

FRANCIS

ELKIN — Mr. John Hope Francis, 88, of 904 Elk Spur St., Elkin, died Friday, June 14, 1996 at 8:30 p.m. at Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital. Funeral services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Monday at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church by Rev. Edgar Yarbrough. Burial will be in the church cemetery. Mr. Francis was born in Pennsylvania Co., Va., May 27, 1908 to John and Judith Parrish Francis. He loved sports and came to Elkin in 1930 to play and manage the Chatham Mfg. Co. baseball team. He served in several managerial positions with the textile company before retiring in 1973. He was an active member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church where he served as Church Treasurer and Deacon for many years. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruby Richardson Francis in 1988. Mr. Francis, a devoted father and grandfather, is survived by his daughter, Pat Francis (Tom) James of the home; his son, David L. (Betty) Francis of Charlotte; seven grandchildren, Elizabeth Francis Davis of Charlotte, Martha Francis Alexander of Atlanta, Ga., Sarah Francis Wannamaker of Charlotte, Diane Allen Key of Naperville, Ill., Cynthia Allen Harvey of Greenville, N.C., Patricia Allen Haynes of Elkin, William M. Allen, III of Clemmons; eleven great grandchildren. The family request that memorials be made to the charity of the donor's choice. The family will receive friends from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Sunday at Kennedy Funeral Home in Elkin.

EVERHART

MOUNT AIRY — Eura "Ann" Francis Everhart, 55, of 834 Pipers Gap Road, Mount Airy, died Friday, October 8, 1999 at her home. Mrs. Everhart was born in Surry County on June 13, 1944 to John Herbert and Dora Joyce Francis. She was retired from Consumer Sales and was of the Baptist faith. Surviving are her husband, Larry "Joe" Everhart of the home; three sisters and brothers-in-law, Lena and Harvey Gordon of King, Barbara Simmons of Mount Airy, and Ruby and Ronda Smith of Greensboro; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Lloyd and Norma Francis of Mount Airy, Ray and Sandra Francis of Pilot Mountain, and Ruth Francis of Mount Airy; five nieces; 10 nephews; four great-nieces; seven great-nephews; and her pets, beloved dogs, Josie and Abby; and beloved cats, Maggie and Mikey. Mrs. Everhart was preceded in death by one brother, Wade C. Francis. A memorial service will be conducted on Monday, October 11, 1999 at 11:00 a.m. at Skyline Memory Gardens by Elder Elbert Hunter and Elder J.D. Belton. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Northern Hospice, 1033 Highway 52, Mount Airy, N.C. 27030 or to the Oncology Center at Northern Hospital of Surry County, 830 Rockford Street, Mount Airy, N.C. 27030. Cox-Needham Funeral Home and Chapel in Pilot Mountain, N.C. is serving the Everhart family.

