1771 — Surry County Bicentennial — 1971

SURRY HAS A GREAT PAST

*From it let's build an even greater future*

# SURRY COUNTY ON ITS BICENTENNIAL

# SURRY COUNTY 200th Anniversary

## SURRY COUNTY

*A Grand Heritage and Future*




*Main Street. . . 1890*

# Edition Marks Surry's 200th Birthday

BY BILL SEIGLER

This week the TIMES honors Surry County with a special edition commemorating her 200th anniversary. We read about her beginnings and growth; we catch glimpses of her heritage and proud past.

This is as it should be, for our county has rich history and tradition which merits greater understanding and pride.

But there is another way to pay tribute to our county and the wonderful community of people within her borders.

This is by taking a sincere interest not only in her past, but also in her future.

A study of Surry's past uncovers the undying efforts of many community leaders to make Surry County a better place in which to live. Surry's story, as readers of this edition will attest, is brimming with inspirational lives and endeavors.

If we truly understand the past, then perhaps we too will find ourselves inspired to help create an even better future.

Thus Surry's bicentennial may mark not only the end of two centuries of growth, but also the beginning of a new century, full of promise and the need to fulfill that promise.

In looking back over the past few years, we note important progress and trends in this area.

Certainly the area's economy is continuing to grow and prosper. The area's leading industries are expanding at a rapid rate. The area is the beneficiary of a large number of wide new traffic arteries, permitting expeditious movement of her citizens. The last decade has been one of growth and progress.

Citizens continue to look for open, uncramped spaces, often moving to the fertile suburbs. Thus downtown areas, while not growing much in population, are becoming less congested as the community expands to use more of the available living space.

The county has gained several new schools, many of which are consolidated. Some new cultural programs have moved into the area, and the various towns and communities can each boast of many improvements.

But in this time of reappraisal, we must not content ourselves with past achievements. Instead, we must steadfastly build on the past looking toward the future.

Thus we find that this area is in a time of reappraising and formulating priorities. This, too, is as it should be, and it is a task which even more of our citizens should take to heart.

Certainly there are problems which need resolving in nearly every segment of the community.

Some feel the biggest priority should be to get more employment opportunities for skilled labor is more important.

Another desire to create conditions in which would induce more industries to come to the area, for example, an expanded sewage system to take care of greater industrial needs.

A growing segment of society looks toward educational needs, particularly the financial crisis many of the schools are facing also the need for broader programs, greater curricular and cultural opportunities, and better conditions for teachers and students alike.

Related to educational needs are cultural opoprtunities, such as the need for expanded library facilities and an extended program in the fine arts, particularly one which would benefit the entire county. Many are also urging a system of parks and recreation, with greater support for community centers.

In rural areas growing attention is being paid to the problems of the farms and farmers.

A large number of area citizens point to the financial squeeze in general, looking to find ways of bringing increased revenue. Such proposals included increased taxes and the proposed ABC elections in the county municipalities.

While these difficulties certainly are faced not only in Surry Conuty, the issues do seem particularly importatn at present.

We can't ignore them. Instead, we must discuss and analyze them, creating more awareness among the general public of the problems and opportunities facing us.

The lesson of history calls for both leadership and participating, two ingredients without which further progress is almost impossible.

We at the TIMES call for further discussion of these issues and others which deserve attention. We invite your response.

# Centrally Located Dobson Picked

# As Site Of Courthouse

This article comes from "Footprints In the Hollow: Surry And Her People," prepared by Mrs. W. F. Carter Jr., and the late Mr. Carter.

**DOBSON—1850**

When Surry County was divided the last time, in 1850, the site selected for the county seat was as near the center as possible, a sparsely populated section on a plateau from which the Blue Ridge Mountain range was clearly visible. It was named Dobson in honor of a family who had been prominent in Rockford and Surry since pre-Revolutionary days. The men had followed the legal profession, being lawyers of exceptional ability.

The first courthouse was a rambling structure of brick, facing north and south, the courtroom being upstairs with offices on the first floor, set in a beautiful grove of trees, with the lawn wide enough to be used as an assembly ground, This was the ideal setting for many public rallies and celebrations.

As the years passed the county grew and then outgrew its official building. The judges who held the sessions of court demanded a new and larger building, so in 1916 the county commissioners decided a new courthouse should be built.

This brought on a controversy between advocates of a new location at Mount Airy, the largest town in the county, and Dobson. People in the southwestern part of the county loudly objected to traveling such a distance to court. The proposition was then made to divide the county again with Elkin as one county seat and Mount Airy the other.

The commissioners quickly squelched this movement by giving a contract to a firm in Greensboro to build a new courthouse on the same location.

Then followed a petition asking that the old building be allowed to remain for the town's use and the new one built on one of the many available lots near by.

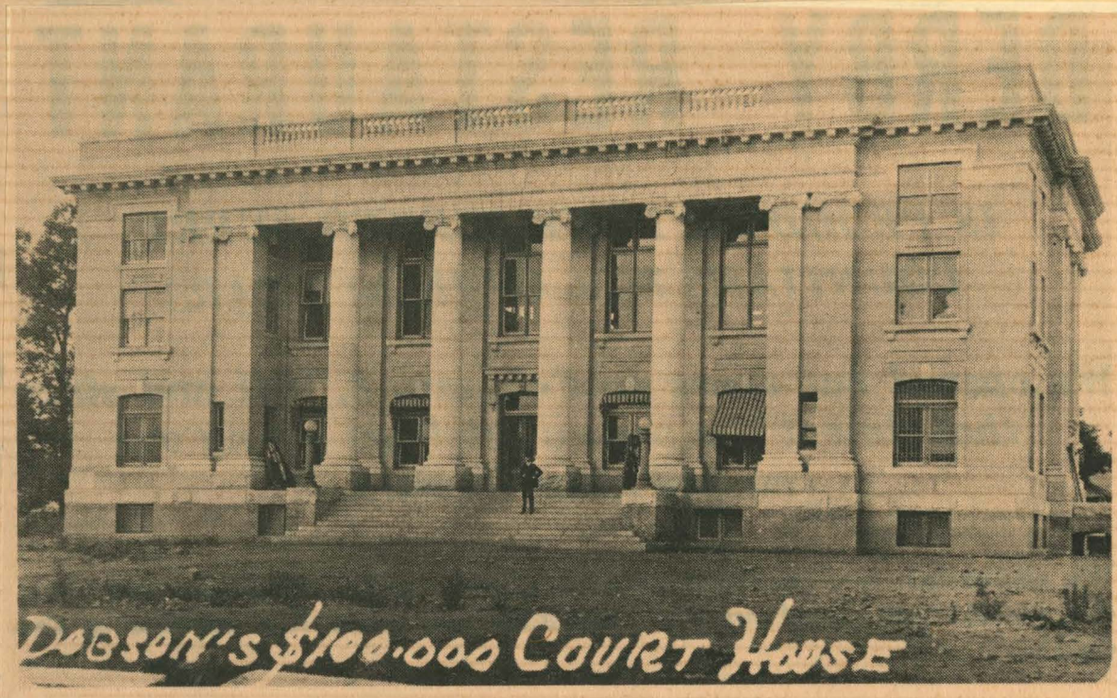
When the commissioners refused they were met with a restraining order which would prevent them from carrying out their plans.

After some delay the attorney for the county succeeded in getting this order dissolved and the work of demolishing the sixty-five year old building began.

The handsome old trees had to go too, making way for a much larger building and the streets which were to surround it on all sides.

It was originally planned to have the jail and the jailer's home on the top floor but this plan failed when the contractor ran into financial difficulties. The fateful year of 1917 had arrived, building materials were not only scarce but much higher in price, forcing the contractors to give up the work which was finished by the bondsmen. The brick used was made of Dobson clay, fired in a nearby kiln.

When the building was finally completed old differences had for the most part disappeared, the people joining together with enthusiasm to celebrate the formal opening of their new courthouse with Judge Webb presiding. The first court was held by Judge Shaw.




*The Old Courthouse*

Dobson was often the scene of political battles. For many years the county was largely Republican and the towns Democratic with the county seat right in the middle.

This division of the people showed up in many ways, one which was rather amusing concerned the hotels in Dobson. There were two of these, one run by a Democratic family, the other by a Republican. When court convened the attending lawyers and Judges were accustomed to spend the entire week or weeks in Dobson, travel conditions being such as to make it almost impossible to do otherwise.

It was then party lines were drawn as the lawyers and officials carried out their bags in to the inn of their political affiliation.

Quite often the Judge would ignore such practice and select the one of his own liking, to the envy of his colleagues.

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

# Early Settlements Inside Surry's Borders

This article comes from "Footprints In the Hollow: Surry And Her People," prepared by Mrs. W. F. Carter Jr., and the late Mr. Carter.

**SETTLEMENTS**

Although there were no towns in Surry in 1800, Rockford being but a village, many communities had grown up and acquired names. The most populous of these lay along the Yadkin River.

There was Jonesville, Rockford, Siloam and Stony Ridge in the southern part, and one up near the Virginia line called the Fisher River settlement.

On the eastern border was the Quaker settlement known as West Fields, and down in the southeast on Tom's Creek a community took the name of the stream, (this would in later years become the town of Pilot Mountain).

As this was happening the area around the old Renfro Indian grounds came to be known as The Hollow, dropping the letter 's' which had been used in speaking of the whole upper section of Surry as "The Hollows."

**SILOAM**

This community had grown along the banks of the Yadkin River in the fertile farm lands of Morgan's Creek where Samuel Freeman had bought a tract of land as early as 1767 from Morgan Bryant. He purchased another one in 1771 along the Tararat River about two miles from where it flowed into the Yadkin.

Freeman came to Surry from down in Chowan County. He was a descendent of John Freeman of Devonshire, England, who landed in Massachusetts in 1635. There he married Mercy Brewster, granddaughter of one of the founders of Cape Cod Colony, before moving down into Virginia. His son, William, became a prosperous land owner in eastern Carolina where he left to each of his six sons a large plantation.

One of these sons was Samuel, who came up by Rowan where he married into the prominent Alexander family, moving on up into Surry where he established his permanent home.

Here he became immediately involved in the activities of the day, being appointed one of the committee to have the courthouse. jail and stocks built at Richmond, the new county seat; was a member of the Committee of Safety; and in 1776 was appointed by an act of the General Assembly as one of the justices responsible for erecting County Courts and for putting the laws into execution. At the age of sixty-two he enlisted for service in the Continental Army.

Joshua Freeman, son of Samuel, followed his father as resident of the county and it was he who sold to John Dowden Reeves a tract of land, in 1804. being a part of the original grant made to M. Bryant in 1752.

The Reeves family background was English, coming from Dorset, England. They settled first in Virginia then moved down into the Albemarle section of North Carolina. John D. Reeves was born in 1759. He served in the Continental Army until the close of the war, married ad moved his family to Surry County where he and his descendents contributed much to the development of his part of the county.

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

Others who acquired lands in this section were the families of Atkinson, Baker, Marion, Nutt, Whitaker and others identified with Siloam. These people bulit up a prosperous and cultural society which was to have an enviable reputation in the century ahead.

