably won't be around, so don't expect much." My reply was, "but we've been good all this whole year, so he's got to come."

To make matters even worse, one cold, cloudy day, all the peace and quiet we'd been having jumped out the window and ran for the hills when Hellfire and Damnation paid us a visit.

With black hats, black beards and red faces, they came roaring loudly down the hill above our house in a muddy open top black "skeeter," spewing a white cloud of radiator steam and backfiring all the way. I thought a war had begun and we were being invaded. This was a terrifying sight and I figured this must be some of them "Christian Devils" that I had heard about.

This wasn't supposed to happen to good people. I was already trying to be good for Christmas and I wondered what had gone wrong. Maybe we should have gone to church, like the neighbors wanted us to. I thought about running, but it was too late to do anything about it now. (Sometime in the past, one our neighbors had told us he was making a "Christian Endeavor," trying to get people to go to church. Thus the term, "Christian Devil" was born in our family.)

From around the corner of the house, I watched as the skeeter clattered to a stop, with radiator steam shooting for the sky. Instead of Christian Devils, they were two of the scariest people I had ever seen. Real devils wouldn't have scared me any more than they did. Pa had several drinking buddies around and these were two of them from "over in Gyarbrawley," getting a head start on Christmas.

With a big jar of moonshine (their Christmas likker) for snakebites, heat and other emergencies, they were well prepared for anything that came along. I never knew whether their red faces were from the cold or the moonshine. It would have taken a brave snake to come within a mile of those two. Pa said that he shivered when he even thought about snakes and didn't want to take any chances, "so, light and come in," he told them.

The two men were feeling no pain and after passing around the fruit jar several times, Pa was feeling none either. They all had a great time trying to shoot the top out of a white pine tree with a long barreled pistol the men had. They would drink a while, laugh and sing a while, then shoot a while. The tree was never in much danger, but Little Sid Marshall might have been because

they were shooting toward his house across the valley.

All of the smoke, noise, and commotion frightened me even more and it was a great relief to see them go chic-a-lacking back up the hill. For long time after that disaster, when I heard a car coming down our road, I ran and hid behind the house. I hoped nothing like that would be going on when Santa Claus came.

After half a lifetime of waiting, Christmas Eve finally came. I sat on the woodpile and watched the northern sky, because the North Pole was the direction from which Santa would come. I wished I could stay up all night and watch it happen. There was magic in the air and it was very hard to go to bed. I could almost see him up there among the stars. I knew he had to be a fast mover to visit every house in the world in one night. "You had better get to sleep, boys, because Santa Claus ain't coming til you do." Somehow, far into the night, we slept.

Christmas morning came cold and clear. This was the one morning of the year when us boys had no problem getting out of bed. It was a rat race to the Christmas tree. There were apples, oranges, candy and new toys for each of us. "See? I told you Santa would come to see us."

There was nothing quite like a new toy for Christmas. (One year, I got a pair of six shooters on a gun belt. The pistols were made of glued, pressed and painted sawdust and I broke one of them. Somehow, I got it stuck back together temporarily and all was well with the world. It wiped out the outlaws, just as well as it had before.)

Company came during the day and Mama cooked a big Christmas Day dinner, with chicken and dumplings and homemade pies, along with a fruit cake she had made earlier. Everyone was full, warm, happy and had a good time. The women washed the dishes and swapped the latest gossip and recipes. Us kids did our own thing as we fought corn-cob wars and played cowboys and Indians. The men went out to the grainery often, "to check the weather." It needed checking often on holidays and inside the grainery must have been a good place to do that, especially since Pa usually kept "a little snort" stashed behind the meat box.

It must have checked out very good because they became happier and happier as the day went on and the weather outlook got better and better. Like foot-washing day at Crooked (Crook-id) Oak Primitive Baptist Church, this was one of those unforgettable days that should never end. It was the best time of year in our log cabin home, high in the foothills near Stewarts Creek.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES OF INTEREST

THE MOUNT AIRY NEWS – JULY 25, 1918

MURDER IN SURRY.

Riley EASTER Killed in his Own Home by his Blockading Neighbors.
Shot Down in His Doorway in the Presence of His Wife and Children.

Monday night of this week about the hour of eleven Riley EASTER was killed at his home five miles northwest of this city. He was standing in the door of his home and men standing in the yard fired a dozen or more shots at him, one entering his body a little below the waste band making a fatal wound. He was attended at once by Dr. E. M. HOLLINGSWORTH of this city who found him in a critical condition, vomiting and showing every sign of being fatally hurt. He lingered until about 11 o'clock Tuesday and died after suffering great pain from the time he was shot. He was about 60 years of age and leaves a wife and some grown children, two of whom live with him.

EASTER was well known in his city having been a citizen of this section for many years. He was a man of but little ability and barely made a living. He had the reputation of being something of a tinner, and reports say that he made it a business, at times, of making stills for the neighbors, and they say that he was an expert at patching a still after the officers had chopped it full of holes. He lived in a two room little box house covered with boards. His home was surrounded by none of the comforts of life, not a pig pen or cow stable, no sign of a garden and everything pointed to a state of the extremest kind of poverty.

The old man worked about among neighbors and hauled wood to town for a living.

The story that explains his death is an old one and a repetition of the life history of the blockaders of this mountain section, that is of the reports that are current are true.

EASTER and his son Jim get credit for being mixed up in the liquor business at times themselves.

The EASTER home was within a few yards of the North Carolina-Virginia line and in the section of country where men have long blockaded and thought themselves safer along the state line than at other points of the county. The immediate section is hilly and well timbered, and the places for locating a still are ideal and numerous. The country is sparsely settled and but few citizens are willing to make much effort to suppress the disposition to blockade.

Naturally the public is interested in a story of this kind, and it is hard to get at the facts, for the reports that are current are more or less conflicting. The following is the best version of the affair that we are able to get.

Last Sunday morning, before daylight, Jim EASTER, the 23 year old son of the dead man, came to the home of the Sheriff BELTON in this city and reported to him that he had located a still near his home. The Sheriff could not go with him at that hour for he had no gasoline in his car. EASTER was not willing to wait and be caught away from home after daylight, for he said that the owners of the still would kill him. He and the sheriff made an agreement that EASTER was to return home before day light and remove the still to a place agreed upon up on the road where the Sheriff could get with his car. EASTER was afraid to carry the Sheriff to the place where the beer was located, because of the danger of being caught by the blockaders. And so after an understanding with the Sheriff, EASTER hastened back to the hills, and true to his word had the still at the place of agreement up on the road. The Sheriff brought the still back to town and EASTER went back to his home. Now that the truth is all out the Sheriff says that this young man EASTER had been in the habit of reporting stills in that section to him, and that he

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES OF INTEREST

made these reports for what money the Sheriff was willing to pay him. Of course the Sheriff was only to glad for him to report stills for in this way he was able to largely suppress the business in that neighborhood.

Now in some way, the blockaders are supposed to have caught on to the game EASTER was playing at their expense. They tell how on Sunday afternoon Joe CANE and Gardner CAIN went to the house of Riley EASTER and found him in company with his neighbor John GREENWOOD near their homes. They tell how the two CAIN men talked plainly to old man EASTER telling him that his son Jim had stolen their still that morning, and that he must have it back in place by that night or his fate would be sealed. They gave him until nine o'clock to get the still back in place, and made many and various threats as to what they would do in case he failed to return the still.

Monday morning old man EASTER came to town and talked freely here with officers telling them how the two CAIN men had accused his son of taking their still and making threats in case he did not return it. He left the impression that the sheriff had taken the still from the still-place and had not cut down the beer. Other officers heard the old man's report and made a raid Monday afternoon and found 250 gallons of beer where the old man told them he understood the still-place to be near his home.

And so by Monday night the Sheriff had their still and another bunch of officers had cut down their beer.

George HICKS, of White Plains, is the son-in-law of old man Riley EASTER, and he and his wife and children were making the old man a visit and were spending Monday night in the home. The family was up later than the usual bed time because of the presence of the visitors. About the hour of ten, old time, two of the women in the home were out in the yard and saw a bunch of men approaching through the field in the bright moonlight. They returned to the house and reported what they had seen. Old man EASTER invited them into the house, and without speaking a word they began to shoot at him, and some of the first shots fired entered his body and caused his death. A dozen or more bullet marks are about the door facing where the old man stood, and one is made to wonder why he was not hit more than one time. The shooting continued after the old man was pulled back into the house by one of the family.

About this time Jim EASTER got his pistol and fired twice from the house at the men in the yard. When he began to shoot they rushed at the house and Jim slammed the door and tried to hold it shut. They began to try to push it open and at the same time some were shooting through the walls of the house. One of these shots hit the little seven year old daughter of Geo. HICKS, making a bruise in her side and waking the child from its sleep in a great fright. By this time the women in the home were screaming and the children too. Pandemonium reigned. Mrs. HICKS began to beg the men to stop shooting telling them that they had killed her baby. About this time they suddenly stopped shooting or trying to break in the door and all became quiet.

Jim EASTER and his father and some of the women positively identified the men who are under arrest charged with the crime. They say the light of the moon was sufficient to make it positive to them who the men were who came into the yard and did the shooting. Jim EASTER says that Joe CAIN fired the first shot, and that it was this one that hit his father and caused his death. He says that he was looking directly at CAIN when he fired this shot and his father made an exclamation of pain and agony that makes him positive that it was this shot that gave him his death wound.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES OF INTEREST

After the shooting neighbors were called and a physician and the officers notified. Early Tuesday the Sheriffs of both Carroll and Surry were on the scene and all the police and deputies about this town.

It was evident from the first that old man EASTER was fatally wounded, and the interest in the effort to run down and locate guilty parties was intense.

Bud EDWARDS, Sheriff of Carroll, had a pair of blood hounds and in a little while after day the hunting was on in dead earnest. Joe CAIN was found up in the loft of his home lying flat down between the joists and well concealed from view. Joe BOWLES was found at his home, sound asleep in bed and the sun up. These two were hastened here by the officers and placed in the lockup. John HICKS and his son Sherman were at home sitting on the porch at 9 o'clock in the morning. Later Walter CAIN was found at his home and Gardner CAIN was, almost by accident, found hid in the woods, lying flat by the side of a log with a gallon jug of liquor by his side. All these men were placed in handcuffs and brought here by noon the day after the shooting. Those who are familiar with the effort to speedily arrest the men say that the work of the officers in so speedily making the arrests was a fine piece of work.

The men in the lockup in this city are strong and healthy specimens of manhood. Some of them look anything but a criminal. They are fair skinned, blue eyed anglosaxon stock, and men of plenty of sense. Some of them have property. They have employed attorneys and will no doubt try to show that they were in no way connected with the sad affair.

The predicament that they are caught in is interesting. The men are all farmers, and have out crops and are now in the hands of the law and have no help at home to care for their farming interests. Several of them have wheat stacked and not yet thrashed.

John HICKS, who looks to be fifty, but says he is sixty, and his son Sherman have a crop of 5 acres of tobacco and 15 acres of corn, wheat unthrashed and the mother in the home paralysed. No help there now that they are in jail.

Joe CAIN aged 38 and his son Walter who is married, have a crop of 4 acres in tobacco and 16 in corn and no help to finish the crop.

Gardner CAIN is a man of family, is forty years old and a tenant on a farm.

Joe BOWLES is a tenant, is 23 years of age and has a family.

The dead man is a cousin of the Dunkard Preacher, the Rev. Joseph EASTER, who was killed at his home some years ago under almost similar circumstances. The preacher was a man of convictions and his testimony in the courts of his county is supposed to have created such malice in the breasts of the blockaders of this section as to bring about his death.

He was called to his door one night and shot dead with a load of buckshot. His death was the start of a great fight against the liquor evil in the section where he lived. The people were so aroused over his untimely end that a monument was erected by public subscription at his grave near Fancy Gay road some miles this side of the foot of the Mountain. It stands there today a tall white shaft of marble to mark the resting place of a man who gave his life in his effort to stop just such customs as get credit for the above unfortunate affair.

Microfilm researched and copied by John Edwards, 451 Nurse Road, Ararat, NC 27007
Typed by Donna Edwards, 685 N. Franklin Road, Mount Airy, NC 27030

Sunday Living

JUNIOR EASTER

NAME: Sidney "Junior" Easter
OCCUPATION: Pastor Of Amazing Grace Baptist Church And Salesman At Scenic Ford
AGE: 63
FAMILY: Wife, Clara; Two Sons, Neil And Noel; And Two Daughters, Vivian Sue Groce And Myra Michelle Robertson; Six Grandchildren
EDUCATION: Franklin School
HOMETOWN: Lowgap
HOBBIES: Visiting the sick

By **MONDEE COX**
Staff Writer

Although Junior Easter started work at Scenic Ford over 42 years ago, he still contends that he has no plans for retirement from sales or pastoring at Amazing Grace Baptist Church.

Easter started the church 14 years ago. The congregation underwent many moves before landing in the church building it now calls home.

Easter established the first site for the church at the Holly Springs Ruritan Building. From there, the church moved to the Franklin Ruritan Building, then to Dobson to a rented building.

Alfred and Lessie Creed donated the land for the Amazing Grace Baptist Church, located at 709 Blevins Store Road, Mount Airy. The church has enjoyed its home there for the last 11 years.

Easter enjoys singing with his family at performances during church services. He said the Lord speaks to him every week to let him know what scriptures he needs to teach the congregation.

Easter related the story about how his church got its name, "I remember my mother making all of us kids go to church every Sunday, and I remember hearing the hymn, "Amazing Grace," a lot of the time. I guess I just got tired of hearing that song. It wasn't until I was born again, when I was 27 years old, that I realized then that what the most beautiful song I had ever heard." He told his wife that he wants that song to be sung at his funeral.

Easter went on to say, "When we started the church, the name was Grace Baptist and I found out that another church in the area already had that name. I remember the Lord spoke to me and told me to put the word Amazing before Grace and that would be the permanent name of the church."

Easter started out preaching at rest homes and jails before he officially pastored a church.

He said that he has been going to Dunmore Plantation for the last 20 years. He said he felt like the elderly and the sick couldn't get out and go to church, so he would bring the church to them. He holds a regular monthly service every fourth Tuesday in the month.

Easter began his long career pastoring at a youth church in Midway and from there he went on to preach for 10 years at Lodia Baptist Church. Easter said that he has married more people than he can count in his years of service to the church. He said he has been asked to speak at many funerals.

Easter started his career at Scenic Ford 42 years ago, but said that he has really only worked there for 39 years because he took a couple of years off. He started out as a janitor and worked his way up to mechanic. He remembers going to visit people in the hospital in his ministries and been covered in grease after a long day repairing cars.

That's when he decided to move into the sales aspect of the business. He said that he really enjoys what he does for a living, mostly because it allows him to meet so many people on a day-to-day basis.

He is a top salesman at Scenic Ford, according to his boss Jeff Jessup, even though his education only lasted through the ninth-grade. He said his family was very poor and a teacher told him that he had to pay his "book rent" or not to come back to school. So he didn't. He left and never looked back.

He went to work for his father who owned a garage, a junk yard and a wood yard. He learned how to fix cars in those days and chopped wood for people who used wood burning stoves to cook. His mother worked for Renfro Hosiery Mill.

In 1959 he married his wife, Clara, who he said is the light of his life. They will be celebrating their 41st wedding anniversary this Tuesday. He recalls making a date with her sister but ended up going out with Clara instead. He remembers the first time they met at the old sandwich shop which was located where O'dell's Sandwich Shop is now on Hwy. 89 in Toast.