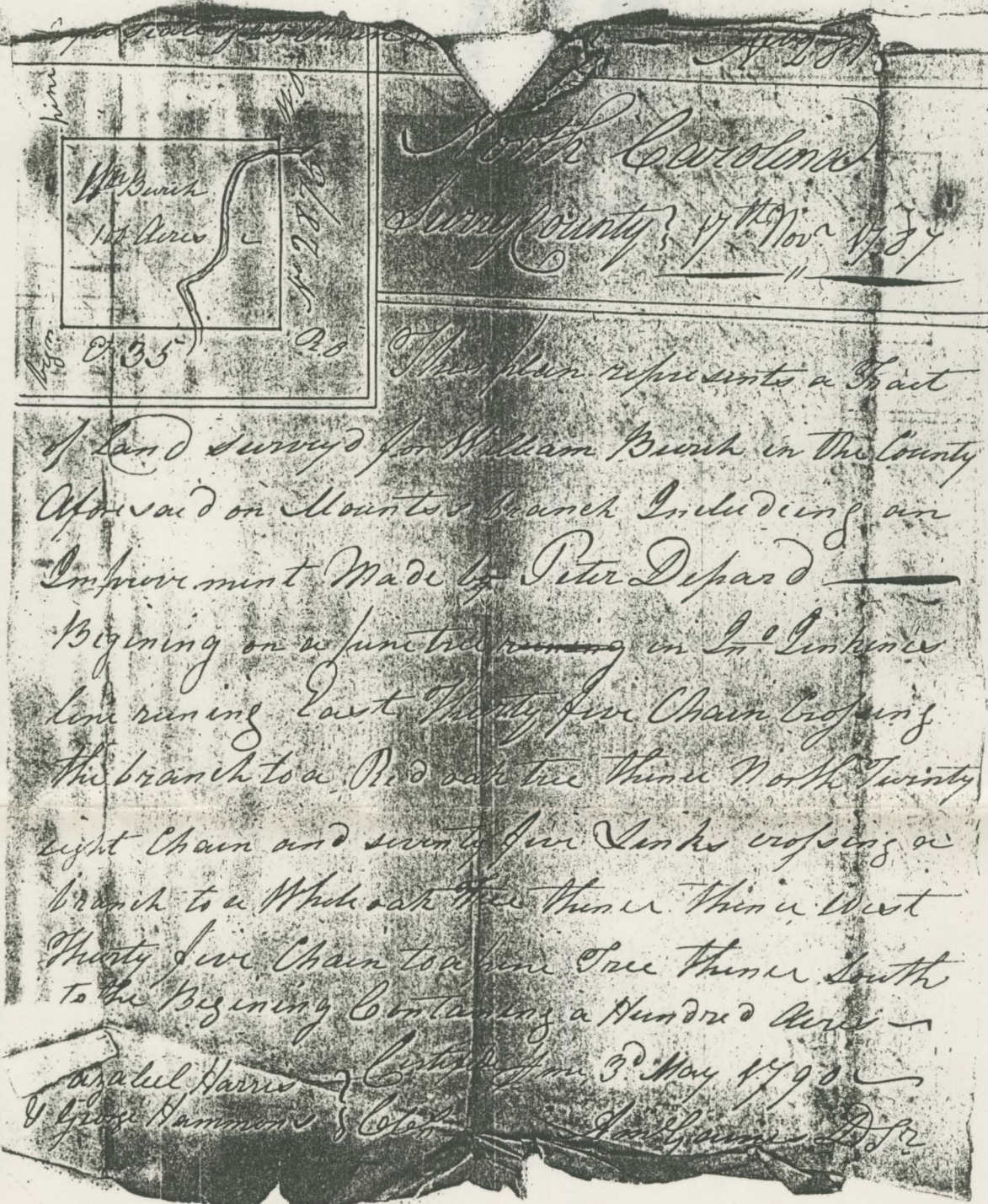
State of North Carolina
 William Thornton Entry Officer of Claiming of Land in
 the County of Surry
 to the Surveyor of said County Greeting.

You are hereby required as soon as may be to lay off
 and survey for William Burch a Tract or Parcel of
 Land containing one hundred acres in the County
 aforesaid, joining an Entry made by William Carter
 on Mounts Branch, now in possession of John Jenkins
 on both sides of said Branch including an Improvement
 made by Peter Deprad for Campment

Observing the acts of Assembly in such Cases made
 & provided for running out Lands &c.

Given under my hand the 25th day of Sep: 1788

Wm Thornton Ent.



Jim

State of North Carolina

No. 281

WILLIAM THORNTON Entry Officer of Claims of Land in the County of Surry.

To the Surveyor of said county, Greeting.

You are hereby required as soon as may be to lay off and survey for WILLIAM BURCH a tract or parcel of land containing one hundred acres in the county aforesaid, joining an entry made by WILLIAM CARTER on MOUNTSES BRANCH now in possession of JOHN JENKINS on both sides of said branch including an improvement made by PETER DEPRAD for complement.

Observing the Acts of Assembly in such case made & provided for running out lands &c.
Given under my hand the 25th day of Sep. 1788.

Wm Thornton Entr.

By a scale of 25 chains to an inch [See plat on Archives copy] N^o 281

North Carolina
Surry County 17th Nov. 1787

This plan represents a tract of land survey'd for WILLIAM BURCH in the county aforesaid on Mounts Branch including an improvement made by PETER DEPRAD Beginning on a pine tree in JNO JINKINS line runing east thirty five chains crossing the branch to a red oak tree thence north twenty eight chains and seventy five links crossing a branch to a white oak tree thence thence west thirty five chains to a pine tree thence south to the beginning containing a hundred acres.