Other settlers came into the region, attracted by the growing prosperity of its people. The rich farm lands yielded good crops of corn, wheat, tobacco, cabbage and other products while cattle and sheep thrived on the green pasture lands. Orchards, planted with various fruit trees were cultivated. A mill and a general store added to the activities. necessitating a line of communication with Salem to which they sent wagon loads of produce, bringing back loads of merchandise for their store.

The people were also interested in the spiritual growth of their community. There is a tradition that says. the first Methodist church in Surry County was established by these people prior to 1800. It was known as Bold Springs Meeting House and was said to have been located about three miles north of present Siloam.

"Old Siloam Methodist Church," known to many residents of Surry, was established in 1808. Named for the Pool of Siloam in the Bible, it became the religious, educational and social center of the community, the name eventually being given the settlement.

The Sunday school was most unusual. Having its opening at eight o'clock in the morning it continued until four in the afternoon. The Bible was the textbook, the children memorizing many passages of scripture with the Commandments, Psalms and Beatitudes. In addition they were taught to read, write and do arithmetic. For some of the children this was all the schooling they ever received, not being able to pay the tuition fees of the subscription schools.

Bishops Asbury, Howard, Coke and Lorenzo Dow were said to have preached in the first log house.

A family record says that Micajah Reeves, son of John D. Reeves, was the superintendent of the Sunday School until his death, after which it was carried on by his wife, Elizabeth Early Reeves.

Mrs. Reeves seemed to have been a perfect example of the pioneer woman. Having acquired a knowledge of the medicinal qualities of native herbs and roots she was the doctor and nurse to her family and neighbors, assisting families who couldn't obtain the services of a doctor. This was a time when diseases like smallpox, scarlet and typhoid fever and diphtheria were prevalent and often fatal.

Quite often one of these diseases would take its toll of four or five in one family in a short time,. Mrs. Reeves rode horseback on her missions, often staying the night with a stricken family. In her house was a room known as the minister's room, kept always ready for visiting ministers.

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

Before the railroad came to Siloam all produce was hauled by wagons to market, south and east, fording the Yadkin River until a ferry was constructed by the Reeves brothers. Later the ferry was bought and operated by J. R. and R. N. Marion until they sold it to Lacky Hall.

A bridge was built in 1938. The Marion brothers, J. R., N. C. and R. N., owned the first store in Siloam, the Reeves store being some distance from the village.

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

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

The Siloam Academy was built about 1892. W. Milton Cundiff was the leader of a group of citizens including J. R. Marion, Hasten Snow, Dan Scott, Sam Atkinson, N. C. Marion, Aaron Whitaker, R. N. Marion and others who furnished materials, labor and money for the project.

S. J. Atkinson and Aaron Whitaker gave the lot on which the building was erected. The housewives of the community opened their homes to boarding students. Many people who became prominent in the business and professional world went to school at the Academy.

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

Three grandsons of Micajah and Elizabeth Early Reeves left

continued

# Early Settlements (Cont.)

Surry in their youth to find a place for their talents in New York City. There in the 1920s they founded a textile company which has grown into the giant industry know as "The Reeves Bros., Inc."

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

## REEVES

Another of Siloam's pioneer families was represented in the founding of the new county seat at Dobson. J. E. Reeves who was born at Siloam in 1827, and received his law training at the Pearson Law School, opened his office in Dobson. At the same time he operated a general store. He also married into the prominent Waugh family.

## PRATHER

The Prather family, of English descent, settled first in the Maryland colony, coming down to North Carolina before 1772 at which time they were living in Rowan County.

In 1829 John Prather was living in Surry County, near Siloam as he is listed as one of the trustees to whom the deed to the Old Siloam Church was made in that year.

While Rockford was a bustling county seat John Prather had a mercantile business there. After the county seat was changed to Dobson many of the residents moved, Thomas Franklin Prather coming to Mount Airy.

He settled on South Main Street, just below where the present Presbyterian Church stands, building a large frame house which was last occupied by Dr. Taylor. He built a tobacco factory which he operated in addition to a store. In 1856 he was postmaster at Mount Airy.

In 1847 Wesley A. Prather served one year as postmaster.

Thomas Prather was followed by three sons, Thomas W. Prather, Joseph W. Prather and Jesse H., all prominent in the business and social life of the town.

## WESTFIELD

This is one of the oldest settlements in Surry County, having been started by people of the Quaker faith who came into this area about 1760 and settled along Big Creek, Tom's Creek and other streams. They were affiliated with a similar group which settled at New Garden in what would be Guilford County.

This became known as the Western Field of that church, and the yearly meetings were attended by members from "The Hollows" who made the trip once a year, going down through a gap in the Sauratown Mts. which became known as Quaker Gap, a name it still bears.

Groups from the mother church came up to hold meetings in their "West Fields" and organized the "Westfield Monthly Meeting" in 1786. The list of charter members includes the names of Ballard, Beale, Beeson, Bond, Bryant, Burris, Carr, Carson, Davis, Hiatt, Jackson, Jessup, Jones, McKinney, Pinson, Puckett, Reece, Sumner, Simmons and White.

The Quakers, like the Moravians, kept strict records of births, deaths and marriages. They also listed the shortcomings of their people, often recording the name of a member who had been churched for some violation of their creed. Sometimes members were voted out of the church for marrying "out of the unity."

The Quakers were deeply interested in education and before 1800 they had a school committee who provided for the education of their children. A western migration took many families from Surry County between 1801 and 1822, among them thirty-six families from Westfield. This caused a slump in the church activities, the monthly meetings being discontinued for a time.

This, however, did not affect their interest in schools which continued through the years. In 1872 a very fine school was operated under the auspices of the church. Among the teachers was Miss Ellen Minthorne, an aunt of President Hoover. She later married a Mr. Marshall of White Plains. A Quaker church was established there which still has a prominent place in the community.

Another meeting house and school was operated by the Quakers in Patrick County, Va. before 1900. This was known as Friend's Mission. It was later acquired by the Presbyterian Church and a high school established, there bein no state-supported high schoc in that region. This is nov Ararat, Va. with a count; school located on the old Mis sion grounds.

(The material on Westfiel is from a paper written fo the files of the Jesse Franklir Chapter of the D.A.R. by Mrs Luther Byrd in 1943.)

## STONY RIDGE ON GRASSY CREEK

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

## SHOALS

Another community in the southern part of the county which continued to grow through the years was Shoals.

A post office was first established in 1891, Bazle E. Moser being appointed the postmaster. He was followed by Robert E. Trulove, Julius P. Owen and John A. Martin.

## FISHER RIVER SETTLEMENT

Among the settlements which dotted the Hollows in 1800, one bore the name of Fisher River. It is said that this river was first named "Fishe" but was changed when an explorer by the name of Fisher confirmed the claim of the settlers that the mountain peak from which the river flowed, was the highest peak along the ridge. Another smaller river with its head waters up the slopes of the peak was named little Fisher River. Still another stream that flowed down the same slopes was called Stewart's Creek.

Up in the northwest corner of the county was a community of settlers who had come down from Virginia in the 1770s and 1780s, according to one of the early writers. The Virginia state line crossed the mountains at this point making them the oldest link with the sister state.

Lines of communications were kept open through the gaps, along old Indian trails or following the paths of the deer who seemed instinctively to find the easiest passages down the mountain slopes, as they came to drink at the streams.

The gaps were many with interesting names—there was Flour Gap, so named, a legend says, by a man carrying a sack of flour which had a small hole in it, thus leaving a trail behind him. The name became "Flower Gap," thought to be the oldest of the passages. It is now known as Piper's Gap.

Others were Blaze Spur, Fisher's Gap, Good Spur and Elk Spur, the last two being far to the east. These two later became known as Fancy Gap and Ward's Gap.

Fisher's Gap is probably now known as the Lowgap Road, which climbs the Blue Ridge, going westward toward Alleghany County and Tennessee.

The farm lands were narrow fields between the ridges and strips of bottom lands along the streams, affording little opportunity for extensive cultivation. However, timber lands were unlimited, giant chestnut and black walnut trees growing in abundance high along the ridges while down the slopes were apple trees, chinquapins and wild berries and grapes, the vines of the grapes clinging to the tree limbs.

In the wagons which carried their produce to markets down along the Yadkin where it was purchased by traders who hauled it to distant markets were potatoes, cabbage, butter and cheese, dried fruits, black walnuts, chestnuts and chinquapins, bacon and buckwheat flour, and fruits in season. A favorite winter fruit was dried apples which the housewives had prepared in season by peeling and paring the apples, then spreading them in the sun for many days, until the slices became tough and brown. These could be kept indefinitey and made into delicious pies, sweetened with mountain honey.

# Pilot Mountain, Formerly Tom's Creek,

This article comes from "Footprints In the Hollow: Surry And Her People," prepared by Mrs. W. F. Carter Jr., and the late Mr. Carter.




This old picture shows Pilot Mountain's main street as it was in the nineteenth century. The pic which had just come to town.

### TOM'S CREEK SETTLEMENT

**Later became the town of Pilot Mountain**

The mountain from which the settlement eventually took its name, stands 2,700 feet above sea level, crowned by a large monolith which is nearly a mile in circumference. This odd formation, 200 feet in height, is known as the Pinnacle. Towering alone here this magnificent creation forms the southern end to the Sauratown Mountain range.

The settlement here had its beginnings before Surry County was formed into a unit. Records in Rowan County courthouse show there were settlers here as early as 1761. In that year John Stone was listed as a taxpayer and in 1768 the name of Thomas Stone appears.

There were probably settlers here prior to this date. Coming into the Carolina province from Virginia, this beautiful mountain must have attracted many of the travelers. Surrounded by small streams, with the lowlands spread out in inviting farming areas, it would seem like the answer to their quest.

Among those who did settle here were the Stones and Gordons, families whose descendants have contributed much to Surry County. The Dennys, Venables, Capt. Goode's family and others built here a substantial community. Capt. Edward Lovell settled here before moving up to the Fisher River section.

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

The lands of John and William Stone were located on Tom's Creek, one mile west of the mountain and also along Harris Creek and Heatherly Creek which runs westerly and is located south of the town of Pilot Mountain. The Stones were descended from Gov. William Stone of Maryland who came to America in 1633 from England.

The Stone family is among the "forty-nine best families" selected by the American Historical-Genealogical Society.

The Gordon family came from the highlands of Scotland, by way of Ulster, North Ireland, to Virginia about 1750. Thomas Gordon, who was born in Ireland in 1745, came to Surry County from across the line and served with Surry volunteers in the war for independence. A daughter married William Stone.

The Gordons lived east of the mountain on the "Old Hollow Road." John Gordon, who married Barzilla Martin, operated a tavern where the stagecoaches stopped for rest and refreshment. It became a favorite place of entertainment for the surrounding countryside. Their son Calvin married Jane Elizabeth King of the prominent family of Stokes County. They made their home near the mountain on a large farm, owning many slaves. Their sixteen children were educated by Mrs. Gordon in the home where she set up a school for them and neighboring children.

A search through old records reveal other names in this area which is mentioned in 1790 as being Capt. Lovell's District.