They dated for three weeks before he asked for her hand in marriage, she accepted and they were married eight months later. He said if he had it to do all over again, "I would have given her the wedding ring the day I gave her the diamond."



They were married for three years before their first child was born. They raised two sons, Neil and Noel, and two daughters, Vivian Sue Groce and Myra Michelle Robertson. Easter's wife is a homemaker and he gives her whole hearted praise for raising their children.

Easter developed Diabetes as a young man and has struggled with the disease for most of his life. He attributes his good health over the years to the Lord his wife's care and compassion. He is not planning to retiring at any time, due mostly in part to the disease. He said that his work keeps him healthy.

Easter said that one of the most rewarding parts of his work is helping couples put broken homes back together. He was raised in a broken home and just doesn't want families to have to endure the pain of separation.

He said probably the part of his ministering that touches his heart the most is seeing people that had been hooked on drugs and alcohol turn their lives around and give themselves to the Lord.

One story that stuck out in Easter's mind was the time he helped save a man that was hooked on alcohol. "The man used to come sit on the front pew of the church. He lived under a bridge nearby. This one day I remember they found him frozen nearly to death in the back of a pick-up truck and rushed him to the hospital. His temperature was so low that the doctors thought he might not make it."

"I went into his hospital room and knelt down beside him to pray. I laid my hand on the man and prayed for God to save him. Just then, I felt the warmth coming into his body. The man did survive that episode, but later died of old age.

"I believe that people should believe in the Holy Spirit and should repent and receive Jesus Christ as their personal savior," Easter said.

Easter grew up in Mount Airy, but now lives in the Lowgap community. He said his favorite thing about the area is the people. He loves his job at Scenic Ford because it allows him to meet new people.

Jeff Wall, a salesman at the dealership said, "Junior is a fine fellow, I'm a preacher friend of his. I have preached at his church and he has preached at mine. He has stood true through the years and is an encouragement to others. He is one of the best salesmen in Mount Airy."

Favorite Book: 1611 version of the King James Bible

Favorite Music: Gospel

Favorite Food: Potato salad and green beans



BUDDY ROGER EDWARDS

Youth Falls From Truck, Is Killed

(Special to The Journal)

Mount Airy. — Buddy Roger Edwards — a great-grandson of Eng Bunker, one of the original Siamese twins — was instantly killed late Sunday when he fell from a truck and a rear wheel passed over his head.

Highway Patrolman J o h n R. Lavelly, who investigated, said the truck, with Victor Lee Easter, 17, driving, ran into a ditch, the right door opened, and young Edwards was thrown out. The two, with Easter's brother, Bobby, 15, were returning to their home from a drive-in theatre.

The Edwards youth was 15. He was a son of Carl and Julia Bunker Edwards and was in the eighth grade at Franklin School.

Surviving in addition to the parents is one brother, J e s s e William Edwards of Belvoir, Virginia.

Funeral services will be conducted at Moody Funeral Chapel at 2 p.m. today by the Rev. Lonnie Fleming and Elder Jesse Dunbar. The body will lie in state for one hour before the funeral. Burial will be in Oakdale

Easter Clan Gathers For Reunion At Family Cabin



...serving themselves at the Easter family reunion are Melvin Easter, Debbie Gwyn, Josephine Nichols, Margaret Easter and Richard Nichols...



...Deborah Mayo with son, Adam...



...Abigail and Alex Mayo, Wesley and Ian Lamberson...



...sitting by the fire are Anita Carson, Clarsie Combs, Judy Vass, Ilva Vass, Shelby Easter and Ima Newman...



...Children of the late Carnis and Essie Easter are (left to right) Bennil Easter, Louise Marsh, Alvin Easter, Josephine Nichols, Melvin Easter, Geneva Dowell and Ruby Hull. They are the grandchildren of the original owner of the cabin, Joseph Easter...



...this group shows (left to right) Teddy Combs, Bryan Jones, Danny Jones, Eddie Combs, Alvin Easter, Donald Carson, Anita Carson and Shelby Easter...

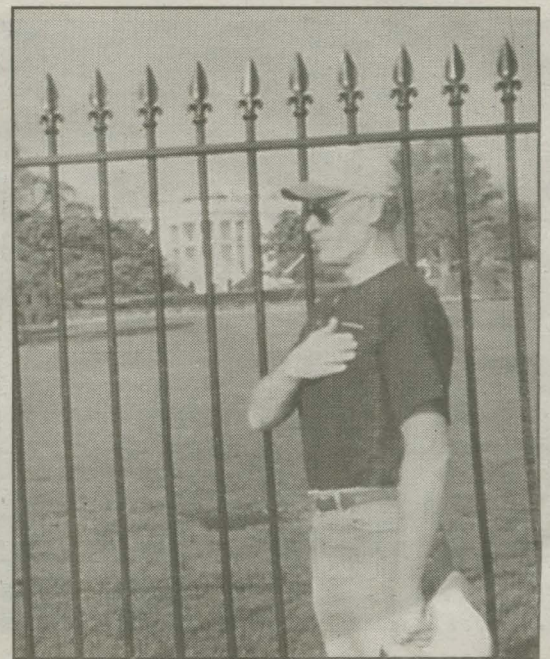


...Ilva Vass (left) and Shelby Easter chat with Jerry Vass (holding young Adam Mayo)...

Club/Civic



VISITS CRASH SITE: Peter James recently visited the capitol in Washington, D.C., and made photographs of the Pentagon which was partially demolished Sept. 11. A native of Buffalo, N.Y., James said a tree near the Pentagon stands as a memorial with flags, flowers and other memorabilia that people have placed there in memory of those whose lives were lost. James works with Nationwide Fixtures Installations and decided to visit the area during a weekend. He resides here with his wife on Woodville Road, Hwy. 89, Mount Airy.



NCEA PRESIDENT: Carolyn McKinney (center), state president of the North Carolina Association of Educators, visited Mount Airy Middle School recently to address concerns and interests of local teachers and staff. There are over 70,000 members of NCAE in North Carolina. Pictured are teachers and an administrator from the Mount Airy Middle School of Excellence. They are (left to right) Scott John, Vera Reynolds, Travis Reeves, newly appointed assistant principal and seven year veteran as an NCAE member, Carolyn McKinney, president, Christeen Knight, local NCAE president, John Ferguson, an NEA (National Education Association) director, and Linda Brown.



FUN DAY: The children at Family Day Care in Dobson enjoyed a recent sunny day and posed on a front lawn display. They are (left to right) Keeley Cuthrell, Meghan Gillespie, Kaysie Danley and Kenyon Patterson. Catherine Holder is the owner and director.



PHOTO DONATION: Bob Moody of Moody's Funeral Home (left) presents a framed photograph of the proposed World War 11 Memorial in Washington, D.C., to the V.F.W. Claude E. Hooker Post 2019. Commander Worth Haynes accepts the gift which will be hung in the VFW meeting room at Veterans Memorial Park.

In his own words, car salesman Junior Easter describes a day in his life to interviewer Carol Horton.

“ Folks will come into Scenic Motors sometimes and say, ‘Boy, they don’t make cars like they used to.’ And I’ll say, ‘Well, thank God they don’t, because I’d hate to think when I start down the road, I’ve got to drive and A-Model Ford and wonder whether I’m going to make it back or not, or if it’ll beat me to death with the rough ride.’

I’ve been at Scenic Motors since 1959, except for two years, and there have been a lot of changes in cars since then. They’re going to the future, toward space-age designs. And gas mileage in cars, there’s been a big change there too: You get a whole lot more gas mileage then you did years ago. Car makers are getting more safety-conscious too, with features such as air bags. Another change is the doors: They used to open from the middle. They called them ‘suicide doors;’ because air would catch in them and blow them open. There’s been a lot of good changes.

What I like most about selling cars is meeting people. Everybody’s different, and I enjoy talking with and observing people. I just love to be around them, you know? The key to being a successful salesman, in my opinion, is to be honest and get the people’s trust in you. If someone trusts me, I have no problem selling them a vehicle. Also the more you know about your product, the better you can present it to someone. To most people, that makes a difference. You also must believe in what you sell. I really just don’t come out and say that we sell the best product in the world. I say, ‘We sell one of the best.’

When the Ford Escort came out, it was a best-seller. I had people to say, ‘You know, your Escorts are like possums; you see ‘em all along the road, broke down.’ I said, ‘The reason you see so many possums run over alongside the road is because there’s so many of them. The more of a car there are, the more chances there are that they’re gonna break down.’

My hours as a car salesman are flexible because I’m also the pastor of Amazing Grace Baptist Church. A little over 18 years ago, I announced my call to preach, and Scenic Motors gave me the privilege to come and go as I please, so if I got an emergency call or needed to preach a funeral, I could. Most of the time, though, I’m there by 9.

When I get up around 5, I get ready to come to work. I shower, shave, all that and read my Bible. I usually get breakfast at Hardee’s and take it to work with me. After that, folks are either coming in and asking for me, or I’m on the telephone making calls to my customers.

When somebody approaches me to buy a car, first of all I try to find out what kind of vehicle they want and what they really need. If someone is working in Winston-Salem and living in Mount Airy, they want a car that will get good gas mileage. I also find out how much money they want to spend, whether for a new or used vehicle.

Unless you’re a car salesman, you don’t really realize how

FIRST PERSON JUNIOR EASTER



TIMES PHOTO BY DAVID G. ZANARDI

Sidney Easter Jr., 56, on the lot of Scenic Ford Lincoln-Mercury Inc. holding customer’s baby. A Mount Airy native, Easter lives in Lowgap with his wife, Clara Childress Easter. They are parents of four children: Susie Grose, 30; Neil Easter, 27; Myra Mosley, 25; and Noel Easter, 22.

important color is. If a customer comes in wanting a white car and you don’t have one, you’ve gotta be careful how you try to sell him a blue car. It’s really important, especially with women.

There are sales pitches on colors. For instance, white is the most carefree color you can buy. What I mean by that is it doesn’t show dirt as bad as darker colors. It’s cooler, too, and that protects your interior from the heat. Most of the time, the younger people like the flashier colors. The older people tend to like the whites, grays, colors like that.

I can tell if people are really interested in buying by watching their faces and actions; you learn to do that in this business. Price and need both have a lot to do with the final decision.

The best advice I ever got as a car salesman was: Don’t ever put down somebody’s vehicle that they’re trying to trade in. They could have owned that vehicle for

years and they may love it. If I tell someone their car is no good — even though it is no good — I might be putting the person down. People take their cars personal like their families, their dogs and their cats.

A lot of people learn about the vehicles they want to buy before they come in. The last new truck I sold was to a guy who had prices and information on what he wanted. I think people are more knowledgeable today than they’ve ever been before they make a purchase. That makes it easier for the salesman.

People still kick car tires too, especially on used cars. They’ll walk around it and then kick the tires. I don’t know why they do it; I never have figured that out. I never have done it myself and don’t understand it, but it happens.

I still have faith in American-made cars. I believe it helped car sales when the Japanese called us ‘lazy.’ We’ve had folks to come and trade us foreign-made cars since

they made that statement. If I go into a place to buy something, I look for a ‘Made in the U.S.A.’ sticker and other people are doing the same thing. Yeah, we’re gonna survive.

Car prices have gone up but people know that everything else has gone up, too. It’s just like I walked into a store one day and bought a pack of Certs. I used to buy them for 35 cents and the lady charged me 55 cents. I said, ‘Good night, that’s a lot of money for a pack of Certs.’

She said, ‘I don’t make the prices; I just work here.’

Then I got in the new Mercury Marquis I was driving and said to myself, ‘You’ve got a lot of right to be saying something about prices when vehicles are high, too.’

Even though the economy is bad, people are still willing to spend money for cars, at least with us. We’ve got a good product, and Scenic Motors has been a family-owned business for 35 years. Mr. Gough believes in treating the customers right, and that keeps repeat business coming in.

The biggest change I’ve seen in people buying cars since I’ve been in the business is that you see more women buying than you did years ago. Women couldn’t afford to buy cars then ‘cause they didn’t have the opportunities that women have today. A lot of women have better jobs now, and I think that’s good.

At lunchtime, someone usually goes out and gets our lunches and we go right on through the dinner hour. On an average day I’ll be at work from 9 ‘til 6.

What I do when I get home is according to what day it is. If it was Wednesday, I’d clean up and go down to the church to study to be ready for my 7:30 church service. A lot of nights I go to a rest-home service or visitation.

On Friday nights, I have tried to make it a habit since pastoring to take my wife out to supper. I call that our ‘dating night,’ even though we’ve been married for 33 years. The older we get, the more we eat out, so now it’s not just Friday nights. Sometimes my wife has supper prepared or we might go to Galax to Western Steer since we live in Lowgap and it’s close by. Sometimes we’ll come down to Mount Airy to eat, maybe at Quincy’s or Libby Hill. We usually go to bed after the 11 news goes off.

I keep a busy schedule with car sales and a lot of church work. I’m a diabetic and have been taking two to four insulin shots every day for nearly 40 years with no side effects.

You know, some people use their health problems for a reason not to work or achieve goals. My goal is set to go ‘til I’m over a 100 years old preaching, and if they’ll let me stay in sales, I’ll be right there, too.

I always want folks to know that this salesman appreciates his customers. To be in this business, you’ve gotta love people and treat them like you want to be treated.

I can change someone’s thinking about me, and I want it to be good, so I always follow this rule.

”



Wendy Byerly/The Mount Airy News
DOVE WINNERS: Local bluegrass gospel group, The Easter Brothers, were awarded their first Dove Award Thursday night in Nashville. (From left) James, Russell and Ed Easter were unable to attend, but did take the time to show off the nominee certificate they received before the awards show. They will receive their Dove Award soon. 4-30-02

Easter Brothers Win Dove Award

By **WENDY BYERLY**
Staff Writer

Imagine winning an award like an Emmy, a Grammy, or a Tony. Well, a local bluegrass gospel group has won the equivalent of a Grammy for gospel music — a Dove Award.

The Easter Brothers — Ed, Russell and James — won the 2002 Dove Award for Bluegrass Recorded Song of the Year, as the writers and artists for their song, "Thank You Lord for Your Blessings on Me."

The brothers were born and raised in Mount Airy, but they started their group in Danville, Va., in 1953 and have been performing across the country ever since.

Last year, they were nominated for three Dove Awards — two different albums for Bluegrass Album of the Year — and one for Song of the Year, but they didn't win.

The Green Valley Quartet is the original name

► See **AWARD**, page 2A

Award

Continued from page 1A

of their group, and they have recorded with some major bluegrass labels — Rebel and QCA.

“We have probably written over 300 songs,” noted Russell.

The song that won the Dove Award for the Easters was actually written by them in the 1960s, but they rerecorded it last year.

“The same song is number one on the charts in London (England) as performed by Jesse Dixon, who is affiliated with Bill Gaither,” said James, who has just opened a music store on Main Street in Mount Airy.

“We are presently recording on the Thoroughbred label, which is a subsidiary label of Day Wind Records. Our products are distributed through New Day Records,” added Russell.

The Easters were awarded Bluegrass Gospel Group of the Year in 1986 and 1987 by the Gospel Music Association.

“When we went back to our roots (bluegrass), we started getting nominated,” explained James.

The Dove Awards were aired on the PAX channel Thursday night and will be aired two more times this week.

James said, in an interview with a magazine from New York, Elvis Presley was once asked what his favorite song was and he replied that it was one of the Easter Brothers' songs.