Bazaleel Harris }
George Hammons } C C's

Certified by me, 3rd May 1790
Am Gaines D Sr

*I don't have Jim's
Address - Will you give
this to him?*

... , ELWOOD, NC 27299; Ph
336-853-1051 so I can receive
replies on this article. My aunt
noticed this. I never paid any
attention to it. Thanks a lot. Wan-
da

Response:

Thank you for the letter with the new address. We are happy to print it and we hope you receive many answers. That is a fine article and pictures that you had in the April-May issue. To the reader, we will explain briefly that Wanda sent pictures of her grandmother, Hattie Belle Edwards (1912-1953), born in Dobson, and her three youngest sons, Sidney, Johnny and Robert Humphrey. Hattie Belle married Oza Zelner Humphrey. Their other children were Zelner Gray Humphrey, William Edward Humphrey, Patsy Joan Humphrey and Walter Lee Humphrey. Hattie Belle was the daughter of Levi Edwards and Mary Emma Coe Edwards. Levi's father was Albert Edwards, wife Bettie no maiden name. So Wanda and her mother want information on the Edwards family, please.

FRANCIS

We have a letter from E.Hollis Merritt, 1005 Springhill Drive, Angolo, IND 46703, who had heard of a book about Surry County in the Civil War, which had information on four men whose surname was Francis — John, Melaschek, Uriah and William R. The book referred to is Surry



The role of moonshining in our her Steele of North Carolina is entitled print, which is in color, is now avail

County

Soldiers in the Civil War in which these four Francis men are listed as being in Co. C, 21st Regiment, North Carolina Troops. There is no other mention of these men in this book.

Information on these Francis men might be found on microfilm for the 21st N.C. Regiment. This microfilm is part of the 270 series at the National Archives, Washington, D.C. Another source mentioned is Record Group 109 in National Archives. These are Confederate military service records. There are individual envelopes for each man, filed by regiment and filed alphabetically by surname within the regiment. Your local library can order the film from The Latter Day Saints, or it can be rented. Ask about this 270 series.

We still have members of the Francis family living in Surry County. Indiana State Library may have some Surry County, NC, books or material since a large number of Surry people moved to Indiana.

Ceremony To Honor A Patriot Killed In Revolution

The Yadkin County Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc., will sponsor a ceremony June 12 to unveil a marker near the site where Captain Henry Francis was killed during the American Revolutionary War in a skirmish between Patriots and Tories. The event will begin at 2:00 p. m. at the end of the Mulberry Fields Road in Huntsville. Members of Yadkin V. F. W. Post 10346 will assist in the ceremony.

It was on October 14, 1780, that only one American patriot and 14 Tories were killed in the battle, among them Captains Bryan and Burke. The Tories are believed to have been buried nearby also.

For several years, a small tombstone, which bore the name Capt. David Francis, and the date of his death as March, 1781, marked the site of the battle. It had been obtained by the late J. Hampton Rich and sent to the late Frank Poindexter. It has long been known that the death date on the stone was in error. This was not the date of the skirmish on the outskirts of what later became the village of Huntsville, between patriots and Tories at Battle Branch near the Big Poplar Tree, but the date that British Lord Cornwallis crossed the Yadkin River at Shallow Ford in his pursuit of American General Nathanael Greene.

It was not until members of the Francis family contacted Mrs. Frances H. Casstevens and the Historical Society that it became apparent that the name was wrong also. The American Patriot who was killed was Capt. Henry Francis. Descendants of Captain Henry Francis, who are holding a family reunion in Wytheville, Virginia, on

June 11, have furnished ample documentation to prove that the current tombstone is in error. The Francis descendants have also obtained the new marker which is to be erected at the site and will replace the existing one, to prevent future confusion.

Two of Capt. Henry Francis' sons were with him in that battle. Son John believed that he had killed the Tory who shot his father.