William Stone's property is located adjacent to John Donnogan and Edward Lovell on Tom's Creek. In 1808 Thomas Stanfield owned land on Harrefaz Creek while Jonethan Haines owned land on Heatherly Creek in 1810, just south of the present town. William Gordon owned land on Pilot Creek in 1817.

It was here that the Hollingsworth family first located when Joseph came from Virginia in or about 1790. He bought the iron mine on Tom's Creek which was operated for many years by him and his son James. A sketch of this family is given in the Mount Airy section.

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

(Some of this material was found in a volume entitled "The Stones of Surry" by Charles H. Stone.)



**This picture was made in Pilot Mountain on Depot Street around the turn of the century. At the left was a livery stable, a famous horse-trading post in the early nineteenth century. Next is a commercial building. Then is the Chris Needham house and the old First Baptist Church of Pilot. Finally is the Redman home. Fire destroyed the three lower buildings around 1918. The man on the horse is Ellis Gordon of Pilot Mountain, an 82-year-old retired businessman and farmer. Next are Edgar Venable, deceased, and Mose Hatcher, deceased. The Big Store is now located on the old livery stable site on Depot Street and the Blalock Professional Building is located on the next site on the corner. The tobacco hogsheads (barrels) were placed for the farmers to pick up and take home to ship their tobacco by train to Winston-Salem.**

# *Pilot Knob Has Served As Guidepost, Landmark Many Years*

Perhaps there is no physical landmark in Surry County, with the possible exception of the Granite Quarry, which is so easily identified with Surry County as it she peculiar rock formation jutting out of the flatlands of Surry known as Pilot Mountain.

Now that the Pilot Knob area has become a state park, in fact, Surry's only state park, its heritage and mystery becomes ever more significant.

Nestled at the bottom of this knob are two communities, both of which bear names relating to this unusal geological structure, Pilot Mountain and Pinnacle. Both communities share its mystery and history.

During this time of Surry's bicentennial, the information and thoughts provided in an old article written by Thurmon D. Martin shed some interesting light on Pilot's heritage.

Pilot has been a landmark in this area long before any white men set foot here, guiding Indians through an uncharted wilderness.

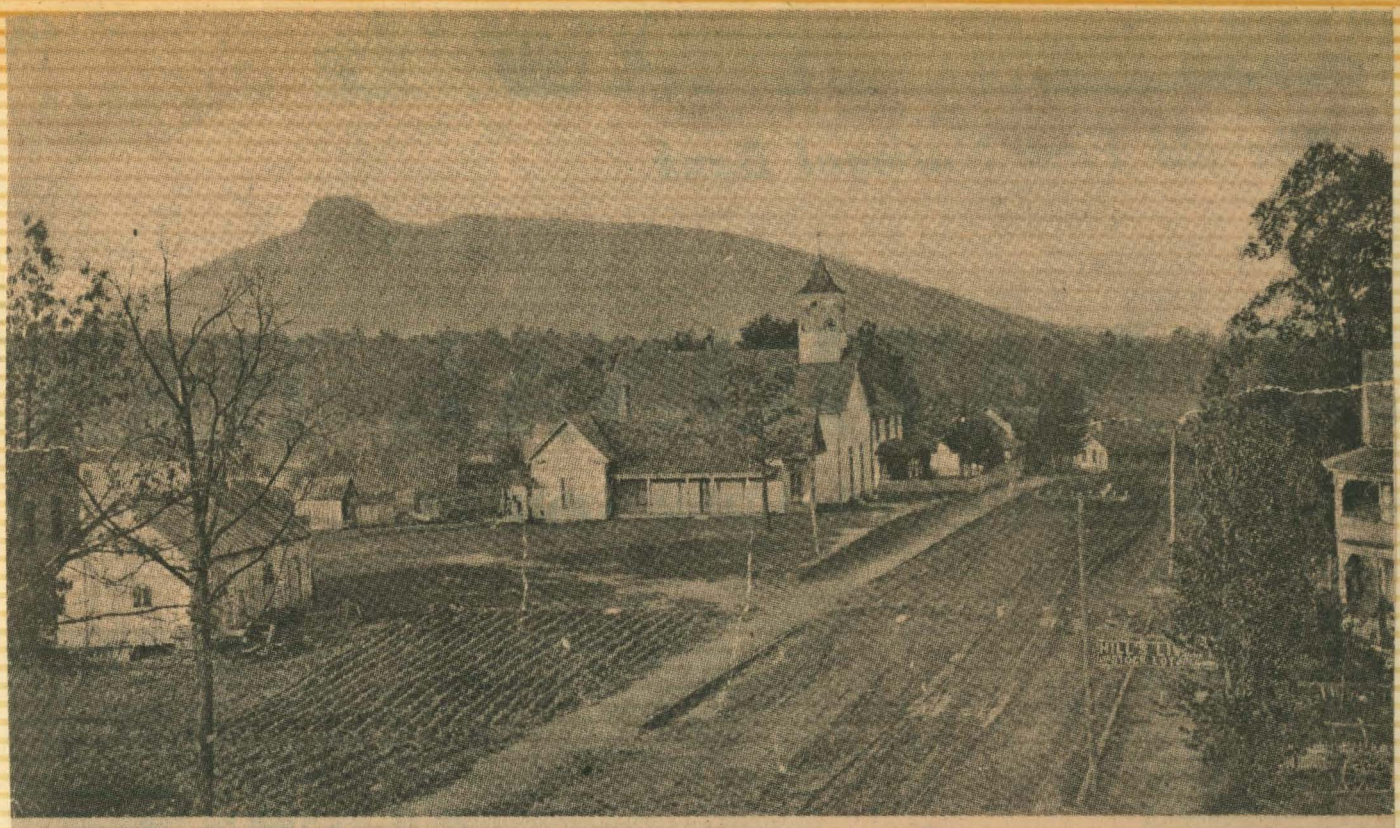
According to Martin, "The Pilot is the only mountain of its kind in the world, with the exception of one small mountain in South America near the Bridge of San Luis Rey, which can be reached only by traveling several miles in a suspended car, far above the valley."

The legends surrounding the pinnacle suggest that the mountain's peak served as a guidepost for tribes of Indians traveling between Saura villages and those near Martinsville, Va.

Legend also suggests that patriots during the Revolutionary War days made use of the peak in their "bushwacking warfare" against the tories.

The inclusion of Pilot Mountain as one of the state parks will enable many more visitors to enjoy the excitement of climbing the pinnacle and the magnificent view from the top. The pinnacle indeed stands among the most notable geological features anywhere in this area.

As the citizens of the communities below will attest, the pinnacle also stands for something more . . . for constancy, solidarity in a changing world, an object of beauty and wonderment held as such through many centuries.



DEPOT STREET, PILOT MOUNTAIN, N. C.



MAIN STREET, PILOT MOUNTAIN, N. C. 1905

# Mount Airy-From The Wilds Of The Hollows

This article comes from "Footprints In the Hollow: Surry And Her People," prepared by Mrs. W. F. Carter Jr., and the late Mr. Carter.

### THE HOLLOW (MOUNT AIRY)

As has been noted, the vast region known as The Hollows in Surry County had become divided into small settlements so that by 1800 this name had come to be associated with the part lying between Stewart's Creek and the Ararat River.

This section, which was to become the seat of the largest town in the county, got off to a rather slow start. The settlers who had deeds recorded as early as 1756-60 had not formed themselves into a community until much later.

The first deed recorded in the Surry County Courthouse in 1771 was made by William Preece to William Hale and was to a tract of land lying on both sides of Renfrow's Creek, the east fork of the Tarat River. It also appears that Loving's Creek was the west fork of the river and that the Tarat or Ararat River began where the two joined.

Another supposition is that Renfrow Creek was one of the small tributaries of the Ararat River whose name has disappeared from old records, the Ararat having always been as it is now. East of the Ararat was Faulkner Creek.

The roads which came up into the county had increased and as they went north into Virginia and west toward Tennessee they looked for the shallow crossings in the Yadkin River.

There was a ford at Siloam, another at Jonesville and one at Rockford, but there was another road which would become the favored one eliminating the Yadkin crossings. This one came up from Guilford County, cutting across Stokes, it wound its way up between the Sauratown Mountain range and Pilot Mountain in The Hollows, across the Ararat River about where the old Renfro village had been and continued northwest to where Good Spur (Fancy Gap) climbed the Blue Ridge. It was to go on through Virginia and West Virginia, cutting out a road over which the great stream of motor vehicles of the twentieth century would travel on the "shortest route between the Great Lakes and Florida."

And it was along this road the stage-coach would come, making it a two, sometimes three, day's journey from Salem to The Hollow.

This being a natural stopover it became a popular place for traders who in time became shop and mill owners.

The small, swift - moving streams made ideal locations for mills and tanneries. And it was on this road that a man named Jonathan Unthank would build a home and call it "Mount Airy."



**A Main Street scene of yesteryear featured Floyd Allen (in buggy), Dr. Constantine Banner (center) and Will Bunker.**




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

# *Article Notes Mount Airy Citizens Of 1872*

This article comes from "Footprints In the Hollow: Surry And Her People," prepared by Mrs. W. F. Carter Jr., and the late Mr. Carter.

**LIFE IN MOUNT AIRY—1872**
**By Thomas Lowery Sr.**

In 1927 Mr. Thomas Lowery Sr., aged 74, a former newspaper owner and publisher, prepared the following article from memory and gave it to "The Star," a local newspaper.

Merchants — R. S. Gilmer and Son, Mrs. E. L. Nail, T. M. Brower, J. W. Shepherd, Gilmer and Moore, J. M. Brower and Brother, J. W. Davis, Galloway and Hines.

Hotels—Blue Ridge Hotel by S. H. Taylor, Banner House by Mrs. Susan Banner.

Doctors — Dr. Joseph Hollingsworth, Dr. Wm. R. Hollingsworth and Dr. C. L. Banner.

Dentists—Dr. T. J. Mitchell and Dr. M. R. Banner.

Lawyers—J. C. Gilmer and J. F. Graves.

Ministers—Rev. J. F. Heitman, Rev. William Rawley, Rev. M. L. Wood.

Postmaster—J. W. Davis.

Machine Shop — Thomas Schaub and Son.

Cabinet Makers — John M. Cook, M. Allred and Son.

Tailor Shops—W. R. Bray, Tip Conley and Miss Mary Vernon.

Photograph Gallery — J. H. Blackmore.

Cotton Mills—J. W. Brower, J. F. and W. A. Moore (other mills were outside the town)

Grist Mills—J. M. Brower and J. F. and W. A. Moore.

Shoe Factory—J. M. Brower and Brother.

Surveyors — J. L. Worth, Anderson Dunnegan.

Smith Shops—R. D. Harris and Bro., William Griffith, Thomas Lowery.

Shoe Makers—Warren Bolt, J. M. Durham, V. Montgomery.

Harness Makers — James F. Harrison.

Tin Shop—Gus Reich.

Newspaper — Surry Visitor by S. Forkner.

Masonic Lodges — Granite Lodge No. 322, Ashland Lodge No. 211.