“They then asked him who his favorite group was and he told them it was us,” said James. “We were on a country music label back then, and we recorded a lot of singles. Elvis got ahold of them.”

The brothers do a sell-out show every Easter in New Holland, Pa. They have been doing the show for the past 12 years.

“You have to get a ticket six months in advance,” said James.

The group also hosts a local television show on Sunday and Monday on Adelphia/Time Warner Cable, and have a show on GMT that shows worldwide out of Tennessee on satellite.

The gospel talent that the brothers share has been passed down to the next two generations. Jeff and Sheri Easter are the son and daughter-in-law of James and have recorded sever-



FIVE GENERATIONS: Bessie Easter, 89, holds her great-great grandchildren, Hailey Breeze Macklin and Caleb Allen Parnell. To Bessie Easter's left is Ocean Easter Macklin, her great granddaughter, and to her right is Brooke Easter Parnell, also a great granddaughter. Standing are the Rev. Ricky Easter, a grandson, and Earnest Easter, a son. 4-25-02

SURRY COUNTY GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION
P. O. BOX 997
DOBSON, NC 27017

August 24, 1998

Everett E. Easter
P. O. Box 461
Germanton, NC 27019

Thank you so much for your letter dated August 9, 1998 and your research on the Estes/Easter family. This will be a great addition to our family files. We hope you will also send us info on your McCreary and Greenwood lines that have Surry Co. connections at a later date.

We checked our most recent membership listing and we only had one family member listed as researching the Easter family. This was Jimmy and Teresa Smith, 170 Casper Stewart Road, Lowgap, NC 27024-9702. They have done a lot of research and they may be able to help you. Also, you might wish to put a query in our journal, which is free of charge, stating you would like to correspond with descendants of the George Abraham Easter family. Information is enclosed.

Again, we thank you for your support to SCGA and for being willing to share your research with us. If we can be of service further to you, please write.

WH
Research Committee

Enclosures

8-9-98

Hello,

Enclosed is some information for your files. This is my direct line.

I AM working on the Mc^{CREARY}~~CREARY~~ CLAN now. When you see Jim Cokerham + Sue Blackburn, tell them that I have not forgotten the Greenwood family.

Are ANY of your members descended from George Abraham Easter + his wife, Elizabeth McKone?

Sincerely
Everett E. Easter



ESTES/EASTER

by

Everett E. Easter
1998

AS FAR AS I KNOW, THIS INFORMATION IS CORRECT. THERE MAY BE SOME MISTAKES AND THE WORK IS NOT COMPLETE. BUT WHEN DEALING WITH INFORMATION SEVERAL GENERATIONS OLD, THE ORIGINAL PAPERS ARE HARD TO READ. AFTER READING THIS BOOKLET SEVERAL TIMES AND MY FRIEND VIRGINIA GENTRY PHILLIPS PROOF READING THIS BOOKLET, I FEEL THAT IT IS MOSTLY CORRECT. IF YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS, GOOD OR BAD, WRITE OR CALL:

EVERETT E. EASTER
PO BOX 461
GERMANTON, NC 27019
336/ 591-4504

HUSBAND: Abraham Estes

Born: in: ?

Married: 1780

in: Halifax Co Va

Died: 5 Apr 1804

in: Halifax Co Va

Burial place: unknown

WIFE: Elinor(Nelly) Organ

Born: in:

Died: 21 Jan 1844

in: Halifax Co Va

Burial place: unknown

Abraham and Nelly were married by Parson Gordan at the old Episcopal Church in Halifax Co Va by publication of banns.

The Revolutionary War pension records for widows state that Abraham Estes was a private in the Va Continental Line from 1776- 1779. The National Archives could not find any records for this Abraham Estes. There were records on two other men named Abraham Estes.

CHILDREN

All children thought to have been born in Halifax Co Va

Nancy Estes: born ? died prior to 1848 married Robert Smallman in 1803

David Estes: born 30 Jul 1781 died prior to 1848 married Frankye Toombs in 1804

Sally Estes: born ? died prior to 1848 married William Edwards in 1808

John Estes: born Dec 26 1784 died ? married Ann Moore in 1811

William Estes: born Mar 1792 died ? married Rebecka Miller in 1815

Abraham Estes: born ca 1793 died 27 Jun 1864 married Martha Ann Farley in 1820

Sources: Halifax Co Va wills, census records, marriage records and National Archives Pension Records

HUSBAND: Abraham Estes
Born: ca 1792 in Halifax Co Va
Married: 5 Mar 1820 in Halifax Co Va
Died: 27 Jun 1864 in Surry Co NC
Burial place: unknown

WIFE: Martha Ann Farley
Born: ca 1797 in Lunenburg Co ? Va
Died: ca 16 May 1889 in Surry Co NC
Burial place: unknown

Abraham Estes and Martha Ann Farley were married by a Baptist minister named Robert Hurt in Coves, Halifax Co Va.

Abraham was the son of Abraham Estes and Nelly Organ. Grandparents unknown.
Martha was the daughter of Seth Farley and Sarah Crafton. Grandparents were Henry Farley and Ann ____, also William Crafton, Jr and Mary ____.

Abraham Estes enlisted in the War of 1812, 30 Aug 1814 and was discharged at Camp Endicot Mills 1 Dec 1814. He served as a private in the Va Militia under Capt. Bailey. Abraham was described as nearly six feet tall, black hair, black eyes and a dark complexion.
Abraham and Martha lived in Halifax, Charlotte, Patrick and Carroll Cos. in Va and Rockington, Stokes and Surry Cos. in NC.
Abraham Estes was a miller.

CHILDREN

Elizabeth Estes: born ca 1823 in Halifax Co? Va died ? in Surry Co NC

Robert Seth Estes/Easter: born 10 Mar 1826 in Patrick Co Va, died 7 Jan 1916 in Surry Co NC

Sarah E. Estes: born in ? ca 1834, living in Stokes Co NC in 1850.

Mary Estes: born in ? ca 1836, living in Stokes Co NC in 1850.

George Abraham Estes/Easter: born ca 1840, living in Stokes Co NC in 1850, died in Smyth Co Va 4 Mar 1916. He is buried in Southwestern State Hospital cemetery at Marion, Va. He married Elizabeth McHone (Mahone) in Carroll Co Va in 1865. George was a shoemaker and a Civil War veteran.

There are 3 more children in this family that are unknown.

Sources: Decendants of Michael Easter by Louise Easter, 1840 census of Patrick Co Va, 1850 census of Stokes Co NC, Widows pension records for War of 1812, 29th Va Infantry by John Perry Alderman, Halifax Co Va Marriage records, Carroll Co Va Marriage records and death records of Smyth Co Va.

1st page

HUSBAND: Robert Seth Estes/Easter
Born: 10 Mar 1826
in: Patrick Co Va
Married: 15 Aug 1866
in: Surry Co NC
Died: 7 Jan 1916
in: Surry Co NC

WIFE: Hulda Ann McCollum
Born: 27 Apr 1850
in: Surry Co NC
Died: 24 Mar 1937
in: Surry Co NC

Robert S. and Hulda A. are buried at Old Hollow Primitive Baptist Church near Mt. Airy, Surry Co NC.

The parents of Robert S. were Abraham Estes and Martha Ann Farley. Grandparents were Abraham Estes and Nelly Organ, also Seth Farley and Sarah Crafton.

The parents of Hulda A. were David McCollum and Sarah Walker. Grandparents were William McCollum and Polly Ring, also Samuel Walker and Hulda_?_.

The name Estes was pronounced Eastes. When Robert A. joined the Confederate Army during the Civil War, he was listed as Easter instead of Eastes. The family name has been Easter since then. One possible reason is that besides Robert S. and his brother George A., there were 8 other men named Easter in the 29th Va Infantry , CSA

CHILDREN

John David Easter: born 1 Jun 1867 in Carroll Co Va, died 25 Jan 1955 in Forsyth Co NC married Sarah Jane McCreary 19 Apr 1892.

Robert William Easter: born 4 Apr 1869 in Carroll Co Va. died 15 Dec 1954 in Surry Co NC married Meeky Law

James Woltz Easter: born 2 Mar 1871 in Carroll Co Va, died 23 Nov 1948 in Surry Co NC married Emma M. Brown Nov 1893.

Sarah Martha Elizabeth Easter: born 13 Mar 1873 in Carroll Co Va, died 16 Aug 1956 in Surry Co NC. married George Yancy Hodge(s) in 1893.

America Jane Easter: born 20 Nov 1875 in Carroll Co Va, died 10 Jun 1936 in Surry Co NC married Merriman B. Phillips Dec 1892.

Baby Easter: born 12 Mar 1876 died 12 Mar 1876.

Abraham Martin Emory Easter: born 15 May 1877 in Carroll Co Va died 8 Aug 1943 in Surry Co NC (single)

Cora Lee Easter: born 6 Mar 1879 in Carroll Co Va died 5 Dec 1960 in Surry Co NC (single)

Mary Ellen Easter: born 15 Mar 1881 in Surry Co NC died 1962 in Forsyth Co NC married Authur Carter Feb 1900.

Cordelia Ann Easter: born 27 Mar 1883 in Surry Co NC died 18 Jan 1912 in Surry? Co NC married Martin Monroe Troxler 3 Apr 1904.

2nd page of
Children of Robert S. and Hulda McCollum Easter

Edward Seth Easter: born 15 May 1885 in Surry Co NC died 4 Nov 1888 in Surry Co NC

Benton Easter: born 11 Jan 1887 in Surry Co NC died 1 Sept 1967 in Surry Co NC married
Matilda Brown in 1913 in Surry Co NC

Grover Cleveland Easter: born 19 Nov 1889? in Surry Co NC died 1991 in Surry Co NC
married Micky Ann McCreary 1917 in Forsyth Co NC.

Sources: Family Bible, Surry and Forsyth Co NC and Carroll Co Va birth, death, marriage
and census records. 29th Va Infantry by John Perry Alderman and Civil War Pension Records
A large portion of this family history courtesy of Virginia Gentry Phillips.

HUSBAND: John David Easter
Born: 1 Jun 1867
in: Carroll Co Va
married: 19 Apr 1892
in: Surry Co NC
died: 25 Jan 1955
in: Forsyth Co NC

WIFE: Sarah Jane McCreary
Born: 13 Jun 1875
in: Carroll Co VA
died: 21 Jun 1963
in: Forsyth Co NC

The parents of John David Easter were Robert Seth Estes/Easter and Hulda Ann McCollum. Grand parents were Abraham Estes and Martha Ann Farley, and David McCollum and Sarah Walker. Levi McCreary and Mickey Ann Greenwood were the parents of Sarah Jane McCreary. Her grand-parents were Samuel McCrary and Lewcy(Lucy) Cornish and William Redmon(d) Greenwood and Mary L. Strange. John and Sarah are buried at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church near Mt. Airy Surry Co NC

CHILDREN

All born in Surry Co NC.

Edward Lee Easter: born 10 Sept 1893, died 10 Aug 1974, married Dorothy Nowlin in _?_.

Mary Ann Easter: born 12 Dec 1896, died _ 1956, married Luther Paul Green in 1918.

John Robert Easter: born 8 Sept 1898, died 7 Nov 1974, married 1st Tossie Lee Bowman in 1920, 2nd Angie Lee Mullis in 1929.

Ales(Alice) Easter: born 19 Sept 1901, died 2 Mar 1909 of pneumonia.

Laura Viola(Ila) Easter: born 2 May 1905, died 24 Oct 1984, married Oscar William Shaver 6 Jun 1925.

David Columbus Easter: born 24 May 1907, died 23 Feb 1995, married Mabel E. Grubbs in 1927.

Cora Frances Easter: born 30 Nov 1912, died 29 May 1923 of leukemia.

Sources: Forsyth and Surry Cos. NC birth and death records, family and personal knowledge.

HUSBAND: John Robert Easter
Born: 8 Sept 1898
in: Surry Co NC
married: see below
in: see below
died: 7 Nov 1974
in: Forsyth Co NC

WIFE: Angie Lee Mullis
Born: 13 Oct 1904
in: Forsyth Co NC
died: 8 Oct 1989
in: Forsyth Co NC

John Robert Easter's first wife was Tossie Lee Bowman, daughter of S W Bowman and Darsilla Nester Surry Co NC. JR and Tossie married 26 Dec 1920. Tossie died in 1928. They had no children. John Robert Easter's second wife was Angie Lee Mullis, daughter of John Stockton Mullis and Lela Ann Wooten. JR and Angie married 21 Dec 1929.

The parents of John Robert Easter were John David Easter And Sarah Jane McCreary. Grandparents were Robert Seth Estes/Easter and Hulda Ann McCollum, also Levi McCreary and Mickey Ann Greenwood.

The grandparents of Angie Lee Mullis were George Allison Mullis and Elizabeth Baity, also Thomas Wooten and Elizabeth Ann Joiner(Joyner).

CHILDREN

All born in Forsyth Co NC

John Grady Easter: born 13 Jan 1931 died 24 Jul 1991 in Forsyth Co NC married Ruby Nicholson in 1951. Grady is buried at Forsyth Mem. Park Winston-Salem, Forsyth Co NC.

Charles Stanford Easter: born 17 Jul 1932, alive in 1998 married Doris Jean Dull in 1952.

Everett Eugene Easter: born 18 Mar 1935, alive in 1998 married Opal Evelyn Huie in 1956.

Paul David Easter: born 30 Sept 1939, alive in 1998 married Martha Bull in 1959.

Arlene Polly Easter: born 12 May 1942 alive in 1998 married Fred Dudley in 1993.

Gilmer Gray Easter: born 5 Sept 1943 alive in 1998 married Barbara Kay Weavil in 1962.

Sources: Family knowledge

Everett Eugene Easter
Born: 18 Mar 1935
in: Forsyth Co NC
Married: 8 Sept 1956
in: Chester Co SC

WIFE: Opal Evelyn Huie
Born: 2 Oct 1937
in: Wilkes Co NC

The parents of Everett E. Easter were John Robert Easter and Angie Lee Mullis. Grandparents were John David Easter and Sarah Jane McCreary, also John Stockton Mullis and Lela Ann Wooten.

The parents of Opal Evelyn Huie were Robert E. Huie and Mamie Hall. Grandparents are not known.

CHILDREN

All born in Forsyth Co NC

Janet Renee Easter: born 25 Oct 1958, married Phillip James in 1976.

Karen Denese Easter: born 6 Oct 1960, married Manfred (Monty) Holt in 1983.

Lori Ann Easter: born 19 Apr 1962, married James Ray Harrington, Jr in 1992.

GRANDCHILDREN

Angela Nicole Holt: born 9 Feb 1987 in Forsyth Co NC

Sources: Personal knowledge

Introduction

This account of Michael Easter and his descendants was compiled from public records and from information furnished by members of the family. It is primarily a family register, a collection of leaves from many family Bibles. Admittedly, the history is not complete; many families could not be contacted and others neglected to send in their records. While first-hand information on these families could not be obtained, some of their records are included. In some instances the data was furnished by relatives, but the primary source was the public records contained in the respective courthouses of the counties of residence.

These public records consist of wills and estate settlements, deeds and other land records, birth and death registers. Of particular value were the Virginia marriage records. After 1863 the prospective bride and groom were required to give their ages and the names of their parents. In Carroll County, Virginia, there were perhaps two hundred Easter marriages, spanning three or four generations, and the information shown on these marriage licenses is included in this book. There may be differences in some dates taken from these records; the date of the license may not be the date of the marriage ceremony. The year of birth computed from the age given in the license is not always accurate, particularly for those who married quite young. Other counties near Carroll County were checked, but the North Carolina marriage bonds did not give the parents' names.