The Yadkin County Historical Society, Inc. and the Francis Family Descendants are proud to have a small part in setting the record straight and giving Capt. Henry Francis the honor he deserves by the unveiling of the corrected marker. The public is invited to attend and participate in this historic event.

Marker to honor newly discovered hero

■ Gravestone planted 30 years ago honored war hero who never was

By Jay Woodruff
JOURNAL REPORTER

HUNTSVILLE

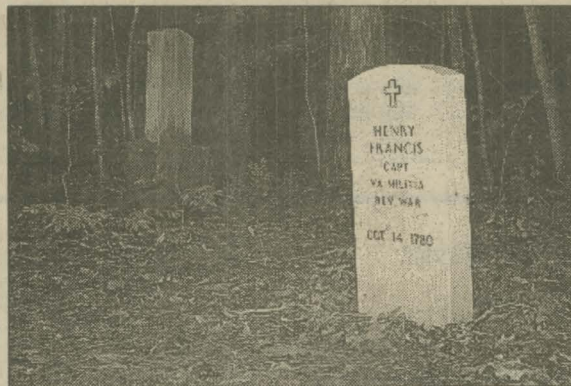
Anne White took her fifth-grade class at Courtney Elementary School on a field trip last week to Battle Branch, a wooded knoll where a skirmish was fought during the Revolutionary War.

A modest tombstone for Capt. David Francis of North Carolina marks the site of the Battle of Shallow Ford. Although the site is off the beaten trail, White knows the spot well because she helped install the marker about 30 years ago.

A few days ago, she helped to take it down. The tombstone commemorated the wrong man. A man, it appears, who was never alive.

Capt. Henry Francis of Virginia — not Capt. David Francis of North Carolina — was killed during a skirmish on Oct. 14, 1780, in which 400 Tories met 300 patriots from North Carolina and Virginia.

Fourteen Tories were killed, but Henry Francis was the only patriot casualty. Frances Casstevens, the vice president of the Yadkin County Historical and Genealogical Society, said that the society will set the record straight Sunday at 2 p.m. when a new tombstone is dedicated.



JOURNAL PHOTO BY JAY WOODRUFF

This new marker replaces one that stood for 30 years and bore the name Capt. David Francis.

The society can find no record of a patriot named David Francis in North Carolina, she said.

White said she heard about Capt. Francis 30 years ago from Emma Long, an elderly neighbor who told her that the tombstone was sitting in Long's storage shed. Some neighbors said that they thought they knew where the grave was, so White and the neighbors took the stone to the grave.

Long also told her about the eccentric traveler who wanted to make Capt. Francis famous.

The tombstone — which established the wrong name and the wrong date for Francis' death — was originally the work of J. Hampton Rich in the 1920s and '30s. Rich traveled the country tracing

the route of Daniel Boone and leaving large stone markers in his wake. One such marker sits at Summit Street and West End Boulevard near Hanes Park in Winston-Salem.

Rich met several local residents and learned about the battle. He came up with the name David Francis, although no one seems to know where he got the name, and he confused the date with the date of another historical event. In the early months of 1781 General Lord Cornwallis led his

troops across the Yadkin River in his attempt to catch American Gen. Nathanael Greene.

"We had no idea," she said of the confusion over the name. "There was no actual documentation that gave the full name. All it said was that Capt. Francis was killed. We just took it as being correct even though the date was wrong."

Casstevens said that members of the society knew for years that the marker's date, Feb. 7, 1781, was wrong. But no one knew about the wrong name until three months ago when some members of Henry Francis' family offered to buy a new marker. The Francis family will gather in Wytheville, Va., for a reunion Saturday and several of them plan to attend the ceremony Sunday.