Male Academy by the Rev. Heitman; Female School by Misses Betty Rawley and Mattie Rankin.

Sheriff—Jackson Williams.

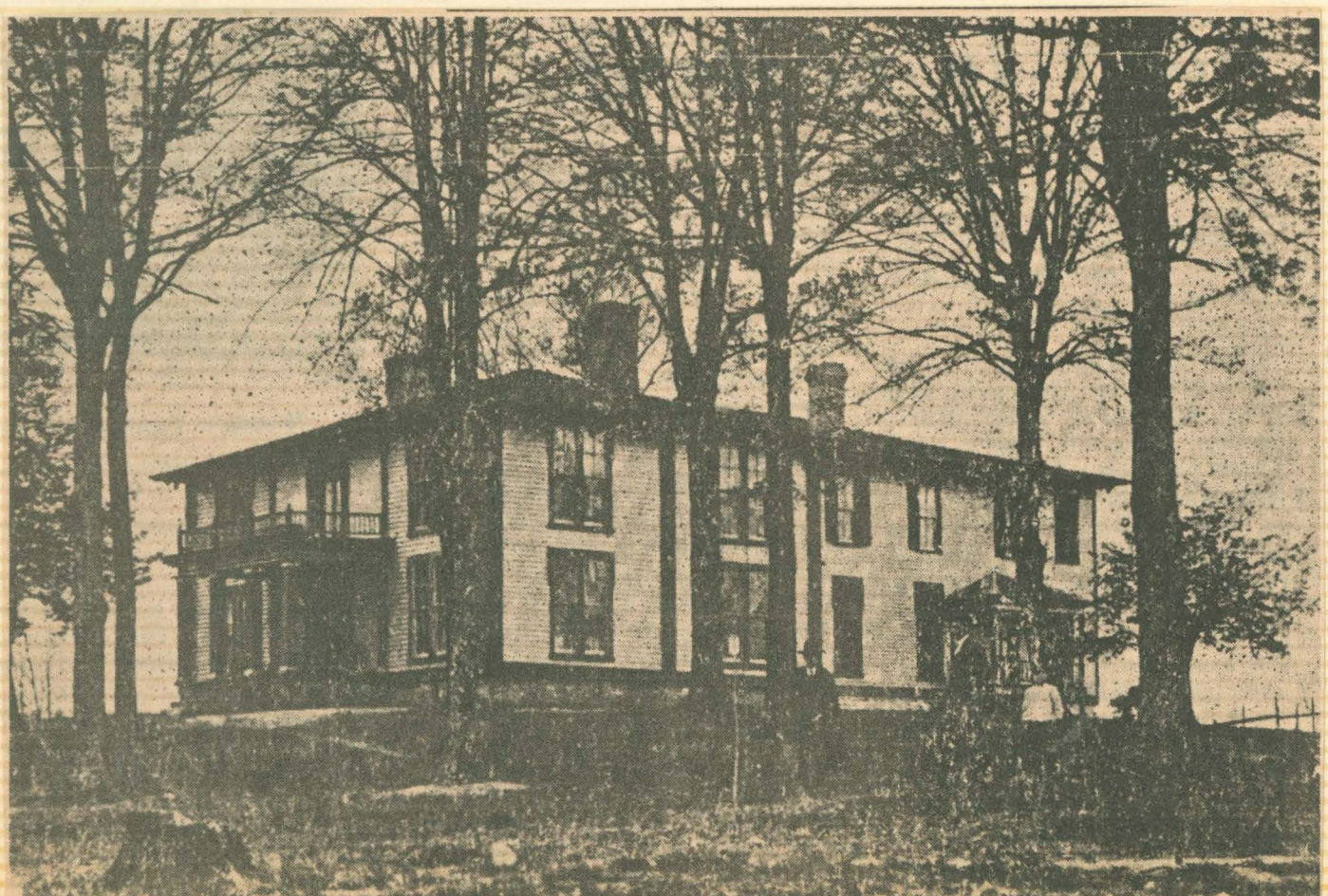
Clerk of Court—A. H. Freeman.

Register of Deeds — C. C. Riggs.

Chairman of County Commissioners—Murlin Sparger.



. . . Blue Ridge Hotel under construction on North Main Street . . .



The Brown House, once a favorite place for summer residents of the Granite City, was located on the high knoll at North Main and Taylor Street.



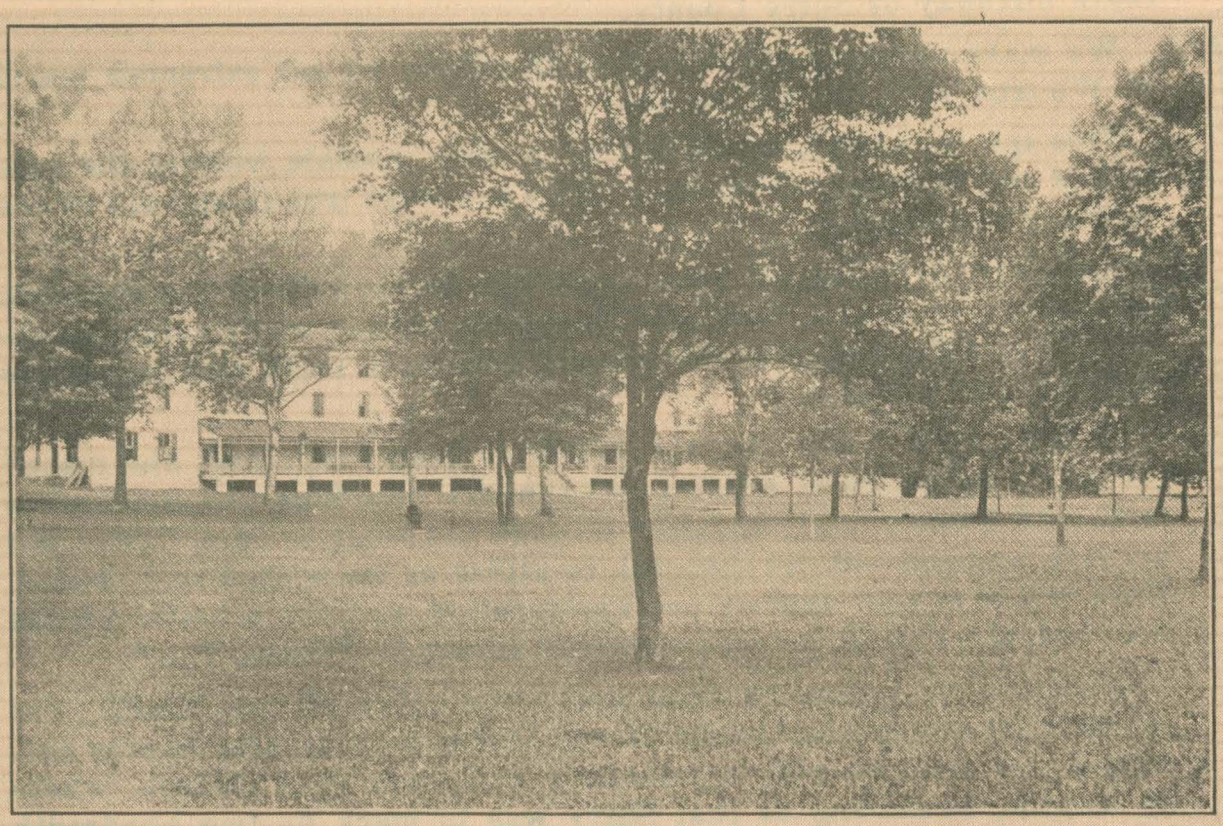
A stately reminder of the past is old Martin Memorial Hospital, an institution which touched on the lives of the large majority of Granite Citians and residents of Northwest North Carolina and Southwest Virginia. The well-known hospital was destroyed by fire one tragic night in May, 1953.



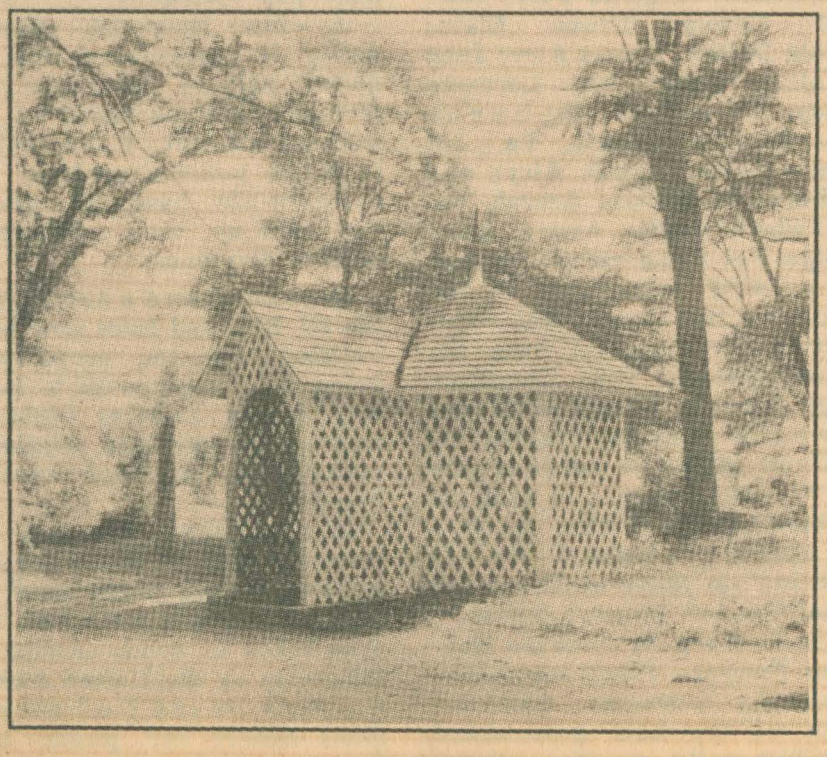
North Carolina Granite Quarry

# Pamplet Recalls

# Glorious White Sulphur



THE LAWN, A GREENSWARD SHADED BY STATELY TREES.



SPRING HOUSE.

# *White Sulphur Springs' Inducements Glowingly Spelled Out In Brochure*

By R. J. BERRIER

A nostalgic era of easytime summer living at a local resort is recalled in a well-preserved illustrated pamphlet entitled "White Sulphur Springs, Mount Airy, N. C."

Recalling the time, many decades ago, when Mount Airy was a well-known resort area, the brochure describes White Sulphur Springs as only "20 minutes joy ride from the train."

The foreword asks the question, "How would you like to spend your vacation this summer?" and then proceeds to set forth the inducements of resort life at White Sulphur Springs here.

"Would you, who are wearied with months of grinding work, like to lie lolling in lazy hammocks, on verandas wide and cool, soothed by the soft airs that blow from the mountains, the while you gaze at the greenery of field and forest?" the foreword inquires.

"Or would you lie beneath the spreading shade of whispering trees upon the greensward of a velvet lawn, while the murmur of rippling waters prattles to you of the summer?" it continues.

"Or seek a livelier enjoyment in tennis, or croquet, set amid charming surroundings, with your blood a-tingle alike with the excitement of the sport and the life-giving breezes of the hills?" the unknown author enthuses.