Only a few of those Easters who moved west before and during the 19th century were located by searching the Federal Census Schedules, and none of their descendants are known. It may require years of research to find all of these branches of the family, or to learn anything of the European ancestry of Michael Easter. But the search continues, and all new data will be included in the next volume of the Easter history.

This is the first volume of a projected history of all the Easter families in America. It is believed that there are several different Easter lines in the United States, and more than a dozen Easter immigrants have been found. Possibly some of these are related, but until a connection is proved, each immigrant necessitates independent research. For several reasons there is considerable doubt that all or most of these immigrants are of the same branch. Differing family traditions suggest several countries of origin, the known ones being Germany, Holland, England and Northern Ireland. Also, Easter settlers arrived in America at different times over a period of three hundred years.

The name Easter itself appears in varying forms in several languages. In many families, especially of German and Dutch extraction, the name is originally Oater. This change is easy to understand, for Easter is the literal English translation of the German Oster. In German and allied Teutonic languages the word for East is Ost; in Dutch, it is Oost; and in

the Romance or Latin languages, the word is Est or Este.

The origin of Easter as a surname is not known. A popular explanation is that the name first referred to someone interested in the Crusades in the Near East, hence "East-er". It has been suggested also that the name was taken from the English word for the Christian holy season or perhaps from the pagan goddess Eastre. Oddly enough, scholars believe that Easter and Eastre derived their names from Ostara or Oestre, a Teutonic goddess of Spring and fertility. The Anglo-Saxons celebrated a festival in her honor on the vernal equinox, and some of the pagan traditions survive in the Easter rabbit, symbolic of fertility, and gaily-colored eggs, representing the bright sunshine of Spring.

It is possible that the name was used to identify a family on the eastern side of a river, a forest or a hill. In a telephone book, one may find the names East, Easterly, Easterling, Eastridge, Easterwood, etc., all indicating location. Assuming that this is a possible origin of the surname, unrelated families in widely scattered localities and of different nationalities might have the same family name.

Whatever the origin, family sources agree that Michael's name was originally Oster. Although there were many Germans in that area of North Carolina, all of the early Rowan County records give the name as Easter. Many other names retained their German spelling for a time, and it is rather surprising that not a single Oster reference was found.

Because it is said that the first Michael Easter came to America from Holland, one may wonder at the many German references throughout the book. It must be remembered that a family is a segment of the community, of the county and of the nation. History is the account of those events which affect lives of the people; a family genealogy is the account of one family influenced by those events. By studying the history of a community, the life of an ancestor can be envisioned.

The land plat showing early inhabitants of Davidson County gives the names of Michael Easter's neighbors. The majority of these are of German descent. Many of his in-laws were German, and there are many old headstones inscribed in German in the cemetery near Pilgrim's Church where Michael Easter, Jr. was married. The Palatines who settled in Davidson County were an industrious, religious, liberty-loving people. Most of them were farmers and had little desire to enter public affairs. They loved their native language and spoke it in their homes. Living today are those who learned "Dutch" from their parents, and who sing the hymn "The Promised Land." A lengthy account of these Germans is given in Centennial History of Davidson County, North Carolina, by Jacob Calvin Leonard, a descendant of a founder of Pilgrim's Church. This history furnishes background on many of Michael Easter's neighbors, but no mention of him is made.

The search for my own Easter ancestors led me to concentrate on the records of Michael Easter, in hopes that my family might be a branch of

his family. Although no connection was found, the compilation of this genealogy has been rewarding and interesting. The new friendships made through personal visits and correspondence have made my work pleasant and encouraging. Indeed, this book would not have been possible without the cooperation of those members of the family who sent in their records and helped with the many problems of relationship which arose. Special thanks are extended to Mrs. Early Kemp, Secretary-Treasurer of the Easter Reunion, to Mr. and Mrs. Howard Easter of Amelia County, Va., to Mr. William Foy Easter of Welcome, N. C., and to Mr. Shadrick F. Easter of Winchester, Va., who furnished much valuable material.

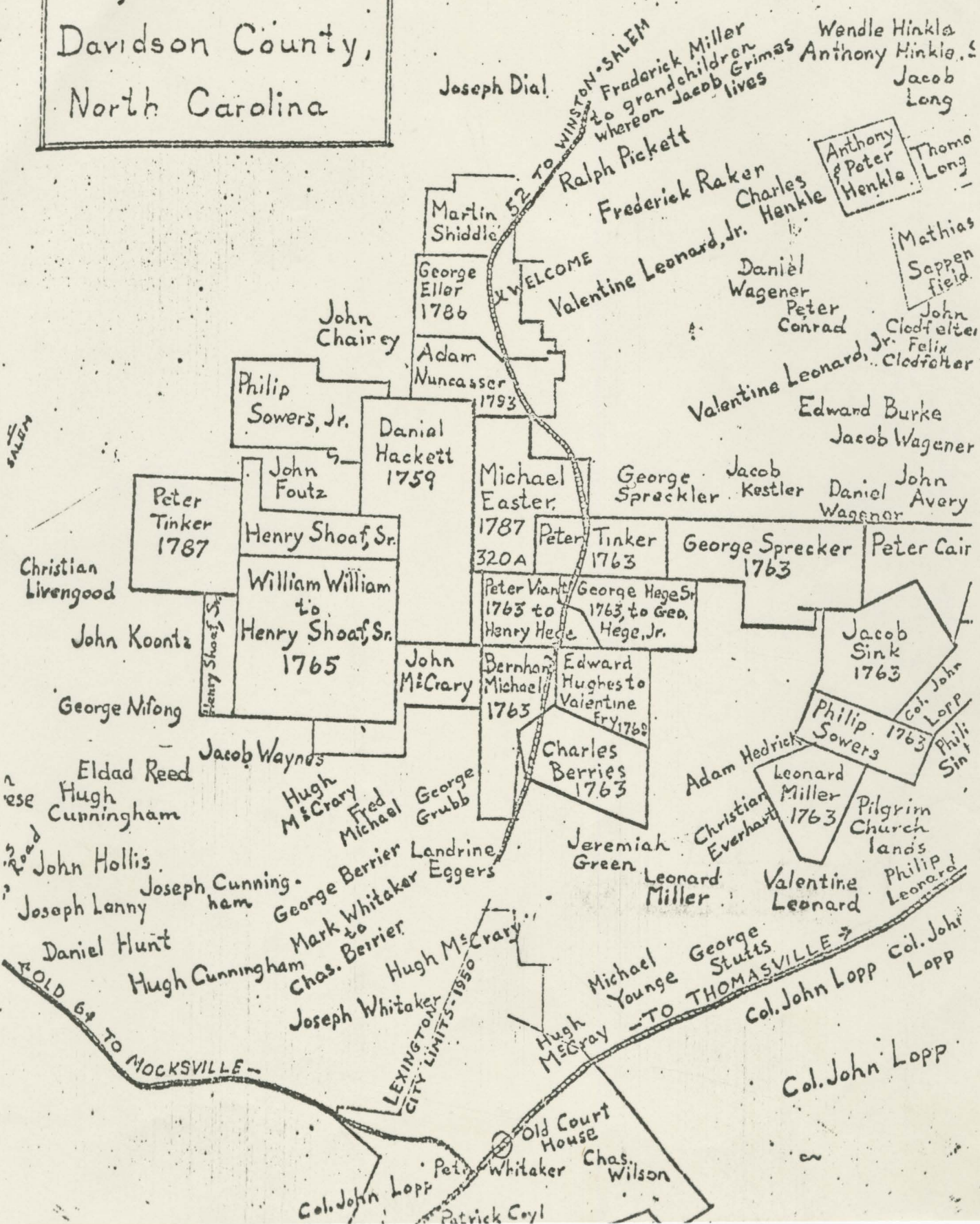
The present-day family of Michael is close-knit, with a keen interest in the family history. I hope this record of Michael Easter of North Carolina and his descendants will be of value to them. Forgive the errors and remember the devotion that has gone into the writing of this account of a pioneer family of Davidson County, North Carolina.

Louise E. Easter

6 August 1961

Washington, D. C.

Early Inhabitants of Davidson County, North Carolina



Abbreviations

In collecting material for a history of the Easter family, many sources have been consulted. All data pertaining to the family in the Congressional Library, the Daughters of the American Revolution Library, and the National Archives in Washington, D. C., the Virginia State Library in Richmond, the Department of Archives and History in Raleigh, N. C., and many local libraries have been referred to. The scarcity of published material on this branch of Easters obviates a bibliography, but references used throughout the text may require an explanation.

The Virginia marriage licenses give a wealth of information and in those counties where Easters lived, marriage bonds were so numerous that individual references to specific bonds would be superfluous. It should be understood that the phrase, "married in Grayson Co., Va.", for instance, indicates that a marriage bond will be found in that county.

Other abbreviations used are these:

- CBR Carroll Co., Va. Birth Records (Carroll Co. Court House, Hillsville)
- CD Carroll Co., Va. Deeds (Carroll Co. Court House, Hillsville)
- GMR Carroll Co., Va. Marriage Records (Carroll Co. Court House, Hillsville)
- DD Davidson Co., N. C. Deeds (Davidson Co. Court House, Lexington)
- DW Davidson Co., N. C. Wills (Davidson Co. Court House, Lexington)
- RD Rowan Co., N. C., Deeds (Rowan Co. Court House, Salisbury)
- SBR Surry Co., N. C. Birth Records (Surry Co. Court House, Dobson)
- BBR Boone Co., W. Va. Birth Records ("Boone Co., W. Va. Births, Marriages, Deaths, Wills & Inventories, 1865-1899", typescript, W.P.A., 1936. DAR Library, Washington, D. C.)
- BDR Boone Co., W. Va. Death Records (See preceding reference)
- BMR Boone Co., W. Va. Marriage Records (See preceding reference)
- VLG Virginia Land Grants (Virginia State Library, Richmond, Va.)
- FCR Federal Census Records (National Archives, Washington, D. C.)
- FR Family Records: Bible records, certificates, letters and questionnaires, interviews

The first Michael Easter came to America from Holland and settled in Davidson County, North Carolina, near the town of Welcome. This concise account of their immigrant ancestor was obtained from family sources, and is common knowledge throughout the family.

Michael Easter (I) undoubtedly came to America from Holland, but whether the national origin of the family was Holland (Dutch) or Germany (Deutsch) is a matter of speculation.

Early in the Eighteenth Century many Germans left their homeland for various reasons. Some were fleeing from religious persecution, and some from the countless wars that devastated the country. But many Germans left their native land for another and more practical reason: the promise of free land in the New World. England wanted these industrious people in her colonies and encouraged their migration. But transportation and colonization took time and money. Many Germans remained in England for months or years before they could be sent to America. And many more were stranded in Holland waiting for transportation to "The Promised Land".

Possibly Michael Easter (I) was one of these Germans who came to this country by way of Holland. Just when he came over is not known. A Michael Esteuier was on the passenger list of the ship "London Packet", Captain Cook, Master, from Lisbon, Portugal; this Michael qualified by taking the Oath of Allegiance on 19 Sept. 1771 in Philadelphia. (Pennsylvania Archives, Vol XVII 1890, page 65, 2nd Series). As there were no other Easter or Oster on this list, it seems unlikely that this was the Michael Easter who settled in North Carolina, as the latter had a family by this time.

Other records suggest that Michael Easter (I), perhaps with a relative named Peter Easter, settled first in South Carolina. They may have entered through the Port of Charleston and joined other immigrants, many from the Rhine section of Germany, in their "Up-Country" settlements in the western part of the colony. In the South Carolina Archives at Columbia are these Easter land records:

Pursuant to a Precept directed to the Surveyor-General dated Dec. 6, 1768, I have surveyed and laid out to Michael Easter a Tract of Land containing one hundred acres situated and lying in the County of Craven on Wilkerson Creek of Broad River on the N. side it being six ft. wide and four inches deep bounded to the N. W. by Land surveyed for Michael Dumper to the S. W. by Land surveyed for Thomas Owens S. E. by lands surveyed for Michael Easter and the other sides vacant land & hath such shapes and marks as a plat above represents. Certified Feb. 15, 1769
Ord. Co. 6 Feb. 1771 Richard Winn, D. S.

(Vol. 14, p. 524)

Pursuant to a Precept directed by John Bremar, Esq., Deputy Land Genl. dated the 6th day of Augt. 1771, I have surveyed and laid out to Michael Easter a Tract of one hundred and fifty acres situate in Craven Co. on a branch of Watree Creek, Bounding to the S. E. by land of Mary Rutland and S. W. by land of Thomas Woodward, & on the other two sides by vacant land: and hath such shape form and marks as the above plat represents. Certified the 29th day of Oct. 1774 Ord. Co. 8th July 1774 by John Winn, D. S.
(Vol. 14, p. 522)

Pursuant to a Precept from John Bremar, Esq., Depty Surveyor General, dated the 2nd day of Feby. 1773, I have admeasured and laid out unto Michael Oester a tract of Land containing Two hundred acres Situate in Craven County on a branch of Shockey Creek branch of Broad River bounding N W wards on Lands Surveyed for James Rogers S E wards on Land surveyed for John Dye, all other sides by vacant lands and hath such shape and marks as the above plat represents. Surveyed this 11th day of Feby. 1773 Per Job Owens, D. S.
(Vol. 16, p. 547)

Pursuant to a precept from Edgerton Leigh, Esq., Surveyor Genl., dated the 4th day of August 1761 I have Laid out to Peter Easter, a Tract of three hundred Acres of Land, on Willis Creek, Bounding on all sides by vacant Land, Lying in Craven County, & hath such shape form and marks as appear by the above Platt. Certified the 12th day of August 1761. Jos. Curry, D. S.
(Vol. 7, p. 238)

Tax was paid on these lands until 1775 by Michael and Peter Easter. In 1763, Peter sold half of his grant to William Morgan, and in May 1776, he sold 150 acres "that was granted to Peter Easter on the 26 July 1774". What disposition was made of the other lands is not known.

These records show that a Michael and Peter Easter was living in South Carolina as late as 1775 or 1776. By 1778 a Michael Easter was in Rowan Co., N. C., when he was taxed in Lopp's District on property valued at 174 Pounds. Also that year, he was listed as one of several hundred persons who "Refused or Neglected to take the Oath of Allegiance", according to the Court Minutes, Rowan Co. Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions. This could have been either Michael Easter, Senior or Junior.

Michael Easter (I) undoubtedly had land in Rowan Co., N. C., but the terms of his holding or owning it cannot be learned. An old tax list, date unknown, but probably between 1777 and 1779 when Capt. Lopp was in charge of Lopp's (Tax) District, contains these entries:

Michael Easton, Lopp District,	Land 160	- White tithable 1
Peter Easton, Lopp District	Land 160	- White tithable 1

In his will dated 22 Feb. 1783 and proved 7 May 1793, Michael (I) mentioned his land in these words: "My wife, July Easter, to live

on the place during her widowhood.....then I give and bequeath to my two sons, Michael Ester and Peter Ester, my land..to help maintain their mother and their three youngest brothers..."

The Rowan County records give no hint of how or when this land was acquired or what disposition was made of it. The only grants by the State of North Carolina were to Michael Easter, Jr.; the first in 1786 of 320 acres, and the other in 1806 of 19 acres. At his death Michael (II) owned only this 339 acres he had obtained by grant. Peter, son of Michael (I), owned land, all of it accounted for by deeds of record. Nothing was learned from a thorough search of all Administrator's and Sheriff's Sales. Other than the tax list and his will, there is no mention of or reference to land owned by Michael Easter (I).