11 June 1994 Saturday Winston-Salem Journal

SHALLOW FORD WALK AND SYMPOSIUM

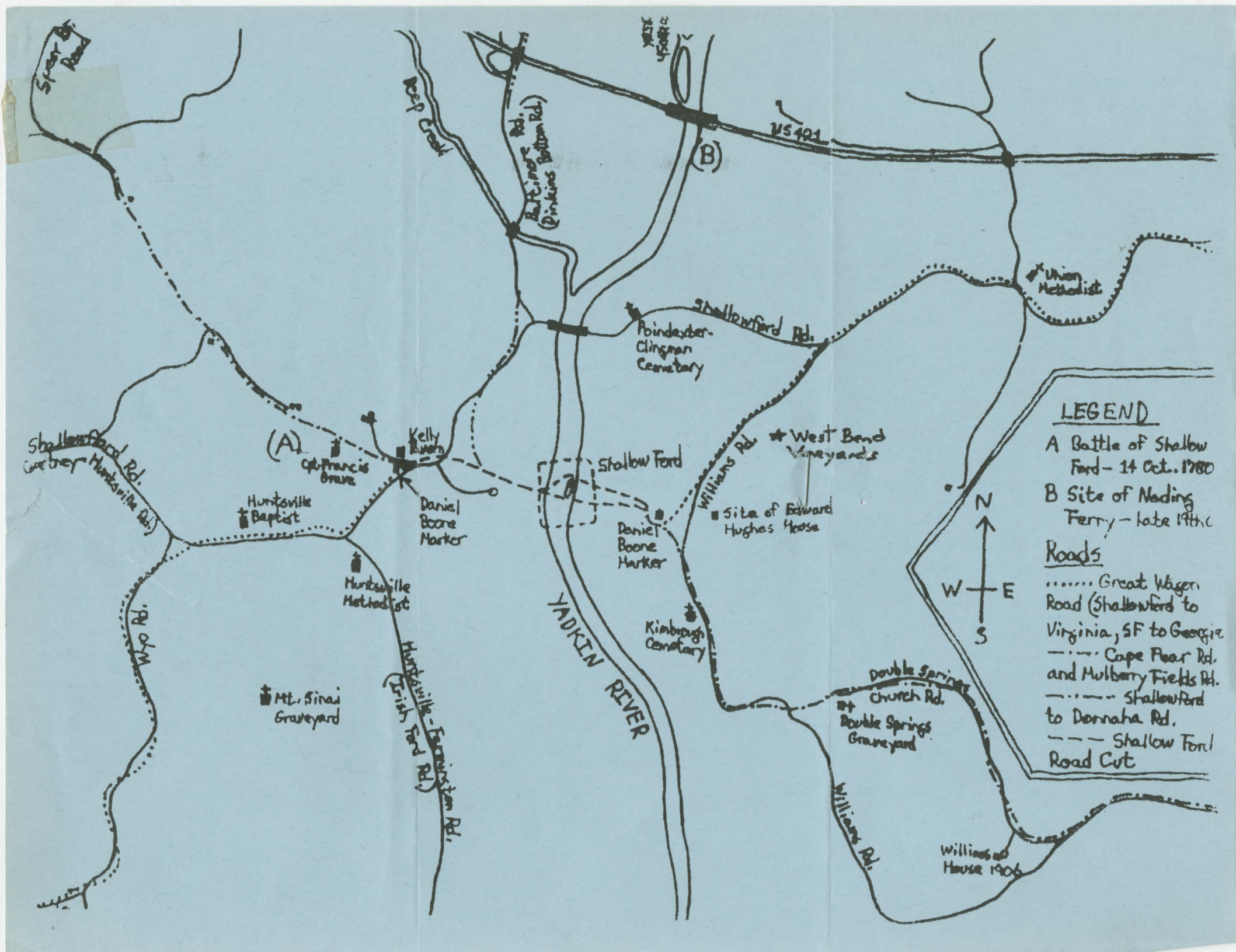
You are invited to learn about the history of the Shallow Ford, an important link in the historic Great Wagon Road upon which pioneers traveled from Pennsylvania to Georgia.

A SHALLOW FORD SYMPOSIUM AND WALK IS PLANNED FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12 FROM 8:00 AM TO 4:00 PM. WE WILL MEET AT THE HUNTSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH IN HUNTSVILLE. THE COST WILL BE \$12.00 TO COVER A CATERED BARBECUE LUNCH AND OTHER COSTS SUCH AS PRINTING, POSTAGE, PUBLICITY, AND BUS TRASPORATION TO TOUR SITES. IF YOU BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH THE FEE WILL BE \$6.00.