If all that were not inducement enough, the foreword continues by asking "Would you float placidly upon the bosom of a quiet river . . . Or wander through shady glens, ten thousand miles away from Dull Care . . . Or perhaps, stride sturdily along the winding country trails or climb the rugged hills for matchless views of far-off peaks; or, best of all, canter, on your spirited steed along the changing road, with the wind whistling merrily in your ears; through sunshine and shadow, through mountain and meadow?"

Enticingly, the flow of words continued with ". . . Or would you choose an evening of dancing and chase the flying hours upon the polished floor of an outdoor pavilion, beneath the soft lights, to the strains of music, seductively sweet; or stroll between the dances, to benches scattered cosily over the greensward — and sit where there is just light enough for two?"

". . . And lastly, would you, while thus enjoying these delights, care to store up within you each day, nay, each moment, a reserve of health and life, breathed in from the matchless mountain air, sipped in with the waters from the fountains that nature has charged with her best gift of vitalizing and curative elements. To live, amid this place of comfort and content, where the sick are made well, the weak strong."

This was merely in the prologue.

Further along in the booklet, we find that, "guests are "whirled out to the Springs" from Mount Airy "over a delightful and picturesque road with easy grades in twenty minutes by automobile service of the resort, which connects with all trains."

The brochure declared, "While Nature seems to have lavished every gift in her treasure-house upon this country, she seems to have been peculiarly pleased in endowing it with a special wealth of waters ideal for the health of man. While the advantage of climate alone render the locality a great sanitarium, the health-giving and curative properties of the water of the White Sulphur Springs place this particular resort above any on this side of the Atlantic and the equal of any of the great European resorts in restoring health to the invalid . . .

". . . For those debilated by over-work or wasted by long illness, the combination of the life-giving waters of the White Sulphur Spring with the ideal climate, added to the comfortable surroundings and the many amusements and pleasures which serve to distract the mind of the invalid from his ailments, make it a spot whose advantages it would be hard to exaggerate."

White Sulphur Springs Hotel was described as a "spacious, handsome and comfortable edifice, capable of easily accommodating two hundred and fifty guests, with offices, dining rooms and other accessories to a first-class hostelry. It is modern in every respect, being fully equipped throughout with electric lights, bath-rooms and hot and cold water at all times."

"The table," the booklet said, "is bountifully supplied with everything the seasonable market affords, well cooked and served in appetizing and palatable manner. The proximity to Mount Airy places everything at the beck of the guest and he is not called upon to put up with rude and unpalatable fare under pretense that he must enjoy 'roughing it.'

"The old fashioned Southern custom of dinner at midday is adhered to. During every meal an orchestra discourses music for the entertainment of the guests."

The lawn in front of the hotel, stretching for 600 feet to the banks of the Ararat River and for 300 feet on either side, was termed "a spacious playground of about eight acres, covered with velvet greensward, shaded by stately trees, among which swing gaudy-hued hammocks, and dotted here and there with tennis courts and croquet grounds."

The sulphur spring, which gave its name to the resort, was situated within a latticed pavilion at the south end of the lawn.

The brochure warned, "Oh, yes, you will make a wry face when you attempt the first glass; that odor of sulphur is strange to you. But in a few days you will be gulping it down by the quart and asking for more, for the taste grows on one and the capacity of the human stomach for absorbing it seems to be unlimited . . ."

At the foot of the lawn, overlooking the river, was the dancing pavilion, "with its two thousand square feet of polished floor, easily accommodating half a hundred dancing couples. Every night—and oftentimes during the day—assemble here the young people of the Springs and take their fill of delight in that oldest and most popular of amusements.

"A fine orchestra furnishes the music and overhead a cluster of electric globes sheds its soft lustre over the merry scene, while, in the interludes there rises the gentle murmur of the river tumbling over its baby falls just below the pavilion."

The Ararat River, which the pamphlet said was located beyond the foot of the lawn, was described as "a clear-watered mountain stream about 75 feet wide, with quiet reaches affording ample opportunity for boating and bathing."

Describing the country around the resort area, the booklet said it "is marked by every variety of beautiful landscape. Roads and paths invite the visitor for quiet strolls and the management provides at a moderate cost, excellent saddle horses or conveyances for those who wish to ride or drive.

"Picnic parties are a frequent form of a day's enjoyment, the management making all necessary arrangements. Venomous reptiles and wild animals are uncommon.

"Should one desire an excursion into the wilder regions of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the trip to Fancy Gap and Devil's Den, one of the grandest pieces of scenery in the entire range of the mountains, can be made with pleasure and comfort in the space of a day."



*Kiwanis Club at White Sulphur in 1920's*

# Mount Airy Area Was Famous As Resort

This article comes from "Footprints In the Hollow: Surry And Her People," prepared by Mrs. W. F. Carter Jr., and the late Mr. Carter.

### MOUNT AIRY— A SUMMER RESORT

Before Mount Airy had gained any importance as a commercial center it had become a favorite summer resort for people in the lower Piedmont who were attracted by the cool weather and beautiful scenery.

They also came to drink the water from the mineral spring, known in the early days as "Gunpowder Spring." This spring, which was located four miles north of the village beside the Ararat River, derived its name from the yellowish green deposits of sulphur which covered the rocks over which it flowed.

The medicinal qualities of this water was demonstrated in the treatment of kidney and bladder ailments. Many people, claiming wonderful results, were regular patrons year after year.

Others came for the gay social life they enjoyed here among the people who opened their homes as boarding houses to supplement the hotel facilities. Horse-racing was quite popular among the sportsmen.

The name of the spring was changed to "White Sulphur Springs" when a hotel was erected among the trees and a dance pavilion built beside the river near the spring.

For more than half a century this was one of the most popular summer resorts in the state, losing its patrons at last to the lure of automobile travel along the newly paved roads of the twentieth century, and the medical discoveries which replaced the primitive remedies of the early settler.

Mineral springs were numerous over the state, each with its own special properties for healing. Down in the Sauratown Mountains were three which rivaled our White Sulphur in popularity, Piedmont, Vade Mecum and Moore's Springs. Each had its summer hotel with cottages and pavilions.

Many Mount Airy residents patronized the Virginia hotels for relaxation, going to Mitchell's at the top of Fancy Gap, Patrick Springs near Stuart, Shatley and Healing Springs at Crumpler, Va.

Going to Mitchell's in a hack drawn by two horses and stopping at the "Double Branch" for a picnic lunch was an adventure in itself. The party usually reached the top of the mountain in time for supper at the hotel.

Even though this was the only graded road up the mountain there were many places where vehicles could not pass each other. When two met in such a spot it was the custom for the lighter vehicle to be unhitched from its team and held over the edge of the road while the other passed. The driver then stopped and helped get the other traveler on his way. Life was lived quite leisurely in those long past days.

# Old Kapps Mill Open House Set Sunday, April 18

## *Mrs. Nell Scott Invites Public To Visit 144-Year-Old Landmark*

Mrs. Nell Scott, the owner of the 144-year-old Kapps Mill home in Dobson, announced this week that she would hold open house Sunday, April 18, in conjunction with Surry County's bicentennial.

Kapps Mill, located on Mitchell River approximately seven miles west of Dobson off the Zepher Road, is surrounded by moutains in the river valley. It was built in 1827.

Once a big resort area for Surry County, used for camping and picnicking, the homesite is a Surry landmark.

The old, two-story colonial home has eight spacious rooms with the orignial four fireplaces.

Also located at the site is the old mill, which though weather-beaten is still sound in construction with the machinery required to operate the mill intact. The mill is three stories and was the only one in that section serving Surry County citizens.

Just above the mill is an old post office which still stands. From 1885 to 1890 it was the only post office providing mail service from Galax to North Wilkesboro. Mail was delivered twice a week by foot, with service extending into Jonesville and Wilkes County. It was the only post office in the district.

The home itself is surrounded by three slave houses, a buggy shop, stables to accommodate the livestock and an old canning house.

A dam by the mill was first constructed in 1827 and was rebuilt after the 1930 floods, being restored by Irvy Wallace.

The good fishing area around Mitchell River and ample wildlife made this section Surry County quite popular. It developed into a important recreation area in the county.

The first owner of the homesite was John Kapps. It was inherited by Charles Wallace from his grandfather. The home stayed in the Kapps' family 90 years.

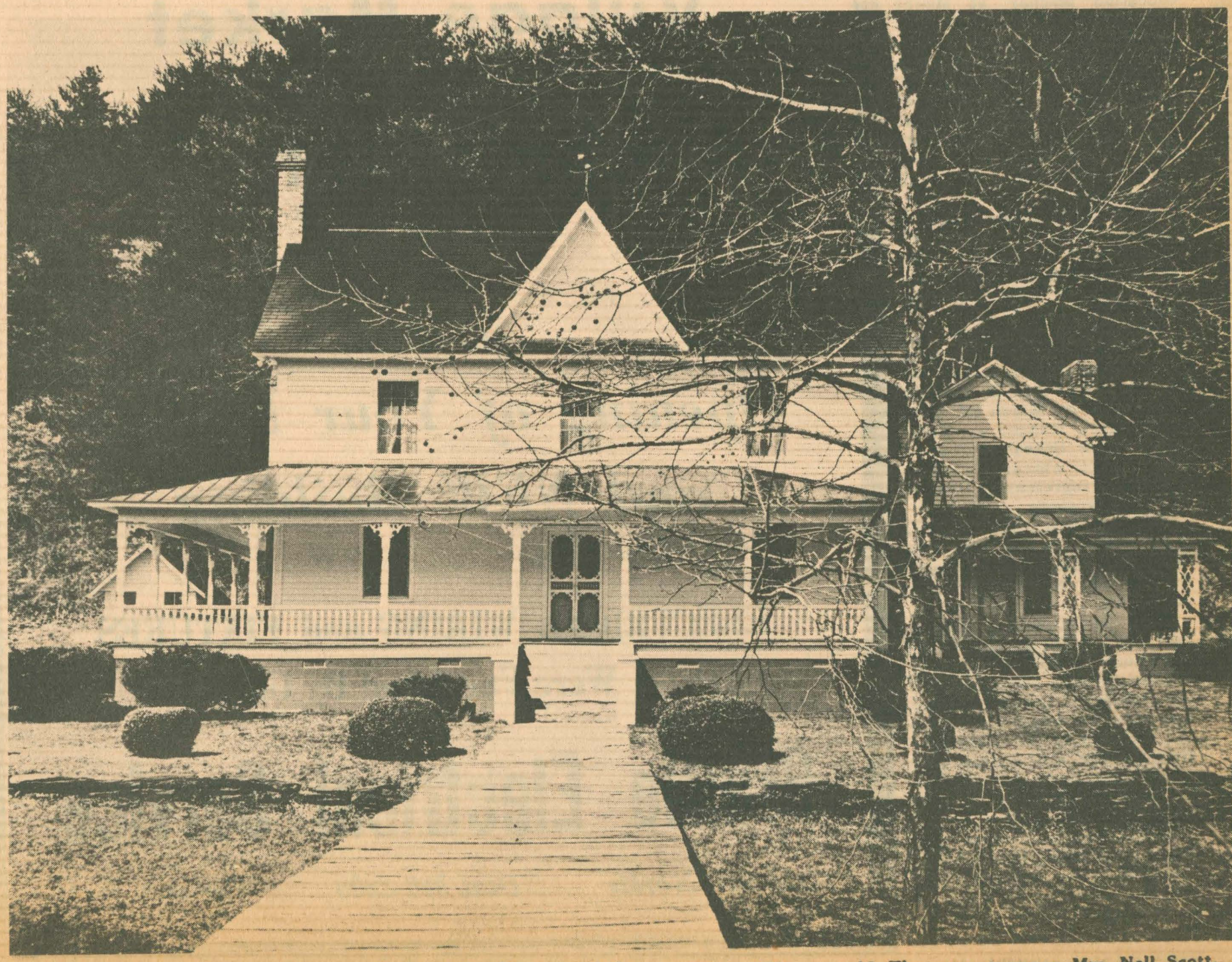
The next known owners were Mr. and Mrs. John Hewitt, who purchased the site from Wallace. Dr. Graham Weathers' was the next owner, who sold the site to Mrs. Scott.