It is believed that Michael Easter, Sr. settled in Rowan County, in that part which became Davidson County, on vacant lands, probably on land which the state had confiscated from Tories (Loyalists) during the Revolution. For some reason, he did not or could not at that time obtain legal title. Later, Michael (II) obtained title to the land by grant, probably as bounty land for his service in the Revolution. The date of the grant is 1786, three years after the elder Michael had made his will. The legal owner being Michael (II), the land was not affected by the will which was not proved until 1793.

The tax list of 1777-1779 (?) showing 160 acres each for Michael and Peter Easter does not unduly conflict with this theory. They took up the land, was taxed on it without getting legal title, and Peter later transferred his claim to Michael.

The tax list of 1778 lists the taxables house to house. The names of Michael's neighbors are therefore known.

Henry Hagey (Executor of Michael Easter's Will)	
Martin Shickle	
of Felix Clodfelter	John Oliver
of Edward Hughey (probably Hegey)	MICHAEL ESTHER
Eve. Younker	Peter Leonard
Joseph Clap	Peter Tinker, Senr.

Will of Michael Easter

In the name of God Amen, I Michael Ester of the State of North Carolina and county of Rown, being weak in body but of perfect mind and memory, calling to mind the mortality of the body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, I do make and ordain this my Last Will and Testament, that is to say: Principally and first of all, I give and recommend my soul into the hand of Almighty God that gave it and my body I recommend to the earth to be buried in a decent Christian burial at the discretion of my Executors, nothing doubting but at the general

Resurrection I shall receive the same by the mighty power of God, and as touching such worldly estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me in this life, I give and devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form:

First, I give and bequeath to my wife, July Ester, my bed and bedding and the half of my household furniture and two cows and to live on the place during her widowhood and she is to keep the three youngest children, George and Henrey and John, under her direction till of age, and after my just debts are paid and my funeral charge is paid then I give and bequeath to my two sons, Michael Ester and Peter Ester, my land and to help maintain their mother and their three youngest brothers as long as she remains a widow, and after my death the rest of my estate to be appraised by two freeholders and the widow to have the third part of my estate and then the rest to be equally divided between my five sons namely, Michael Easter and Peter Ester and George Ester and Henrey Easter and John Ester, I give and bequeath my land, and I give to my daughter Elizabeth one cow and I give and bequeath to my daughter Rebecka two heifers and Michael to have the brown horse and Peter to have the sorrel mare and the remainder of my moveable estate to be appraised and equally devised between all my children. And I do hereby utterly disallow, revoke and disavow all and every other former Testament, Will, Legatee, bequests and executors by me in any ways before named willed and bequeathed, rectified, and Confirming this and no other to be my last Will and Testament in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 22nd day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty three....1783. Signed sealed published and pronounced, declared by the said Michael Ester as his last will and testament. In the presence of us who in his presence and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names.

William Finburn
George Hege Jun.

Michael (X) Ester

I likewise appoint my friend and loving wife and Henrey Hegey to be my whole and sole executors of this my last Will and Testament. (Rowan Co., N. C., Will Book C, page 282)

7 May 1793. Will of Michael Esther proved by George Hege. Henry Hege, one of the executors, qualified. (Court Minutes, p. 536) 2-

6 Aug. 1793. Account of Sales of Mikael Esther's estate admitted to the record. (Court Minutes, p. 540) 2-

There is no record of July (Julie ?) Easter, wife of Michael, Sr. The only mention of her is in his will. 2-

of December I had the honor to receive from you a letter containing a list of names of persons who had been admitted to the bar in the State of North Carolina for the year 1793. I have the pleasure to inform you that the names of the following persons have been admitted to the bar in the State of North Carolina for the year 1793: 2-

Children of Michael Easter (I)

- 2-A Michael Easter (II), son of Michael and July Easter, was born about 1760 or 1762. He lived in Davidson Co., N. C. From him most of the Easters in the area are descended.
- 2-B Peter Easter, son of Michael and July Easter, was born about 1762-3. He married Elinder _____; he owned land in Rowan Co. but sold it before 1800. In the 1800 census of Rowan Co., he was head of a household containing one male over 45 years of age (probably himself), one female between 26 and 45 years, probably his wife, and three males and one female under the age of 10 years. He and his family disappeared from the Rowan County records after 1800. He may have removed to Tennessee. One other record of his is found in the Court Minutes. In 1795, he was appointed Overseer of the road from old Guilford Road to Peter Copp's branch.
- Land records of Peter Easter:
- 28 Oct. 1790 (recorded May 1797). Peter Easter purchased from Richard Pen for 40 £ a tract of land on Reedy Creek, containing 105 acres. Witnesses: George Koons, Isaac White, and Charles Berger. (RD Bk. 15, p. 12)
- 4 May 1795 (recorded Aug. 1795). Peter Easter purchased from Michael Whorley for 150 £ a tract of land on waters of Abbotts Creek containing 300 acres. (RD Bk. 14, p. 148)
- 15 Aug. 1797 (Recorded May 1801). Peter Easter sold to John Swingood for 40 £ a tract of land on Reedy Creek containing 105 acres. (RD Bk. 17, p. 724) Peter & Elinder Easter.
- 19 Feb. 1796. Peter Easter sold to George Goldfelter for 2 £ 10 s. 10 acres on Tinker's Creek, being part said Easter bought from Michael Worley. Witnesses: Mikel Lennard and Henry David. (RD Bk. 14, p. 407)
- 5 March 1796. Peter Easter sold to Michael Leonard for 80 £ 290 acres of land on Tinker's Creek which Peter Easter bought from Mikel Worley.
- 2-C Elizabeth Easter, daughter of Michael and July Easter, was born about 1765. No record.
- 2-D Catherine Easter, daughter of Michael and July Easter, was born about 1767. She married 4 Aug. 1793, John Henry Brinly (Brinkley?). Bondsmen were Peter Easter and John Monroe.
- 2-E Rebecka Easter, daughter of Michael and July Easter, was born possibly about 1768. She married in Rowan Co., 9 Nov. 1791, Richard Robison. Bondsmen was Jesse Brookshire.
- 2-F George Easter, son of Michael and July Easter, was born about 1770. He may have died young; no further record of him.

2-G Henry Easter, son of Michael and July Easter, was born about 1772, died about 1825 in Davidson Co. The record of his family is given in detail in a later chapter.

2-H John Easter, son of Michael and July Easter, was born about 1774. There are three deeds in his name in Rowan County, but no other record. He probably left the county by 1810.

On 28 April 1802, John Perriman sold to John Easter for \$25 a tract of land on Reedy Creek containing 40 acres. (RD Bk. 18, p. 14)

On 25 March 1805 (recorded February 1808), John Berriman sold to John Easter for \$45 a tract of 24 acres on the waters of Reedy Creek on the east side of Salisbury Road to a stake on Henry Easter's line, to John Easter's original line. (RD Bk. 21, p. 225)

On 15 June 1808 (recorded August 1810), John Easter sold to Christian Shofe for 80 a tract of land on the waters of Reedy Creek containing 60 acres. (RD Bk. 21, p. 853)

On 12 April 1807 (recorded May 1807), Peter Easter sold to John Easter a tract of land on Reedy Creek containing 102 acres. (RD Bk. 17, p. 129)

On 19 April 1807, Peter Easter sold to George Goldfinger a tract of 10 a. on Easter's Creek, being part said Easter's tract from Michael Easter. (RD Bk. 17, p. 129)

On 2 March 1808, Peter Easter sold to Michael Leonard for 30 a tract of land on Easter's Creek which Peter Easter bought from Michael Easter. (RD Bk. 17, p. 129)

On 12 April 1807, daughter of Michael and July Easter, was born about 1772. She married Aug. 1807, John Henry Brinly. Children were Peter Easter and John Henry Easter.

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Michael Easter (II), son of Michael and July (Julie ?) Easter, was born probably about 1760, but the exact date and place of his birth is not known. He lived most of his life in Rowan Co., N. C., in that part which became Davidson Co. in 1822.

All that could be learned of this man who was the ancestor of several thousand Americans was found in documents of public record. The Revolutionary pension application of his widow, Barbara Easter, contains statements by his neighbors and friends certifying the marriage of Michael to Barbara Essigs, and describing his service in the Revolution. These pension papers have been abstracted to give all pertinent information concerning Michael, Barbara, and their associates.

Probably for his service in the Revolution, Michael received in 1786 a grant of 320 acres of land from the State of North Carolina. In 1806 he added, also by state grant, another 19 acres. Michael's land was situated on the waters of Swearing Creek about five miles north of Lexington. The accompanying land plat shows some of his neighboring landowners.

State of North Carolina

No. 1110. Know Ye that We have given and granted unto Mikel Easter Three hundred and twenty Acres of Land Lying in our County of Rowan On the Waters of Swearing creek Beginning at a black oak in hackit's line thence East thirty chains to a stake, thence South twenty chains to a stake thence East thirty chains to a white oak Speaker's corner, thence South thirty chains to a post oak Sparks T corner thence West twenty six chains to a white oak Tinker's corner thence South thirty five chains to a black oak Tinker's corner thence West twenty seven chains to a red oak said Hacket's corner and thence North with said line to the Beginning To hold unto the said Mikel Easter his Heirs and assigns forever, dated the 25th day of October 1786.

J. Glasgow, Sec. Rd. Caswell
(Recorded in Rowan Co. Deed Book 11, page 355)

State of North Carolina

No. 2903. Know ye, that we have granted unto Michael Easter nineteen and one fourth acres of land in Rowan County on the waters of Swearing creek, beginning at a stone in the said Easter's original line, thence East with Adam Newcaster's line nine chains and fifty five links to a stake, thence South with Michael Leonard's line twenty chains and thirty links to a black oak thence West with the said Easter's original line nine chains and fifty-five links to a stake in the same, thence north to the beginning. Entered 26th September 1805. To Hold unto the said Michael Easter to his Heirs and assigns forever, Dated 20th Dec. 1806.

William White, Sec. Nathl. Alexander
(Recorded in Rowan Co. Deed Book 21, page 118)

Part of his original tract is still owned by Michael's descendants. In accordance with the terms of his will, his land was divided among his five sons. From deeds on record in Davidson Co., the division and probable disposition of the land appears to be thus:

Lot #1 David Easter - No deed of record, but probably sold to Theophilus Sowers. See deeds below releasing claim to other lots

Lot #2 Peter Easter - 10 Aug. 1850. Peter Easter sold to Samuel Sowers for \$365, a tract of land known as Lot #2 in the division of Michael Easter's land and containing 71½ acres. (DD 35, p. 390) Recorded 31 Dec. 1885.

Lot #3 Michael Easter - 9 Aug. 1839. Michael Easter sold to Levi Easter his right in a certain tract of land containing about 50 acres for \$210. Levi to have possession. Recorded 10 Nov. 1839. (DD Bk. 7, p. 126)

Lot #4 Henry Easter - 4 Jan. 1847. Theophilus Sowers, Peter Easter and Levi Easter sold to Henry Easter for \$280 a tract of land containing 41 acres, designated as Lot #4 in the division of Michael Easter's land. (DD Bk. 38, p. 16) Recorded 8 March 1886

Lot #5 Levi Easter - 4 Jan. 1847. Theophilus Sowers, Peter Easter and Henry Easter sold to Levi Easter for \$597 two lots of land known as 3rd and 5th in the division of Michael Easter; No. 3 being the lot formerly owned by Michael Easter, Jr. (DD Bk. 34, p. 243) Recorded 10 Dec. 1885

From these quitclaim deeds and conveyances, it seems likely that David sold his share to Theophilus Sowers who did not record the deed. Michael sold his lot to Levi in 1839, and Peter sold his lot to Samuel Sowers in 1850. Only Levi and Henry retained their share of their father's lands. Levi had also purchased the share that had belonged to Michael, his brother.

Today, Levi's great-grandsons live on part of the original grant, on the southern outskirts of the town of Welcome.

About 1780, Michael Easter married Barbara Essigs, daughter of Jacob Essigs, in the old Pilgrim Meeting House. She was born about 1763, and died sometime after 1852. (A Joseph Essig, alias Essick or Essex, a resident of Davidson Co. in 1833, stated that he was born in Germany in 1742, that he had landed in Philadelphia and later moved to Davidson Co., then Rowan Co., N. C.)

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Although they were married about 1780, Michael and Barbara (Essigs) Easter had no children of record until about 1794, when Michael was born. In the 1790 census, Michael was head of a household which contained one male and one female, both above 16 years of age. By 1800, there were three males and one female under the age of ten years; Michael and Barbara were apparently between 26 and 45 years of age.

Michael's will was dated 15 April 1821 and recorded in Davidson Co. in 1823. In his will he names his children:

3-A1 Michael Easter born about 1794; lived on his portion of his father's farm until about 1839. Moved to Stokes Co., N. C., then to Carroll Co., Va. About 1857, moved with his family to Missouri. Died between 1860 and 1870.

3-A2 Katy Easter born about 1796; no record

3-A3 David Easter born about 1798. Lived in Davidson Co. on his father's place until about 1827, when he moved to Carroll Co., Va. Died 1869.

3-A4 John Easter born about 1800. Bought land in 1818; no record of its sale or transfer. It is said that he went West, and became Judge of a Circuit Court. No record.

3-A5 Barbara Easter born about 1802. No record.

3-A6 Peter Easter born about 1806. Lived in Davidson Co. until about 1850 when he removed West, probably to Illinois

3-A7 Elizabeth Easter born about 1808. Married Andrew Crotts Perhaps moved to Carroll Co., Va.

3-A8 Levi Easter born in 1813. Lived in Davidson Co. on his share of his father's land

3-A9 Henry Easter born about 1817. Lived in Davidson Co. on his share of his father's land.

Will of Michael Easter (II)

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN, I Michael Easter of the State of North Carolina and County of Rowan being very sick and weak in Body, but of Perfect mind and Memory, thanks be given unto God, Calling to mind the mortality of my Body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last will and Testament that is to say Principally and first of all I give my soul into the hands of Almighty God that gave it, and my Body I recomend

to the earth to be Buried in Decent Christian burial, at the descretion of my executors, Nothing Doubting but at the general Resurrection I shall receive the same by the Mighty power of God, and as touching such Worldly estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me with in this life I give, demise & Dispose of the same in the following manner and form:

First, I give will and Bequeath to my Dearly beloved wife Barbary my mansion house and land whereon I now live, together with a tract of Land that I bought of Richard Robertson of Nineteen Acres more or less, containing in the whole three hundred and thirty nine acres more or less, During the time that she remains my Widow, and at her Death or marriage the same to be eaqually Divided Between my five sons (viz) Michael, David, Peter, Levi and Henry. My son Michael is now settled on the above Land on the East Side and is to have his Choice of Lots and David on the South Side is to have Choice provided they take their own Lots, the Whole is to be appraised.