This tour is open to anyone interested in Yadkin and Forsyth County history. Suggested age limit is age 7 and above. Child care is not provided, so please see that all children are supervised. Please fill out the PREREGISTRATION FORM attached and send back to the indicated address by SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22. The event will take place rain or shine. ONE UNIT OF CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT IS AVAILABLE FOR TEACHERS WHO COMPLETE THIS SYMPOSIUM. This event is co-sponsored by The Lewisville Historical Society and The Yadkin County Historical and Genealogical Society.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 7:30 AM ORIENTATION AT HUNTSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH, HUNTSVILLE. COFFEE WILL BE PROVIDED.
- 8:00 AM WELCOME
- 8:15 AM GEOLOGY OF THE SHALLOW FORD
Speaker: Victor Seiders, U.S. Government Geologist, Retired
- 8:45 AM ANIMALS AND PLANTS OF THE SHALLOW FORD
Speaker: Kathy Kron, Professor of Biology, Wake Forest University
- 9:15 AM NATIVE AMERICANS AND THE SHALLOW FORD
Speaker: Ned Woodall, Professor of Anthropology, Wake Forest University
- 9:45 AM BREAK
- 10:00 AM THE SHALLOW FORD AS A MAJOR RIVER CROSSING
Speaker: Kyle Stimson, Vice-Chair, Great Wagon Road Committee
- 10:30 AM BATTLE OF THE SHALLOW FORD: 14 OCTOBER 1780
Speaker: Ann Brownlee, Descendant of Capt. Henry Francis, the only Patriot killed at the battle
- 11:00 AM MILITARY HISTORY OF THE SHALLOW FORD
Speaker: Al Hudson, U.S. Air Force, Retired
- 11:30 AM THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE SHALLOW FORD
Speaker: Richard Foster and Ben Harding, Natives and Residents of Huntsville, NC
- 12:00 NOON LUNCH
- 1:00-4:00 LEAVE ON BUSES FOR THE WALKS TO BOTH SIDES OF THE SHALLOW FORD: Forsyth County side first, Yadkin County side second.
- 4:00-6:00 ON YOUR OWN TOUR OF WEST BEND VINEYARDS. (See Map)
- NOTE: The hikes to the Shallow Ford from the roads are somewhat strenuous, so be sure to wear warm clothing and sturdy shoes.

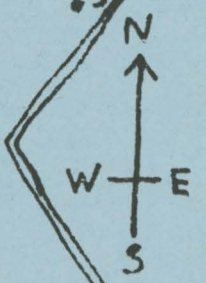


LEGEND

- A Battle of Shallow Ford - 14 Oct. 1780
- B Site of Nading Ferry - late 17th c.

Roads

- Great Wagon Road (Shallowford to Virginia, SF to Georgia)
- - - Cape Fear Rd. and Mulberry Fields Rd.
- - - - Shallowford to Donaha Rd.
- - - - Shallow Ford Road Cut



NOT SHOWN
IN STORES

b. 1841
d. 23 Nov 1862 R.I. Alexander Francis Co. K 1st Reg NC State Troops Wake Co.

b. 1838 Samuel Francis Co. K 1st Reg NC State Troops Wake Co.

b. 1843; Caleb Francis s/o Gallion Co. A 2nd Battalion
 b. 1840 James M. Francis s/o milk NC Infantry
 b. 1844 Jason M. W. Francis s/o Saml + Frances (Stedman)
 b. 1839 Joel ~~III~~ Francis s/o Jm + Nancy (Tilley) Stokes Co.
 b. 1836 Presley Francis s/o Milk
 d. 27 Sept 1864 Elmira, NY. Co. H 23rd Battalion Va. Inf.

	1850 Stokes County	Peter's Creek District	R.E.	26 July 1850
190/191	Francis, milk.	47 m	Farmer	VA
	Nancy	46 f		NC
	Mary	23		
	John	21	Farmer	
	Sally	20		
	Presley	18		
	Betsy	17		
	William	15		
	Becca	13		
	James M.	12		
	Uriah	11		
	Melchisedic	6		

Westfield Brothers Lead Classes At ESHS And NCSU

From Staff Reports

PILOT MOUNTAIN — Academically speaking, it has been a very good year for the Francis family.