Inside the 144-year-old home, the visitor will see both traditional antiques and modern furnishings. The water system is furnished by gravity from a reservoir on top of the mountain.

The second-story floor is made of beautiful forest pine.

When entering the home, one immediately sees an antique hall tree with marble in the foyer. Old-fashioned bannisters lead to the second story.

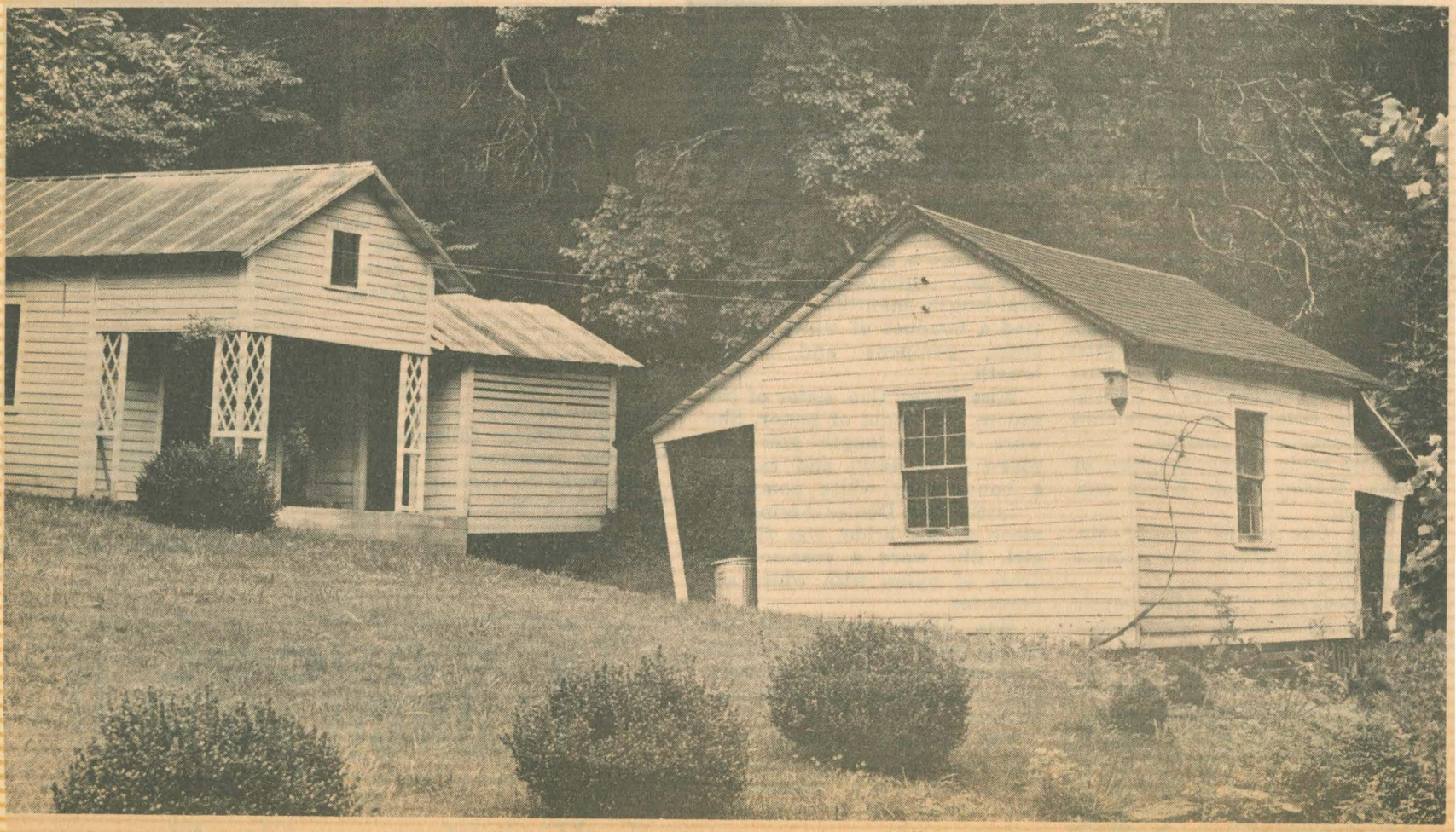
Mrs. Scott noted that she had already made several changes in the homesite and someday may develop the area into a sportsmen's center to provide camping, fishing, hroseback riding and other recreational facilities for Surry citizens.



**The Old Kapps Mill homeplace, a landmark in this part of the country, is 145 years old. The present owner, Mrs. Nell Scott, will hold open house Sunday, April 18. (See page 6).** (TIMES Photo)



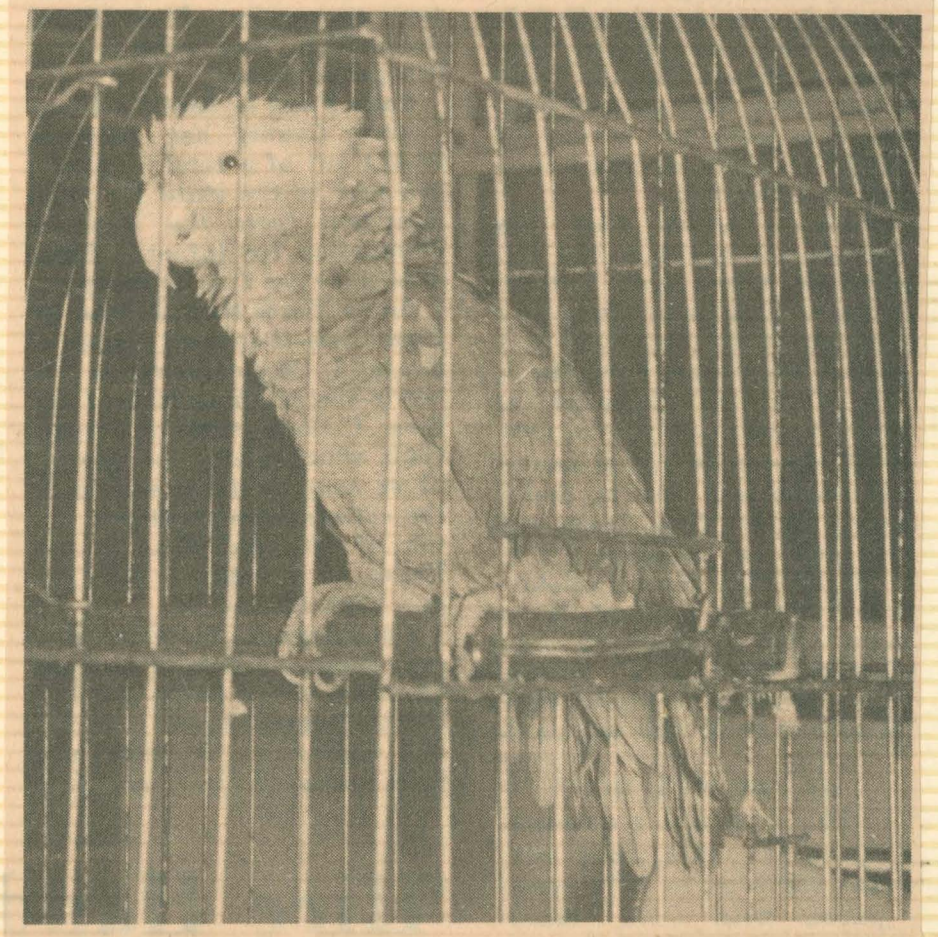
The Old Kapps Mill, one of the first in the area to provide service to Surry Citizens



Old slave houses which adjoin Kapps Mill.



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



Polly, known by all who frequented the Kenlin Hotel in Dobson, died here last week. For the past six years, she had been making her home with Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Harris, 218 Cherry Street.

# Polly, Famed Link With Kenlin, Dies

Pollv is dead at something over 60 years of age.

For the unitiated Polly was a parrot, but a special one. She provided one of the final, nostalgic links with the famed Kenlin Hotel in Dobson.

Polly died Wednesday, September 25, at her home here. She had been making her home with Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Harris, 218 Cherry Street, for six years.

Burial was in the Harkrader family plot in Dobson Cemetery. A suitable tombstone will be erected later.

Polly was as much a permanent fixture in the Harris home as she had been in the well-known Kenlin Hotel in Dobson.

She would sit in her cage on the back porch and call out to a neighbor.

Playfully, she would chase Mrs. Harris.

Contentedly, she would perch on the shoulder or sit in the lap of close family friends.

For many decades, Polly—she was called Polly, and called herself by that name, but her name was really Peggy—literally ruled the roost at the Kenlin Hotel.

For decades, she was a favorite with the numerous diners at the Kenlin.

The parrot became a part of the Kenlin when she was bought as a surprise gift for Mrs. S. K. Harkrader, operator of the Kenlin for more than 66 years before her death in 1950.

As the daughter, Mrs. Maggie Lewellyn, who operated the Kenlin following her mother's death, told a reporter some years ago, "Mother had owned a parrot for years and then it died. My sister and I decided to get her another one."

And they did, ordering Polly (or Peggy) from a Chicago bird shop.

In her decades at the Kenlin she became a favorite with the judges and jurors who availed themselves of the Kenlin's hospitality, as well as traveling salesmen and townsfolk who would drop into the hotel for Mrs. Lewellyn's country-style meals.

Polly's fare was just as tasty as the hotel guests, too.

For breakfast, she received eggs. For lunch, it was meats and vegetables. And then she has a light supper.

In between meals, Polly gobbled up sunflower seeds—far more a favorite than the crackers all such Pollys are supposed to crave.

# Surry Clothed Own Soldiers In Civil War

### THE HOME FRONT

It is said that North Carolina was the only Southern state which under a special agreement with the Confederate government, clothed its own soldiers.

The state bought the output of 39 cotton and 9 woolen mills in the state, sent agents into other states to purchase wool, leather and other materials, and set up a factory in Raleigh to make uniforms and overcoats.