Secondly, I do also further give my Dearly Beloved Wife, Barbara, all my personal estate, consisting of Household and kitchen furniture, Plantation tools of Every Description, Waggon and gears, Horses, Cattle, sheep and Hogs & all the grain that is growing, and what is in the houses also, Togeather with all my money and notes on hand to enable her to raise the younger children and give the hereinafter Legacies--

To my sons, Peter, Levi & Henry as they come to age One Horse beast and Saddle to be Valued to Sixty Dollars, my other Boys having got their Horses and Saddles--I also will that my two Daughters Barbara and Elizabeth receive as they come of age one Bed and Furniture, two pots, one Linnen Wheel, one cow and calf, two head of sheep to be young Ewes, to make them equal with their sisters that have left me-- Also after my wife's death or marriage, and the above Legacies are taken out, the balance of my personal Estate to be sold and proceeds Eaqually Divided between my two Daughters Barbara & Elizabeth and the heirs of my Daughter Caty is to have one third part--Thirdly, my son John has got his share of my Estate in full, in the purchase of the Lands that he bought of Philip Younts and I paid for the same and is to have no more--Also I do likewise constitute make and ordain my Beloved friends Michael Day and Michael Leonard, Jun. the sole Executors of this my last will and Testament--and I do hereby utterly disallow revoke and Disannull all and every other former Testament, Wills, Legacies, Bequeasts, and Executors by me in any Wise before named, willed & Bequeathed, Ratifying and Confirming this and no other to be my last Will and testament, In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal the fifteenth day of April in the year of our Lord One thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty One.

Michael (X) Easter

Signed Sealed Published, Pronounced & declared by the Said Michael Easter to be his last will and Testament in the presence of us Who in his presence and in the presence of Each other have hereunto Subscribed our names. George Long; Jacob Barrier; George Thomason. (Davidson Co., Will Bk. 1, p. 14 & 15)

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Pension Application of Barbara Easter
(Widow of Michael Easter)

State of North Carolina, Davidson County: On this 11th day of Novm. one thousand eight hundred & forty five (1845) personally appeared before us, Jacob Berrier & John Miller, Two of the acting Magistrates in & for the county aforesaid, Barbara Easter a citizen of the county & state aforesaid aged (82) years, who being first sworn in due form of Law, doth on her oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provision made by the Act of Congress past March the 3rd day 1843 and June the 17th 1844:

That she is the widow of Mich'l Easter, Decd., of Davidson County, North Carolina, who was a soldier in the North Carolina line in the war of the Revolution and that she is of the full belief that he served in the Army of the United States at least one year, a part of the time under Captain Shockay, as she has often heard her husband the aforesaid Micheil Easter say, the other captains he served under she does not recollect. She further states she was married to the aforesaid Michl. Easter in the County of Rowan, North Carolina, in the year (1780) and that he the aforesaid Michl. Easter lived until the year (1821) at which time he departed this life in Davidson County, North Carolina, & that she has remained a widow from that time to the present, Sworn to and subscribed before us the day & year above written.

Jacob Berrier, J. P.
John Miller, J. P.

Barbara (+) Easter
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State of North Carolina, Davidson County: And we the aforesaid Justices do hereby certify that Barbara Easter who hath this day sworn & subscribed the foregoing Declaration before us is a person to be believed on her oath. We further certify that she is the widow of Mich'l Easter, Decd., who was known & respected in his neighborhood to have been a soldier in the War of the Revolution & we do fully concur in that belief & we also certify that the declarant Barbara Easter as aforesaid is unable to appear in court to make her said declaration by reason of Old Age & bodily infirmity Given under our hands & seals this 11th day of November 1845.

Jacob Berrier, J. P.
John Miller, J. P.

State of North Carolina, Davidson County, Court of Pleas & Quarter Session. November Term, 1845. I, C. F. Lowe, Clerk of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for said county, do certify the foregoing Declaration of Barbara Easter, widow of Michl. Easter, Decd., who is now applying for a pension was this day lade before the Court, examined & approved by said court, where Upon the court ordered the Clerk certify the same to the Department of War. I do further certify that Jacob Berrier & John Miller, before whom the foregoing Declaration was proven, are Magistrates as aforesaid & their signatures purporting to be theirs are genuine. In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name & affixed my Seal of Court at Office this 15th day Nov. 1845. C. F. Lowe, Clk.

State of North Carolina, Moore County: On this 9th day of August 1845 personally appeared before me John Patterson, one of the acting Justices of the peace in & for the County aforesaid, Richard Stokes, a resident citizen of the county & state aforesaid (a United States Pensioner) who being first sworn in due form of Law, doth on his Oath make the following statements:

That he is now Eighty years old, and that he served the United States as a Private soldier in the Revolution War; that he joined the Army in the State of Virginia, Halifax County, being drafted for three months and that he being commanded by Capt. Paul Waddeton & under him deponent did serve in the Army on to the Town of Salisbury, N. C., Rowan County, at which place the company & their captain (towit) Paul Waddleton was there attached to Capt. Robt. Moore, and commanded by Gen. Green, that deponent distinctly recollects that Mich. Easter was one of Capt. Robert Moor's soldiers and that deponent became intimately acquainted with the aforesaid Michael Easter & that deponent & the said Michl. Easter did serve together in Army of the United States at least six months until said Michl. Easter received his discharge from the Army on his tour of service and that deponent states on his aforesaid oath that he served out his first Tour of service & that he then enlisted for during the War and did serve as such & that since the breaking up of the Revolutionary War deponent often visited the house of the aforesaid Michl. Easter & became well acquainted with his wife Barbara (now his widow) that Michael & Barbara Easter did reside in Rowan County, N. C., & that deponent has been at the house of the aforesaid Michl. Easter since the time of his death, the date of his death deponent sayeth he knoweth not, Sworn & subscribed before me the day and year above written.

John Patterson, J. P.

Richard (x) Stokes

And I the said John Patterson do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with Richard Stokes who hath sworn to & subscribed the foregoing certification before me. He is a Respectable & intelligent person and to be believed on his oath. John Patterson, J. P. (Signature of John Patterson certified by A. C. Curry, Clerk of the Court of Moore Co., N. C.)

Rowan County, N. C. I John H. Hardie, clerk of the Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for said county, do hereby certify that I have made diligent search in my office for the marriage bond of Michael Esther to Barbara Esseck, that there is no such Bond in my office, nor evidence of record of such marriage. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand & affixed the seal of said Court at Office the 26th day of November 1845. John H. Hardie, Clk.

Davidson Co., N. C. On this 10th day of December 1845, personally appeared before me, John Miller one of the Magistrates in & for the county of Davidson, William McCrary, a resident citizen of the county & state aforesaid, after being first sworn in due form of law, doth on his oath make the following statements: That he is (86) eighty six years old, and that he has been living within a distance of two miles of Michael Easter & Barbara Easter in N. C.; Rowan County (now Davidson) for at least fifty years;

that Michael Easter was at all times respected to have been a soldier in the Revolution War; that deponent has been requested to examine the books & papers of Michl. Easter, Decd., and that deponent never has found any Book or paper showing a record of the marriage of the aforesaid Michl. Easter to Barbara Esseck, now the widow of Michl. Easter, Decd., nor does deponent think any record of marriage can be found (viz.) Michl. to Barbara Es-sigs. Deponent further states on his oath that he knows of his own personal knowledge that the parties above named did live together the above named length of time (towit) forty years previous to the said Michl. Easter's death & did acknowledge each other as husband and wife and that all persons that knew them considered them to be such & the legality thereof never has been disputed. Sworn to & subscribed the day & year above written before me,
John Miller, J. P. (signed) William McCrary

Davidson Co., N. C. On the 9 day of Jany. 1846, Jacob Berrier, Esq., a resident citizen of Davidson Co., appeared before George Riley, Esq., a Justice of the Peace, and made the following statement under oath:

That he has been intimately acquainted with Michael Easter and Barbara Easter for at least 50 years previous to the death of Michl. Easter, in the year 1821 in Rowan Co. (now Davidson Co.), that Michael Easter was known & respected to have been a soldier in the Revolution War, and that Deponent distinctly recollects seeing a paper fil'd away with papers that did belong to the aforesaid Michl. Easter in his lifetime purporting to be Michl. Easter's discharge from a three months Tour of service in the Army in Col. Purvar's Regt. & Isaac Shockay, Capt., bearing date Jan. 27, 1781, which has the appearance of having been written down many years ago & that deponent hath made diligent search through all the papers that was in the possession of Michl. Easter at the time of his death & there cannot be any record showing the date of the marriage of Michael Easter to Barbara Essecks who is now Barbara Easter, widow as aforesaid & that deponent is well satisfied there is no such record. Sworn & subscribed to the date above written.
G. Rily, J. P. Jacob Berrier

Moore Co., N. C. On this 30th day of February 1846, personally appeared before me, John Patterson, one of the acting Justices of the Peace, James Monk, a resident & a Revolutionary Pensioner of the United States, made under oath the following statement: That he, James Monk, was well acquainted with Mich'l Easter, and knows of his own personal knowledge that the said Michl. Easter was a private soldier in Captain Robert Moore's Company of the North Carolina line in the year 1782 and 83, that the deponent was a private soldier in Capt. Sharp's Company & that Michl. Easter was a private soldier in Captain Robert Moore's Company of the line Untill the time of Robert Moore's death & after the death of Robt. Moore, deponent does not recollect what officers Michl. Easter served the balance of his time under; that deponent distinctly recollects that he was in the service with the aforesaid Michl. Easter through South Carolina & at Charleston & at James Islands,

and that after serving in the Army together at least nine months, Michl. Easter was discharged at Ashley hill near Charleston, S. C. from that tour of service.

John Patterson, J. P.

James (X) Monk

Supplemental Declaration of Barbara Easter, dated 14 May 1846. Before Jacob Berrier & Hiram Ward, two of the acting Justices of the Peace, Barbara Easter, aged 82, made the following declaration under oath: That she was married to Michl. Easter, late decd. of Davidson Co., known & respected in his neighborhood as being a soldier in the Revolution, that he had served the United States in the following manner--that he was drafted in the year 1780 to serve 3 months tour in the North Carolina line and with the Militia, and as such he served and was a private in the Army of the United States, and after having served over 3 months was discharged from this tour of service; although she has often heard her husband the afsd. Michl. Easter say the name of the officers & the Regiment he served with, she cannot recollect them. On his next Tour of service, he was again drafted, & left home in order to join the Army in or near Salisbury, Rowan Co., N. C., in the year 1781 or 82, and that he served part of his tour under Capt. Williams as she heard her husband say; she had often heard him talk about other officers he had served under and with, but not thinking it to be brought on oath in the case paid so little regard to the purport that she now on her oath cannot relate the names of the different officers of his tour duty other than that of Capt. Williams.

Barbara (+) Easter

Davidson County, N. C. On 11 July 1846, Valentine Hage, aged 79 years, appeared before Jacob Berrier and made the following statement under oath:

That he was present at the time of the marriage of Michel Easter to Barbara Esseck, now widow of Michl. Easter, and that they were married in Rowan Co. (that part now Davidson), N. C.; that they were married at Pilgrim's Meeting House in the state and county aforesaid in the year 1779 or 80 and that the parties were married by a Preacher by name Lewis Snider; deponent sayeth on his aforesaid oath that at the time the aforesaid parties were married the house being crowded with many people & he being in the door of the house he did not see the parties at the time they were married but on the same evening after the marriage the deponent recollects that he went to the house of Jacob Essecks, he being the aforesaid Barbara Easter's father, and that deponent took dinner with the parties (towit) Michl. and Barbara Easter; that deponent was well acquainted with the aforesaid parties from the time of their marriage until Michl Easter's death and that deponent resided within less than five miles of Michl. and Barbara Easter during all that time, and since Michl. Easter's death which occurred in 1820, has been living within five miles of Barbara Easter, widow, and the legality of the marriage has never been disputed by those persons who knew them and were neighbors. Deponent further states on his aforesaid oath that the Church wherein the aforesaid parties were married (towit) Pilgrim's Church or Pilgrim's meeting house, was consumed by fire more than forty years ago, and if any church book or church record, all were consumed together.

Jacob Berrier, J. P.

Valentine (X) Hage

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Davidson Co., N. C. On this 8th day of June 1847 personally appeared before me Peter Ryly one of the acting Justices of the Peace, Gudleph Grimes 83 years old a resident citizen of the county aforesaid, and after being duly sworn, doth on his oath make the following statement:

That the first marriage he ever witness'd & was personally present at was that of Michiel Easter to Barbara Essex, now Barbara Easter, widow of the aforesaid Michiel Easter, late decd. of North Carolina, county of Davidson; that this deponent was personally present & an eye witness to the marriage of the above named parties, (to wit) Michl. Easter to Barbara Essex now Barbara Easter, that they were married in No. Carolina, Rowan County, that part now Davidson, at Pilgrim's Meetinghouse which has since that time been consumed by fire; that the parties were married on a Sabath day by a Preacher namely Lewis Snider; and that they were married in the year 1780, and the reason why this deponent can so safely ascertain this date of marriage, on Friday night prior to the above stated marriage, a set of Tories kill'd George Williams and his son in a short distance of the house where the above Michiel Easter & Barbara Easter were married, & soon in the day on Sunday following after this murder happened, this deponent attended the burying of the said George Williams & son, & they were buried at Pilgrim's Church as above named, and on the same day Snider Preach'd a sermon at the same place, & after preaching on the same day & in the same house, Mich'l & Barbara Easter was married & there is a Tomb Stone at the grave of George Williams stating that he was murdered in the year 1780, & this deponent knows the truth of all this, Sworn & subscribed the day & year first above written before me, Given under my hand and Seal

Peter Riley, J.P.

Gudleph (x) Grimes

Davidson Co., N. C. On 27 Oct. 1851, Jacob Berrier, Esq. appeared before John Cox, an acting Justice of the Peace, and made the following statement under oath:

That he was authorized to settle the estate of Michael Easter, decd. and shortly after his death this deponent was looking over the notes, accounts & other papers that had been in the possession of said Michl. Easter prior to his death, and found among the other papers two discharges that he had recd. for services rendered by him in the Revolutionary War, the names of the officers who signed them not recollected, but this deponent distinctly recollects that each of the discharges certified that Michael Easter had served three month. tours, or three months for each discharge making six months on those two tours as was set forth by the two discharges as above named, and that one of the discharges above spoken of was considerably worn & disfigured and that it was burnt or destroyed with other old papers which had belonged to the aforesaid Michl. Easter at the time of his death.

John Cox, J. P.

Jacob Berrier

Davidson Co., N. C. On 12 June 1852, Barbara Easter, aged 88 years, stated that she was married to Michael Easter in 1780 at Pilgrim's Meeting House, that her husband was a private in the Revolutionary Army, and that he died in 1820. Barbara (+) Easter
Before H. M. Ward and Jacob Berrier, Justices of the Peace.

A yellowed and stained scrap of paper about two by three inches is filed with the other pension papers of Barbara Easter. This is the original discharge of Michael Easter:

North Carolina Roan County this is to Sartify that Mikel Eastor has sarved three months in the melisha service in Connal purvand's Rigmment under Capt. Shockey and is honobly Discharged from this tower January 27 1781
Isaac Shockey, Capt.

Barbara Easter was admitted to the Pension Rolls at the rate of \$20 per annum, from 4 March 1831. Certificate was issued on 3 Sept. 1852. Her agent was John Roach of Cotton Grove, N. C.

(Revolutionary Pensions, File W-18857, N. C. National Archives, Washington, D. C.)