Brothers James and John Francis were each recently honored as valedictorian at their respective schools, John, 18, as a part of the graduating class at East Surry High School and James, 22, at North Carolina State University.

These young men are the sons of Reggie and Libba Francis of Westfield, and, probably not coincidentally, both parents are educators. Libba Francis teaches gifted and exceptional children at Shoals Elementary School, while Reggie Francis teaches an exceptional student class at East Surry High School.

"We did expect a lot from them," Libba Francis explained, "and we tried to make learning fun. We went on educational trips throughout their childhood, and we were always talking with them about things and answering their questions. Reggie is a Civil War buff, and we've visited (several) Civil War battlefields."

"Our parents always wanted us to do our best," James Francis explained. "They knew we had potential, and they wanted us to live up to that potential. They were always there to support us."

According to Libba Francis, a key component to the family's academic success is a simple love of books and reading. Reggie Francis would read to his children at night, and both boys have grown up to enjoy literature.

"Reading is one of the most important things a parent can encourage," Libba Francis notes, speaking from her experience as both a parent and teacher. "Parents really need to read to their kids."

John Francis also points to two prestigious summer programs as venues that have given him new focus in his academic pursuits. In 2000, he attended the North Carolina Governor's School, and, the following year, he took part in the Summer

Ventures program.

"Summer Ventures," he smiles, "pushed me and made me think about my opinions. Before that I thought I was smart, but through those programs, I was able to meet some extremely smart people. It helped me to take a different approach, to look at high school as a way to get into college and to accomplish what you want. It helped me to look at what I learned as something to be applied to life, not just something to help me pass a test."

John also pointed to the influence of former East Surry teacher John Surratt as having helped him to "learn to think for myself."

But the Francis brothers have never let their love for books and academics push other activities and interests from their lives. While at East Surry, James played basketball and football and now continues to play recreational softball, and John was a part of both the Cardinal football and basketball teams last season.

"It can be busy," John laughs when describing his sometimes hectic schedule, "but it helped me to learn to prioritize my time. The East Surry Athletic Department always supported my academic success."

"Nobody wants to be just a bookworm," James added. "It's important to have a social life and to be involved in things like sports, especially at college. Academics are important, but they're not my entire life. I didn't want to miss out on all of what college is about. This is a time for growing up and learning a lot about yourself."

This year both brothers saw their efforts rewarded as they gained recognition for their academic accomplishments. John Francis graduated as valedictorian of the East Surry Class of 2002, barely nipping classmate Brandon Edwards with a GPA of 4.75.

"We both knew it was extremely close," John smiles, "but it was a friendly competition. When we were told I would be valedictorian, he was the first person to con-

gratulate me."

At North Carolina State University, James was one of 74 students to qualify as a 2002 valedictorian, finishing his four-year program with a 4.0 GPA. With an undergraduate degree in Textile Engineering, minoring in Industrial Engineering with a concentration in Information Systems, he is now pursuing a MBA at the university.

James Francis was doubly honored, receiving the N.C. State College of Textiles' prestigious Academic Award as the department's top student.

After completing his Master's, James isn't yet sure where he will pursue a career but hopes that it will involve Internet technology or information services.

John will begin classes at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill next year, majoring in Political Science while studying international relations and minoring in Spanish. His course of study has been carefully researched and determined based on a long-term goal of someday working in the Central Intelligence Agency.

"I've worked hard to make the CIA a reasonable goal," he explains. "It's a place where I could use more than one skill, use analytical problem solving along with my interest in politics, and where I would have different job opportunities. I'd be making important decisions, and it would be different every day. I've always been patriotic, and this is a way I can use my talents to benefit my country."

James has watched his brother follow in his footsteps and notes with pride that John has exceeded him at East Surry. James Francis was salutatorian of the East Surry Class of 1998.

"It was nice to see John be valedictorian," he says, "and to see him get his own recognition. Our intelligence is a blessing from God."

Now, just like Libba and Reggie Francis have always taught, both young men seem well on their way to taking that blessing and using it to the best of their potential.



ACADEMIC ACES: Brothers James and John Francis claimed valedictorian honors at their respective schools last year.