By the end of 1862 the state was producing enough to supply a large quantity to the army and to send to other states. The mills of Surry were, no doubt, a part of this joint effort.

Imports of coffee, tea, sugar and salt were cut off, herbs and roots were again being sought for medicine as in the colonial days, and old letters were reused to send messages to the soldiers. Wall paper was often torn apart from the walls to be used for writing paper. Rugs were taken from the floors and the quilts from the beds to be sent to the camps to serve as blankets.

The inventive abilities of the people were stimulated in many ways. From an old newspaper comes this information — As early as 1862 paper was made from raw cotton in North Carolina. As there was no Red Cross to furnish bandages to the wounded, the women donated every scrap of cloth they could spare for that purpose so there were no rags left for making paper.

Faced with this problem the paper mills at Salem and at Wake Forest resorted to cotton, much of which had been damaged by fire. School books printed at that time used this cotton paper and many copies of them are in libraries in the South.

And so the home front tried to carry on as normally as possible while their fighting men were making history with the Armies of Northern Virginia.

The county was free of hostile invasion until 1865 when it was entered by a union force under Major General George Stoneman.

After a successful campaign through Georgia and South Carolina, General Sherman entered North Carolina in the South-east where he was met by General Joseph E. Johnston whose forces he defeated at Bentonville on March 21st, 1865. Stoneman came into the state from Tennessee with the idea of joining forces with Sherman after he had laid waste the western counties.

Stoneman set out from Knoxville, advancing through Greenville, Morristown, and Jonesboro, Tenn. entering North Carolina near Boone through the Watauga Pass. Here they met with their first resistance from home guards. With their much larger force they killed and captured the guards, taking with them all horses and food supplies to be found along the way.

Crossing Stone Mountain they lost a caison and ambulance over one of the precipices. From here the Union forces seem to have been divided with orders to reassemble in the Piedmont section. One section went north into Virginia, another south-west to attack Asheville and the main division moved toward Wilkesboro, then to Jonesville and into Surry.

In a report made by Officer Gillen who was in charge of the First Division, are these facts — "April 1 marched to Jonesville, April 2nd crossed the Yadkin at Jonesville and marched to Mount Airy by way of Dobson: arrived at Mount Airy about 9 p.m.; learning that a train of wagons had left that place at 3 p.m. going in the direction of Hillsville, Va., Coloned Palmer was directed to send a detachment in pursuit with orders to follow until he captured the train."

The command marched from Mount Airy at daylight on the morning of the 3rd, arrived at Hillsville, Va. where the failure of the party sent in pursuit of the rebel wagons was learned.

Another party was sent with orders to capture the wagons at all hazards. In a few hours the officer in charge of the party reported he had possession of seventeen wagons and one forge.

At Hillsville it seems that the troops were again divided; one part attacked Wytheville and the second force made a raid in the vicinity of Lynchburg and the third party moved through Stuart toward Martinsville. At this place they reassembled and came through Danbury, N. C., and Germantown on the way to Salem.

For some time Salem was used as a base of operations to send out raiding parties to cut the railroads to the north and south of Greensboro. From local sources comes a report of a large wagon train of supplies being captured and destroyed near Dalton in Stokes County.

The wagons were placed in a heap and burned, the place being marked for many years by the pile of wagon tires. The supplies were being sent to the Army of Virginia.

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

Surry County was fortunate in that the enemy spent only one night in its borders, as it hurried on to Hillsville, Va.

A week later General Lee surrendered to General Grant, April 9 at Appomattox, but General Sherman continued the war in Carolina until April 26, 1865. On that date General Joseph E. Johnston surrendered his forces and the war ended.

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

As it was after the Revolutionary War when young men sought the new lands beyond the Appalachian Mountains, now they, the young soldiers, migrated further west going beyond the Mississippi River; and many from Surry joined these wagon trains.



**DO YOU REMEMBER?** John Roosevelt (left), son of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, confers with Mayor W. Frank Carter Jr. (center) and W. S. Wolfe, prominent Mount Airy merchant, during a merchants convention in Washington, D. C.

This book arranged by Ola Marion Atkinson
and Joyce Atkinson Feezor

March, 1973

# 1771- SURRY COUNTY

# BICENTENNIAL- 1971

# Centrally Located Dobson

# Picked As Site Of Courthouse

This article comes from "Footprints In the Hollow: Surry And Her People," prepared by Mrs. W. F. Carter Jr., and the late Mr. Carter.

**DOBSON—1850**

When Surry County was divided the last time, in 1850, the site selected for the county seat was as near the center as possible, a sparsely populated section on a plateau from which the Blue Ridge Mountain range was clearly visible. It was named Dobson in honor of a family who had been prominent in Rockford and Surry since pre-Revolutionary days. The men had followed the legal profession, being lawyers of exceptional ability.

The first courthouse was a rambling structure of brick, facing north and south, the courtroom being upstairs with offices on the first floor, set in a beautiful grove of trees, with the lawn wide enough to be used as an assembly ground, This was the ideal setting for many public rallies and celebrations.

As the years passed the county grew and then outgrew its official building. The judges who held the sessions of court demanded a new and larger building, so in 1916 the county commissioners decided a new courthouse should be built.

This brought on a controversy between advocates of a new location at Mount Airy, the largest town in the county, and Dobson. People in the southwestern part of the county loudly objected to traveling such a distance to court. The proposition was then made to divide the county again with Elkin as one county seat and Mount Airy the other.

The commissioners quickly squelched this movement by giving a contract to a firm in Greensboro to build a new courthouse on the same location.

Then followed a petition asking that the old building be allowed to remain for the town's use and the new one built on one of the many available lots near by.

When the commissioners refused they were met with a restraining order which would prevent them from carrying out their plans.

After some delay the attorney for the county succeeded in getting this order dissolved and the work of demolishing the sixty-five year old building began.

The handsome old trees had to go too, making way for a much larger building and the streets which were to surround it on all sides.

It was originally planned to have the jail and the jailer's home on the top floor but this plan failed when the contractor ran into financial difficulties. The fateful year of 1917 had arrived, building materials were not only scarce but much higher in price, forcing the contractors to give up the work which was finished by the bondsmen. The brick used was made of Dobson clay, fired in a nearby kiln.

When the building was finally completed old differences had for the most part disappeared, the people joining together with enthusiasm to celebrate the formal opening of their new courthouse with Judge Webb presiding. The first court was held by Judge Shaw.

Dobson was often the scene of political battles. For many years the county was largely Republican and the towns Democratic with the county seat right in the middle.

This division of the people showed up in many ways, one which was rather amusing concerned the hotels in Dobson. There were two of these, one run by a Democratic family, the other by a Republican. When court convened the attending lawyers and Judges were accustomed to spend the entire week or weeks in Dobson, travel conditions being such as to make it almost impossible to do otherwise.

It was then party lines were drawn as the lawyers and officials carried out their bags in to the inn of their political affiliation.

Quite often the Judge would ignore such practice and select the one of his own liking, to the envy of his colleagues.

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

## EAST OF THE FOOTHILLS—HAYSTACK

Down in the valleys where the land spread out into rolling farm lands lived the Franklins, the Teliaferros, the Oglesbys and others of pre-Revolutionary days. At the turn of the century Jesse Franklin was serving in the U. S. Senate while his younger brother, Meshack, was in the House of Representatives. In 1812 and 1813 Charles Taliaferro was a member of the House of Commons and Micajah Oglesby served in the House at intervals from 1794 to 1808.

Here on the doorstep of the Blue Ridge Mountains could be had news of the world outside as these men journeyed to and from the capitols in which they served as representatives of their people. And here came the people of Surry to listen and learn, to join in the festivities that celebrated the "goings and comings" of the elected ones.

Pamphlets, news sheets, papers and books were available for the enlightenment of these neighbors.

The Jesse Franklin home must have been a favorite gathering place for young people too, with a family of eight children. There were the sons — James Macon, Hardin Perkins and Bernard; the daughters, Sarah Panill, Ann, who was called Nancy, Mary Cleveland, Elizabeth and Matilda.

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

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

On Stewart's Creek lived Capt. John Hughes, who served in the Revolutionary War. He owned and operated an iron forge on the river. He was married to Ann Moore, daughter of Matthew Moore.

West of these lands, on the Mitchell River, lived Barnard Franklin with a farm of 1,040 acres in the year 1800. His son Shadrack also lived there, having married his cousin, Judith Taliaferro, daughter of Dr. John Taliaferro who was with the Surry volunteers at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse.

Dr. Taliaferro lived on Little Fisher River, his land joining that of one of the Lovill family who owned early land grants in Surry. The families were closely related through a marriage of Judith Taliaferro Franklin's daughter and a Lovell son.

Edward Lovell, who lived near Pilot Mountain about the time of the Revolutionary War, was honored in the 1790 census by having the district named the Capt. Lovell District. Through the years since that time, the descendents of this family have been a vital factor in the growth of many departments of Surry County life.

Edward Lovell served in the House of Commons from Surry in 1828 and the name has appeared on the military records of the county up to and through World War II and the Korean War in which a Lovill son made the supreme sacrifice.

John Hanna, of an ancient Scottish family, came to Surry County before the Revolutionary War and acquired a tract of land on upper Stewart's Creek which still bears his name, though the family has long been gone. The reason for the survival of the name lies in a small family burying plot on the farm.

It contains a tombstone bearing a strange insignia which has aroused the curiosity of all who have examined it. The stone has a medallion in the form of a multi-pointed star with an insignia resembling a Maltese Cross in the center. The words on the stone read:

> In Memory of John Hanna
> who departed this life
> October 29 A.D. 1793
> Aged 67 years

His will, on file at Dobson Courthouse, is rather unusual. In it he wills the unborn children of a slave to his daughters, naming them in turn, the first, second and third, and the name of each daughter as she is to inherit. The mother of these infants he willed to his wife, thus assuring that the children would remain in the family.

Six sons are named in the will — Robert, the eldest was then living in Guilford County and serving in the House of Commons—1790-95 and 1807-1812. Two other sons are willed his lands in Cumberland County, Tenn., probably given to him by his government for his war services. His other sons are remembered in the will, the home property being left to his wife, The last clause reads "I give unto my three daughters, each of them, a store gown." It was then signed by John Hanna and affixed with his seal.

It was up in this district that Bartholomew Hodges and his wife came in 1805 with one son, Drewery. They selected a homesite on the Big Fisher River, becoming the founders of a family whose lines extend down to the present, including a Governor of North Carolina, Luther H. Hodges. There have been ministers, farmers, business men and tobacco warehousemen among the Surry County descendants.

## ELKIN

Across the Yadkin River opposite the thriving village of Jonesville was to emerge the second largest town in Surry County. Founded on a plantation owned by Richard Gwyn and named "Cedar Point," it became Elkin, taking its name from the creek which flowed down from the hills to join the river that formed its southern border. A short distance to the west is the Wilkes County line.

Along this border families had been living since the first settlers came into The Hollow. Col. Benjamin Cleaveland's home was here on a bend of the Yadkin River. The Gwyns, Hickersons and Chathams were residents of Wilkes County, The Gwyn family had been in America since 1642, according to a grant made by Sir William Berkeley to "Hugh Gwyn, gent" for extensive lands on the James River.