* * * * *

Healing Springs, N. C., May 25, 1846

Mr. Edwards, Sir: (Commissioner of Pensions, Washington, D. C.)
I rote to you some time ago to that thear was strong susspicion of my name being made use of as a Magistrate to some paper sent to your office. I receive a Letter from you some after asking in what case and asken me who it was that was hunting up Pension Claims in our county. I ansered that letter some 3 munts ago and hav not got any anser the case is that the susspicion arose was Elizabeth Tame John A. Stoner all of N. C. Davidson County. I wish to know whether you have the evidence of Francis Harris in the case of Elizabeth Tame or not or in any other case. You ask who it is that is hunting up pension claims in my county it is a man by the name of John Roach he is still engage in that bisness he has some cases now on hand which is very susspicious one case of Chaney Beens who lives near me if hear husban was a solger it is not known by hear nabors I have hearn that hear husban farther was a solger they were both name Richard Been I have hearn that he has made some proof in the Been cas by a very old woman by the name of Prissy Williams who I don't exspect knows what she swar or anything about the case thear was another case presented to the court to pase apon that all so is doubtful Barbra Easter hear affidavit was witness by Jacob Barrier and Hynam Ward, Esqrs. Hyrom Ward lives some 25 miles from Barbra Easter and I have been inform that he never saw hear in his live it is doubtful wheather either of the men ever witness the paper or not and if Ward did it is evident that he new nothing about hear this paper is dated the 14 of May I was won of the Court that was presant when it was past apon is the way I came to know all about it and I hav made some Inquiry since I hav saw proper to giv you a state ment of this case is to put you on your gard and if this man is drawing money from your department for people that ant in title to it and keeping one half of the same thear out to be a stop put to it if you have any papers with my name to them more than in the case of Elizabeth Tams & I witness Jesse Tones testamony witness two papers in the case of Stone I believe is all if you have Francis Harris name to paper send it to me.

I remane, Yours respectly, F. M. Harris

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3-A3 David Easter

David Easter, son of Michael (II) and Barbara (Essigs) Easter, was born about 1798 in Davidson Co., then a part of Rowan Co., N. C. He died in Carroll Co., Va. in Dec. 1869.

By 1821 when his father's will was made, David had settled on the South Side of the farm and was to have a choice of the lots "provided he takes the lot he now lives on". About 1826 David moved to Carroll Co., then a part of Grayson Co., Va., south of the Blue Ridge near the North Carolina border. Although no record was found in Davidson Co., David may have sold his land there to Theophilus Sowers.

In the hill country of southwestern Virginia there was plenty of land not in use. Some was state-owned, but some of the lands had been abandoned. Usually this abandoned land had owners of record, but the taxes had not been kept up for one reason or another. An owner might move away without selling, perhaps thinking that he might not like the new country and would have something to come back to. Often the heirs of a deceased owner could not be located or did not consider the legacy valuable enough to bother with paying the taxes. At any rate, these lands were put up for sale to satisfy the delinquent taxes. Under the Virginia law, at the tax sale the successful bidder paid the taxes and held the receipt. The owner of record had two years in which to pay up the taxes. If the owner had not paid the taxes within the two years, the holder of the tax receipt could be given a Tax Deed to the land.

This is how David, Sr. obtained much of his land holdings in Virginia. Although he was taxed in Grayson Co. on 18 acres of land from 1828 on, there were no land transactions recorded there in his name. After Carroll Co. was formed in 1842, there were several interesting transactions recorded in the deed books which might indicate how David manipulated tax receipts to gain title to land he may already have been living on.

28 Dec. 1842. John Dickinson, Clerk of the Court of Grayson Co., made a deed to David Easter of Carroll Co. for 25 acres on Paul's Creek. This land sold in 1840 at a tax sale for nonpayment of taxes due for the year 1839, formerly belonging to the family of Abraham Hawks, decd. At the tax sale, William Johnson paid 2¢ (the tax due) and resold to David Easter. (CD Bk. 1, p. 79)

28 Dec. 1842. A tax deed given to David Easter on 40 acres on Paul's Creek. Sold at a tax sale for nonpayment of taxes for the years 1832 and 1833, delinquent in the name of Drury Hawks, for 11¢ (the amount of taxes due) by William Johnson who resold to David Easter. (CD Bk. 1, p. 82)

8 Sept. 1842. David Easter sold to Alex. Johnson for \$180, 20 A. more or less on Paul's Creek, in fork on Good Spur Road, known as Zedeck Combs old place. (CD Bk. 1, p. 121)

There are other transactions in the Carroll Co. deed books in the name of David Easter, Sr. David, Jr. obtained land by state grant and transferred it to his father. It is said that at one time David owned practically all of Sugarloaf Mountain. However, he was not a land miser, as the following deeds will show.

1 Aug. 1851. David and Susannah Easter sold to Andrew Crofts for \$100, 62 acres on Paul's Creek. (CD Bk 3 p. 441)

30 Aug. 1851. David and Susan Easter sold to Michael Easter for \$100, 25 acres on east side of the mountain on Paul's Creek. (CD Bk. 3, p. 403)

10 Sept. 1857. David and Susan Easter sold to Valentine Leonard for \$150, 86 acres which had been granted to David Easter, Jr. and transferred to David, Sr. (CD Bk. 6, p. 353)

11 Jan. 1859. David and Susan Easter to Isaac Vernon, for \$60, 50 acres of the 200 acres granted to David Easter, Jr. of which 100 acres had been sold to David, Sr. (CD Bk. 7, p. 75)

18 Feb. 1859. David Easter and wife Susan sold to John Easter for \$100, 68 acres on Paul's Creek. (CD Bk. 7, p. 78)

-- April 1859. David and Susannah Easter sold to Levi Easter for \$200, 65 acres on east side of Sugar Loaf Mountain. (CD Bk. 7, p. 76)

David married Susan or Susannah Stockner about 1822. She was born in North Carolina about 1804, and died in Carroll Co., 23 Dec. 1890. She lived to see her fourth generation; she had twelve children, 97 grandchildren, 86 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren, or a total of 197 offspring when she died. Of the twelve children born to David and Susannah (Stockner) Easter, ten survived. All eight of their sons were in the Confederate Army; only one was ever struck by a bullet. Daniel, the eldest, died of pneumonia in a prison camp in Maryland, but the other seven sons survived the War.

Children of David and Susannah (Stockner) Easter

- 4-A3A Daniel Easter, born about 1823, died 1865.
- 4-A3B David Easter, born about 1826, died 1869.
- 4-A3C Katie Easter, born about 1827. Family sources say she married and went West. No record.
- 4-A3D Michael Easter, born in 1828, died 1914
- 4-A3E Levi Easter, born in 1830, died 1917
- 4-A3F John Easter, born 1835, died 1929
- 4-A3G Peter Easter, born 1838, died 1919
- 4-A3H Elizabeth Easter, born 1840, died ?
- 4-A3I Christian Easter, born 1844, died 1934
- 4-A3J William Easter, born about 1845, died about 1913.
- 4-A3K Susan Easter, born about 1846, probably died between 1860 and 1870. Family sources say she died at an early age.

4-A3A Daniel Easter

Daniel Easter, son of David and Susannah (Stockner) Easter, was born about 1823 in Davidson Co., N. C. He was married twice, but the name of his first wife is not now known. His second wife was Elizabeth Hawks, born about 1820, daughter of Abram and Elizabeth Hawks. They were married about 1849. After Daniel's death, she remarried, 24 April 1866, in Carroll Co., Jesse Marion, widower, born about 1831, son of Isaac and Anna Marion. In a letter written in 1874 by David Easter, Daniel's brother, he gave this information on this family. "I can tell you that brother Danel's children are all dead but Emanuel and Susan. They are his first wife's children. Him and all his last wife's children are dead. His wife married Jesse Marion and has one child by him; it is all the child she has alive." There were seven children of record.

Daniel served in the Carroll County Militia for 10 days in 1862. He was mustered into service in Smith Co., Va., 3 April 1862. On 1 Nov. 1864, he was enlisted at Camp Lee, Va., and was assigned to Co. C, 29th Virginia Infantry, C. S. A. He was captured at Farmville, Va., on 6 April 1865, and taken to Point Lookout, Md. He died in the hospital there on 28 April 1865, of pneumonia. He was buried in the Prisoner of War Graveyard, Grave No. 1591.

Daniel owned land in Carroll Co. In 1849 he bought 200 acres on the waters of Paul's Creek on the spur of the Blue Ridge, one of the south branches of said creek. He purchased another 77 acres on the waters of Paul's Creek in 1861.

5-A3A1 Emanuel Easter, son of Daniel Easter and his first wife, was born in Carroll Co. about 1845, and died about 1912, when his will was recorded in Carroll Co. He served in the Civil War, in Co. F, 29th Virginia Infantry, C. S. A. He was enlisted about Feb. or March of 1864. He married in Carroll Co., 30 Nov. 1865, Levinia Leonard, born about 1848 in Davidson Co., N. C., the daughter of Jacob and MARIAN Manah Leonard. He had eight children, listed on page 38.

5-A3A2 Susan Easter, daughter of Daniel Easter and his first wife, was born about 1847. She married in Carroll Co., 21 Jan. 1866, James C. McCraw, born about 1845 in Surry Co., N. C., the son of Francis and Nancy McCraw. They had nine children.

- 6-A3A2A Alexander F. McCraw, born 1867, married Louisa J. Easter (5-A3G1), daughter of Peter Easter.
- 6-A3A2B Jeremiah McCraw, born 1869, married Anne Vernon
- 6-A3A2C Nancy Elizabeth McCraw, born 1871, married Rouzee Chris Easter (5-A3B3), son of Peter Easter
- 6-A3A2D Margaret S. McCraw, born 1879, married Kenny Bunn
- 6-A3A2E Dan McCraw, married Lela Leftwich
- 6-A3A2F Mary McCraw, married D. M. Morris
- 6-A3A2G Martha McCraw, married Sandy Combs
- 6-A3A2H Emma McCraw, married Hendrix Hill
- 6-A3A2I Jim McCraw, married Ella Hill

- 5-A3A3 Jonathan Easter, son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Hawks) Easter, was born about 1851, probably died by 1860.
- 5-A3A4 Jane Easter, daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Hawks) Easter, was born about 1853, married on 17 Jan. 1867 in Carroll Co., Joel A. McMillan, born about 1842, the son of John and Amanda McMillan. Jane probably died before 1874.
- 5-A3A5 Louisa Easter, daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Hawks) Easter, was born about 1854, died before 1874.
- 5-A3A6 Rachel D. Easter, daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Hawks) Easter, was born 2 March 1856, died before 1874.
- 5-A3A7 Jeremiah Easter, son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Hawks) Easter, was born 9 Sept. 1858, died before 1874.

* * * * *

Children of Emanuel Easter (5-A3A1)

6-A3A1A Daniel Easter, son of Emanuel and Lavinia (Leonard) Easter, was born about 1866, and died about 1939 when his will was recorded in Carroll Co. He married in Carroll Co., Va., 9 Oct. 1890, Elizabeth Jane Leftwich, born 1869, died about 1937, the daughter of James and Elizabeth (Easter ?) Leftwich. These six children were listed as Elizabeth's heirs in 1937:

7-A3A1A1 Rachel Erausa Easter, born about 1895, married in Carroll Co., 13 Oct. 1928, Noah Combs, widower, born 1858, son of W. M. and Catherine (Edwards) Combs.

7-A3A1A2 Floyd Gilbert Easter, born 1900, married in Carroll Co., 29 Sept. 1928, Nellie Mae Easter, born 1910, daughter of Calvin and Pearl (Bevel) Easter.

8-A3A1A2A Harvey Columbus Easter, born 1930, married in Carroll Co., 22 April 1950, Gertrude Berwell Willard, born 1932, daughter of Roy E. and Effie (Combs) Willard.
(only child of record)

7-A3A1A3 Luther Columbus Easter, born 1902, married in Carroll Co., 5 Oct. 1929, Lelia Jane Easter, born 1912, daughter of Calvin and Pearl (Bevel) Easter.
Only child of record:

8-A3A1A3A Mildred Aldean Easter, born 1941, married in Carroll Co., 1 Dec. 1958, Berlie Franklin Richardson, born 1933, son of William H. and Ethel (Phillips) Richardson.

7-A3A1A4 Rufus Gabel Easter, son of Daniel and Elizabeth Jane (Leftwich) Easter, was born 1908, married in Carroll Co., first, on 5 Feb. 1938, Bessie McMillan, widow, born 1910, daughter of Thomas and Ella (Frazier) Allen. He married second, on 12 Dec. 1954, Ida Mae Dalton, born 1915, daughter of Ballard and Mary (Ashburn) Dalton.

7-A3A1A5 Alberta Ellen Easter, daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Jane (Leftwich) Easter, was born about 1909, married in Carroll Co., 11 July 1932, Stonewall Jackson McMillan, widower, born 1883, son of Joel and Louisa (Jenkins) McMillan.

7-A3A1A6 Sarah Easter, daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Jane (Leftwich) Easter, was born about 1913, married in Carroll Co., 6 April 1935, Levert Hill, born 1894, son of James and Amanda (Horton) Hill.

6-A3A1B Riley M. Easter, son of Emanuel and Lavinia (Leonard) Easter, was born about 1869, deceased. He married in Carroll Co., 5 April 1894, Jennie Linn Vernon, born 1874, daughter of Isaac J. and Pattie Vernon. She died before August 1945 when a list of her heirs was recorded in Carroll Co. Two children:

7-A3A1B1 Ella I. Easter, born 1895, married in Carroll Co., 22 Dec. 1915, Fred V. Leonard, born 1893, son of Valentine and Elizabeth Leonard.

7-A3A1B2 Emanuel Easter, born 1897, married in Surry Co., N. C., 24 Dec. 1922, Hattie Smith, born 1904. Two children:

8-A3A1B2A Iris Pauline Easter, born about 1924, married in Carroll Co., 8 Sept. 1945, Clyde Junior Hawks, born 1924, son of Earl and Eliza (Surratt) Hawks.

8-A3A1B2B Foy Lee Easter, born about 1930, married in Carroll Co., 24 Feb. 1951, Joseph Hasten Leonard, Jr., born 1927, the son of Joseph Hasten and Mollie (McCraw) Leonard.

6-A3A1C Wilbert M. Easter, son of Emanuel M. and Lavinia (Leonard) Easter, was born about 1871. He married in Carroll Co., 12 March 1891, Suattis (Sue Alice?) Payne, daughter of Zachariah and Charlotte Payne. Living in Mt. Airy in 1961. Five children of record:

7-A3A1C1 Alma Easter, daughter of Wilbert M. and Suattis (Payne) Easter, was born about 1892, died about 1918, married in Carroll Co., 24 Dec. 1910, Roy Lyon, born 1888, son of O. S. and Ella Lyon.

- 7-A3A1C2 Ella Easter, daughter of Wilbert M. and Suattis (Payne) Easter, was born about 1896, married in Carroll Co., 1 April 1914, Walter Edwards, born 1885, son of G. W. and S. J. Edwards.
- 7-A3A1C3 C. Curtis Easter, son of Wilbert M. and Suattis (Payne) Easter, married Bertha F. Leonard. They have three sons.
- 8-A3A1C3A Curtis Harold Easter, married Lelia G. Akers
- 8-A3A1C3B Grover Ules Easter, born 17 Jan. 1923, married in Surry Co., 2 Nov. 1946, Irene Beck, born 1929, daughter of Otis and Delia (Kirkman) Beck.
- 8-A3A1C3C Clyde Ertel Easter, born 1925, married in Carroll Co., 11 May 1946, Ethel Norma Stoneman, born 1925, daughter of Roscoe and Lena (Edwards) Stoneman.
- 7-A3A1C4 Harmon Easter, son of Wilbert M. and Suattis (Payne) Easter, was born about 1904, married in Carroll Co., 29 Nov. 1924, Laura Rippey, born 1907, daughter of J. B. and Louvenia Rippey. She died about 1957. He had seven children: two sons and five daughters.
- 7-A3A1C5 Margie Easter, daughter of Wilbert M. and Suattis (Payne) Easter, was born about 1907, married in Carroll Co., 29 Nov. 1924, Ertel S. Jackson, son of E. B. and L. J. Jackson.
- 6-A3A1D Margaret Easter, daughter of Emanuel and Lavinia (Leonard) Easter, was born 9 June 1873, married in Carroll Co., Va., 29 Jan. 1891, T. W. Morris, widower. He was born about 1863, son of Mary Morris.
- 6-A3A1E Sarah Jane Easter, daughter of Emanuel and Lavinia (Leonard) Easter, was born 10 Aug. 1875, married in Carroll Co., 20 Dec. 1894, Daniel Eli Stockner, born 1876, son of Riley M. and Nancy Stockner.
- 6-A3A1F George W. Easter, son of Emanuel and Lavinia (Leonard) Easter, was born 15 April 1877, died 19 March 1947 in Surry Co. He married 20 April 1899 in Carroll Co., Alice F. Berrier, born 1881, daughter of Adam and Sarah A. Berrier. Children listed in his obituary (newspaper) are:
- 7-A3A1F1 Manuel Adams Easter, born 1906, married in Grayson Co., Va., 11 July 1931, Mary Kate Troy, born 1909, daughter of Robert and Celia (Jones) Troy. In 1947 they were living in Hepner, Oregon.
- 7-A3A1F2 Kermit Easter, born about 1909, married in Carroll Co., 27 Feb. 1931, Elizabeth Whitaker, born 1910, daughter of Bob and Mollie (Wood) Whitaker.

- 7-A3A1F3 _____ daughter of George W. and Alice F. (Berrier)
Easter, married Ed Smith
- 7-A3A1F4 _____ daughter of George W. and Alice F. (Berrier)
Easter, married Allen Seals
- 6-A3A1G Christina (Tenny) Easter, daughter of Emanuel and Lavinia (Leonard) Easter, was born 8 Nov. 1880. She married first, in Carroll Co., 31 March 1898, Green J. W. Edwards, born 1877, son of Jos. M. and Jestin Edwards. She may have married second, a Robertson, and third, a Lambert. *Lambeth*
- 6-A3A1H David Easter, son of Emanuel and Lavinia (Leonard) Easter, born 24 April 1884, died before 1936. He married in Carroll Co., 19 Dec. 1908, Sallie Edwards, born 1890, daughter of Jasper and Alverta Edwards. His widow remarried, 31 Oct. 1936, John Marion Nichols, born 1871, son of William and Martha (Marshall) Nichols. He had four children:
- 7-A3A1H1 Emily Easter, born about 1912, married in Carroll Co., 28 Dec. 1930, William Edgar Draughan, born 1909, son of Tyre and Amelia (Slater) Draughan.
- 7-A3A1H2 Ida Easter, born 195, married in Carroll Co., 5 April 1931, Walker Chester Jones, born 1906, son of Jesse and Jennie (Berrier) Jones.
- 7-A3A1H3 Stella Easter, born about 1916, married in Grayson Co., 26 July 1936, Ashby Hiatt, born 1915, son of Joe and Martha (Simmons) Hiatt
- 7-A3A1H4 Claude Easter, born about 1918, married in Carroll Co., 5 April 1936, Margie Williams, born 1919, daughter of Gid A. and Dollie (Leftwich) Williams. One child of record:
- 8-A3A1H4A Janice Imogen Easter, born 1937, married in Carroll Co., Clarence Ray Lambe, born 1936, son of Swanson and Bell (Garner) Lambe, on 5 Oct. 1957.
- 6-A3A1I Jacob Beacher Easter, son of Emanuel and Lavinia (Leonard) Easter, was born 23 June 1885, died in Surry Co., 20 Dec. 1958. He married in Carroll Co., 28 August 1911, Caroline Allen, born 1890, daughter of Jasper and Catherine (Easter) Allen. The following list of their children may not be complete.
- 7-A3A1II Mabel Gladys Easter, daughter of Jacob Beacher and Caroline (Allen) Easter, was born about 1912, married in Carroll Co., 13 Jan. 1934, Rhoden Garfield Cox, born about 1913, son of J. C. and Sallie (Greenwood) Cox.

- 7-A3A1I2 Savada Easter, daughter of Jacob Beacher and Caroline (Allen) Easter, was born about 1914, married in Grayson Co., 1 Jan. 1938, Jeff Semones, born 1914, son of Johnson and Mary (Bolt) Semones. Divorced.
- 7-A3A1I3 Roscoe Harris Easter, son of Jacob Beacher and Caroline (Allen) Easter, was born about 1918 (twin to Hazel), married in Carroll Co., 17 Jan. 1946, Iva Lea Sumner, born 1919, daughter of Fulton and Alberta (Brendle) Sumner.
- 7-A3A1I4 Hazel Easter, daughter of Jacob Beacher and Caroline (Allen) Easter, was born about 1918 (a twin of Roscoe), married in Carroll Co., 23 March 1939, Lloyd Rippey, born 1918, son of Dewey and Edna (Combs) Rippey.
- 7-A3A1I5 Curtis Cameron Easter, son of Jacob Beacher and Caroline (Allen) Easter.
- 7-A3A1I6 Garnet Easter, son of Jacob Beacher and Caroline (Allen) Easter, was born about 1921, married in Surry Co., 14 March 1942, Forrest Cagle, born about 1925.
- 7-A3A1I7 Clarence Allen Easter, son of Jacob Beacher and Caroline (Allen) Easter, was born about 1924, married in Carroll Co., 2 July 1949, Iva Mae Ogle, born 1927, daughter of Vivian E. and Myrtle (Swecker) Ogle.
- 7-A3A1I8 Thelma Katherine Easter, daughter of Jacob Beacher and Caroline (Allen) Easter, was born about 1926, married in Grayson Co. 23 Aug. 1949, Kenneth Moir Hundley, born 1922, son of Arthur and Bessie (Vass) Hundley. She married a second time, according to family sources.
- 7-A3A1I9 Irene Easter, daughter of Jacob Beacher and Caroline (Allen) Easter, married.
- 7-A3A1I10 Glenda Lucille Easter, daughter of Jacob Beacher and Caroline (Allen) Easter, was born about 1932, married in Carroll Co., 3 Dec. 1949, Homer Dalton, Jr., born 1928, son of Homer and Lucy (Fleming) Dalton.

Easter

WWII vet remembers 'island hopping'

By Andy Winemiller
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Zeno Easter, 97, has been a life-long Mount Airy resident, with the exception of the years Easter spent hopping from island to island in the South Pacific. Though Easter has 97 years worth of stories, it is with great pride that he tells the stories of his World War II service.

"Times were hard then," said Easter as he told of his decision to leave school in the seventh grade. Easter said he went to work at a Mount Airy bakery, working six days a week delivering baked goods for a \$7 weekly wage.

Easter said he did well at the job until life was interrupted sometime in 1940. "The government started calling all the boys and asking for a year of service," said Easter. "I signed up."

According to Easter he almost made it out in time. "I lacked from Dec. 7, 1941 to Jan. 21, 1942 from getting out, but the Japanese decided they were going to go ahead and mess with

"That sub-chaser kept circling around and circling closer to our boat. All of the sudden we saw a depth charge get shot out into the water — then another. It circled around again, then came closer to us ... Then the guys on the sub-chaser told us, 'no need to worry about that one. It's going down, not up.' You could see the oil floating on the surface."

Zeno Easter
WWII Veteran

Pearl Harbor." Easter said he knew instantly that he would likely be in the Army for the duration of the war.

Easter said he was assigned to the 30th Infantry Division, based at Fort Jackson, South Carolina when the 33rd Surgical Hospital asked the division for truck drivers. "I'd never driven in the service, but I was one of the ones they sent," he recalled with a laugh.

The WWII veteran described the scientific way in which he was chosen for his new assignment. "Some red-faced colonel came in, looked at us and pointed, saying 'you go here and you go there.' Then I was on a train headed for Fort Dix, New Jersey."

"We stayed at Dix for a

week, exactly. They had guards on the doors and marched us back and forth to the chow hall. They definitely weren't letting us go anywhere, and we had no idea where we would end up. The next stop was New York Harbor, but we didn't even know that at the time," Easter said.

Three ships greeted his outfit at the harbor, a Pan-American Freighter and two cruise ships. "Of course, I ended up on the freighter," chuckled Easter. The freighter became Easter's home for 42 days as the ships made their way down the East Coast, through the Panama Canal and eventually to Australia.

Easter said a Navy light cruiser and a "sub-chaser"

escorted his ride across the entire Pacific. Though Easter didn't know it at the time, the ship on which he was riding had three decks filled with ammunition. Easter explained his first look, though it was from afar, at combat in the Pacific.

"That sub-chaser kept circling around and circling closer to our boat. All of the sudden we saw a depth charge get shot out into the water — then another. It circled around again, then came closer to us," explained Easter. "Then the guys on the sub-chaser told us, 'no need to worry about that one. It's going down, not up.' You could see the oil floating on the surface."

See VET | 2B



Mount Airy resident Zeno Easter, 97, poses for a picture while wearing his WWII Veteran cap.

Andy Winemiller | The News



Andy Winemiller | The News

Though WWII veteran Zeno Easter, 97, is blind and doesn't keep a lot of pictures around the house, he prominently displays a photograph of him and his late-wife Lena.

The trip across the Pacific lagged on. "First we tried to stop in the Philippines, but it was too full of Navy guys. After 42 days at sea we finally ended up in Australia."

Easter said they were welcomed in Australia, even by Emperor Tojo. "He was on the radio as soon as we got there saying, 'the Santa Paul and Santa Claire have landed.' Those were the ships we were on. We stayed in Australia for about six months waiting on our equipment to get there," Easter told.

Then Easter said his outfit was off to the islands, hopping from one to the next. "We went to island after island. I saw a lot of coconuts and natives," he said. Easter also said he saw Japanese soldiers, who were always lurking. While hopping around islands in the South Pacific, Easter said his unit's 58 surgeons stayed quite busy fixing-up American GIs.

"They operated 24 hours a day and seven days a week," said Easter. "I remember watching them take off blood-soaked surgical gowns and wring them out, leaving puddles of sweat." Though Easter said the images "fade" with time, the WWII veteran said they aren't something he's likely to ever forget.

Easter said casualties never stopped coming, arriving by landing craft and on planes that landed on hastily constructed landing strips on the islands.

He spent about three years "island hopping," and that it was some time around the retaking of the Philippines in October of 1944 that he got his ticket home.

"My next stop would have been the Philippines after MacArthur landed there," explained Easter. "Something had happened to my eye though.

It's the reason I'm blind today. They had ships filled with sick, wounded and crazy. I got picked to help take care of them on the way back."

The next stop for Easter was San Francisco, California, where he said he was the coldest he's ever been. "They put us on little boats and took us to a place called Angel Island where we did some out-processing. We were wearing nothing but shorts, a t-shirt and shoes," said Easter.

The next leg of Easter's journey back to Surry County wasn't much better. He and other GIs rode in cattle cars from California to Atlanta, Georgia. "They stopped three times a day to give us a canteen and a sandwich," remarked Easter.

Eventually, Easter ended up in Florida to complete his out-processing. "Now that was nice. We did the few things we had to for the Army each day, then we hit the beach," remarked Easter.

Already experiencing problems with his vision, Easter had more medical problems ahead. "I ended up in the hospital for four months with malaria before I finally separated at Fort Bragg, North Carolina," said Easter.

Following his separation, Easter said he went back to the place he called home — Mount Airy. "I did some odd jobs and worked at some service stations after I got out," explained Easter. "Then I ended up working at Robby's for about 40 years."

Easter also started a family in Mount Airy, marrying his wife of nearly 50 years, Lena, who was from Ararat, Virginia. The two had one son together, and Easter is now proud of his three grandchildren. Easter quit his job to take care of Lena, who died after a battle with cancer in March of 1995.

Easter said Mount Airy has changed much in his 97 years on earth. "I wouldn't know Mount Airy if I had come back to it today," he said. Easter told a story about how his father and uncle used to wrap their feet in burlap sacks in order to make the trudge to work at a local furniture factory.

Easter said he's now almost entirely blind, but he still gets around. "When you get to be 97-years-old you don't expect to stay around much longer, but I make the best of every day," said the member of America's greatest generation. *6 September 2015*

Andy Winemiller is a staff writer at the Mount Airy News. Andy can be reached at (336) 415-4698 or

Easter, George
Washington

GRANDPA
(By Wayne Easter)

Seventy years ago, my grandfather George Washington Easter (April 15, 1878-March 19, 1947) died alone on the banks of Stewart's Creek. He was born in Carroll County, Virginia and around 1900, he and my grandmother Alice Berrier Easter (July 13, 1878-November 20, 1963) moved (some say they escaped) to Surry County, North Carolina and set up house keeping in a one-room log cabin a half mile from Stewart's Creek.

He was a hardscrabble one-horse farmer all of his working days and was never without something that needed doing, but he tried hard. He was a squirrel hunter, a rabbit hunter and a fisherman who "spring-plowed" the land, sowed the seeds, and "reaped what he sowed." He made wood roof-shingles from white oak trees, shod his own horse, made wine and cider and grew watermelons to die for. On occasion, he drove his horse and wagon on a twenty-five mile round trip to Mount Airy to sell butter and eggs on Market Street.

Yes! He was my hero early on and knew everything about everything important: such as when the fish would bite best, when it was going to rain, when it was going to snow, what kind of tree that was and knew all about the birds and the bees.

One November day, he went with me along the creek and showed me how to set some of his old steel traps and I "ran a trap-line" that winter. I did not become a millionaire, but when a \$12.00 check came back in the mail, I was rich beyond compare.

Grandpa never had electricity or an automobile and never owned a radio, but he knew what was going on. He (like most people in our neck of the woods at that time) was from the old school; he did as his ancestors had done for generations, he made do with what he had or he did without. When summer came, good things to eat grew all over the place at Grandpa's place. There were apple, peach, plum, pear and mulberry trees. He grew strawberries in his patch out on the ridge, gooseberries beside the garden fence, along with cherries and grapevines. He did not care how much or what I ate and as the saying went back then, I "et' high on the hawg."

On a day to remember, he and I made a fantastic journey in his wagon. We rode to Rossie Golding's mill and store (two miles away across the state line in Virginia) to have some corn ground into corn meal. I sold Rossie a gallon of blackberries I had picked that morning and spent all of the money for candy. Yes! It was an outstanding day.

As was said before, one day in March 1947, Grandpa went hunting "down on the creek" and when he did not come home for dinner, Grandma went hunting for him and found him where he had died, at a ford beside the foot log over the creek. It was snowing heavily when my dad and I got there and people were standing all around Grandpa, who looked like he was just taking a nap, with his arm under his head for a pillow. We never knew what happened, but I like to think he died doing what he liked best prowling the wildwoods he knew so well and searching for signs of the coming season.

Grandpa was one of a kind, and all of his neighbors said of him, "He's a good old man and he don't bother nobody." (I don't think they make 'em like Grandpa any more.)

In the photograph, Grandpa is in his "Sunday-go-to-meetin' clothes."



13th Abraham Hawks Reunion

October 7-8, 2017

Lambsburg Community Center

Lambsburg, VA

(Contact Colette@47projects.com)