In the year 1775 one of Hugh's descendents, Richard Gwyn, came to the Yadkin Valley in Surry Co., the part which would become Wilkes Co. He held the rank of Captain in the Revolutionary War. It was his son who became the owner of Cedar Point Plantation after marrying Elizabeth Martin Hunt in 1820.

# *Roots In England...*

This article comes from "Footprints In the Hollow: Surry And Her People," prepared by Mrs. W. F. Carter Jr., and the late Mr. Carter.

**BANNER**

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

Charles married Rebecca Evans in 1798 and it was two of their sons who came into Surry about 1850, establishing the family line which would enrich this section for generations to come. These boys, John and Elisha, were educated at Germantown Academy, becoming successful merchants and farmers.

The extensive plantation which John purchased lay between the Unthank home and the Ararat River; here he built his home, a large house with porches upstairs and downstairs, boxwood walks, flower gardens, servant quarters in the rear with farm lands extending to the river; the community of Bannertown now covers this plantation.

John was a leader in the county, became the first Worshipful Master of the Masonic lodge in Mt. Airy and an elder in the Presbyterian church.

Elisha Banner, brother of John, purchased a large acreage on the west side of the river at the top of what is now know as Bannertown Hill. He built his house on much the same plan as his brother and operated it for many years as an Inn.

It became a favorite stopping place for the stagecoaches as they passed through from Salem to Hillsville and Wytheville, Va.

There is a tradition that Mr. Banner had an agreement with the drivers, only verbal, that they would sound their horns when about two miles from the village, signaling the approach of the stagecoach, then give a short blast for each passenger who wished a night's lodging.

Among the children born to these families were doctors, dentists and successful business men. John's son, Constantine L. began the practice of medicine before 1860, continuing through a long life in which he saw one son enter the medical profession, Dr. J. E. Banner, dentist, and Dr. Charles Banner, nephew, an eye, ear, nose and throat specialist of Greensboro.

Dr. Charles Banner was the son of Wm. Martin Banner and Dr. Matt Bonner was the first dentist to practice in Mount Airy, opening his office in 1860. Before this date the physicians had to care for the dental problems of their patients.

Dr. Charles Banner had an enviable reputation in Guilford County and the state. He endeared himself to the less fortunate people of his community with his habit of keeping office hours on Sunday for those patients unable to pay for his services. To these it was free. He followed this habit for many years.

When World War I called American Forces overseas Dr. Banner organized a medical unit and headed it to serve the troops to serve in France.

**Elisha Banner and the Methodist Church**

Differing from his brother in his church affiliation, Elisha was a staunch Methodist. Old records show there were several Methodist churches in the county, the nearest one to Mt. Airy being "Lebanon." This was on a hill north of the village, the hill retaining the name after the church disappeared.

Wishing to have a church in the village, Elisha gave a tract of land large enough for a church and cemetery near his home. In 1862 the building was erected of wide boards with a belfry and a recessed porch with an enclosed stairway on each side leading up to gallery where the slaves were seated for church services.

An avenue of trees, about 200 feet in length, led from the street up to the church and around it was a line of hitching posts. To the south and rear of the church was the cemetery.

In 1896 the old church was abandoned when a new edifice was erected at the corner of Franklin and Dixie Streets, named "Central Methodist." The land between the old church and the street was sold and the building was removed. As long as the members of the immediate families lived the cemetery was tended and cared for but acts of vandalism were frequent.

In 1921 Mrs. Cora Moore Gilmer, who lived across the street, had a small brick church built on the site of the old church as a memorial to some of those who founded the town and now lie buried there — Moores, Gilmers, Banners, Taylors, Hollingsworths, Browers, Graves, Bittings, Galloways, Schaubs, Hines, Foys, Harrisons, Lowerys, Allreds and many others.

By 1960 the cemetery was in such a deplorable condition, with scarcely a monument standing, that descendents of early settlers combined their efforts to secure funds for its restoration. Aided by the town officials who placed an iron fence around the plot, and the garden clubs who landscaped it, the old cemetery again became a place of quiet beauty.

Serving these other churches in 1858 was the Rev. Marcus Wood who kept a most interesting diary of his activities. In January, 1858, he came to Mount Airy by way of Winston (notice that Winston is a separate town from Salem) where he spent the night.

The following day he traveled 22 miles, reaching the home of "Bro Pace" near the Pilot Mountain. The next day he arrived at Mount Airy and stopped with "Bro Prather." Friday he visited "Bro Elisha Banner" and the Rev. W. Rawley.

He had no settled place of residence but visited among the church members, mentioning among others, B. T. Shelton, Jesse Roberts, Hugh Gwyn (four miles in the country), William M. Banner (an old school mate), R. R. Galloway, Merlin Sparger (near Salem church), Murphy Allred, Squire Moore, John Banner and Mr. Mitchell, on top of the Blue Ridge.

On Jan. 30th he writes — "Took supper with General Graves whose son had just brought home his wife."

Feb. 2, "Clouds skirting about. Snow on Blue Ridge, the mountain."

Sunday, Feb. 7—"At eleven o'clock I preached at Lebanon from St. John 11-20:21.

Not many persons out in consequence of the snow. Preached in candle lighting in Mt. Airy from Heb. 4:9. Several persons out. On Thursday, Feb. 11, preached at Salem to seven people. Quite cold! Gave them a short talk from St. John 15:5. People got very cold. Found here a new church though not completed, but it is, will be quite respectable."

Monday, March 8th—"Spent the day principally talking about building a church in Mt. Airy." He continues with the good news that by Wednesday they have the lot subscribed and $815.00.

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

Baptisms took place in the nearest river, or creek.

May 6th he states that a small church has been established in Mt. Airy.

A camp meeting was held, resulting in the conversion of 50 souls, 3 of them Negroes. He not only preached to Negroes, he buried their dead and performed their marriage ceremonies.

# Surry County, 1825-1889, Years Of Growth

This article comes from "Footprints In the Hollow: Surry And Her People," prepared by Mrs. W. F. Carter Jr., and the late Mr. Carter.

### 1825 to 1860

The years between 1825 and 1860 saw Surry make tremendous growth. The manufactured goods and the produce traveled by wagon trains to distant markets, going as far south as Georgia.

The livestock, cattle, sheep and hogs were driven on foot across the county to southeastern towns while great flocks of wild turkeys from the mountains were somehow persuaded to travel by foot and flight to markets far from their mountain homes.

The road through the eastern section of the county, up Fancy Gap and across the Blue Ridge Mountains was the only graded road along these mountains for 75 miles and was kept in fairly good condition by public tolls.

It was this road coupled with the progressive spirit of the settlers which caused Mount Airy to emerge from a post office stop to a village of considerable size before 1860.

The wagon and coach factories were enlarged, the milling of grain kept pace with a growing demand and the manufacture of tobacco products was begun.

As the post office moved from the Jonathan Unthank home to a store building of James Tucker who was postmaster from 1832 to 1835, the location moving north to be set up, in 1838, in the home of Samuel D. Moore who was then living on the road near where it crossed Lovell's Creek.

Mr. Moore was at this time conducting a hotel. In the year 1848 Allen Denny, proprietor of the Blue Ridge Hotel, was postmaster. This hotel which was to serve the people of Surry County for more than a hundred years, had a proud history.

From early records comes the following information—

The first hotel by this name was kept by a Mr. Perkins. It was a very large frame building, being erected in the thirties. One night Mrs. Perkins was preparing for guests when, on entering a linen room, the candle which she was carrying set fire to some lint cotton, the building being destroyed.

Immediately after this Thomas Wright built, on the same spot, a large brick hotel then regarded as the most pretentious building in Surry County. Later Col. Harrison Waugh bought it. but two or three years prior to this Allen Denny acquired it. It was at this time, 1848, Mr. Denny was serving as postmaster. There was, in 1849, a business block extending from the hotel south to Renfro Hill, the site of the present post office, with the following merchants — Robert S. Gilmer, Samuel D. Moore, Murphy and S. T. Allred, Scott and McAdoo of Guilford County, conducting a branch of their Greensboro store, and W. R. Bray with a tailor shop. Mr. Bray had come to Surry, traveling with friend, Andrew Johnson, stopping in Elkin on their way to Tennessee. Mr. Bray decided to remain in Elkin while his friend went on west where he was later nominated for the vice-presidency on a ticket with Lincoln. Prior to this he had served as governor of Tennessee and U. S. Senator.

Mr. Bray later moed to Mt. Airy where his family founded the Bray Milling Co. Down at Hamburg the many enterprises of Jacob Brower were doing a thriving business.

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

It was in 1849 that Tyre Glen decided to dispose of his lands in Surry and move to Georgia. An interesting man, he came from New England about 1820 as a clock peddler. His business prospered so that he was soon able to acquire a large amount of land near the village, including the rock section.

A man of uncertain temper he became so incensed at Mr. Brower at one time it is said he threatened to cut off the water supply from the mills by turning the course of the Ararat River. When he sold his lands Mr. Robt. S. Gilmer purchased the section containing the rock. Mr. Glen transferred his interests from land to the slave trade, becoming, in the next ten years, so wealthy that he was able to return to the state and, after the war, build a fabulous estate in Yadkin County.

### THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES—1861-1865

This was a war fought to preserve those freedoms which the states had written into the Constitution in 1787.

The record of Surry's delegates who signed this Constitution made it clear that they believed in the right of the states to withdraw from the Union if and when it was deemed best for their people.

General Lee had freed his slaves before the war, declaring that slavery was a "moral and political evil." Stonewall Jackson agreed with Lee in his views along with many Southern leaders. They wanted a chance, without the interference of the Northern states, to work out a system to abolish slavery and to right the tariff wrongs imposed on them by the power of the Northern states in the Congress.

But the South was denied this constitutional right — and so the grandsons and great-grandsons of those who fought to free their country from Mother England, now fought to preserve the rights gained in that struggle.

As soon as North Carolina joined the Confederacy Surry began to organize her military companies — Company A 28th Regiment was organized by Capt. Richard Reeves; Company C, 21st Regiment was commanded by Capt. B. Y. Graves; Company H, 21st Regiment was under the command of Capt. J. R. Waugh; and Company I, 21st Regiment was organized by John C. Gilmer.

A company was organized later by Captain J. C. Norman. A page in an old scrapbook, compiled by the Surry County Daughters of the Confederacy, describes the leave-taking of this company.

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

Hollingsworth's History states that at least seven hundred soldiers from Surry County fought with the Confederacy and perhaps 100 left to join the Union Army. Another writer states that Surry County furnished practically her entire military age group to the Confederate Army—"There is hardly a battlefield in Northern Virginia that does not mark the resting place of one or more of her sons."

### SURRY COUNTY—1865-1889

At the close of the war Surry again found many of its young men seeking new lands beyond the war-ravaged South. Some settled in Missouri and Texas, others going still farther west. In 1866-67 the Mormons of Utah sent missionaries into the South, some coming into Surry and Stokes where they persuaded whole families to migrate to their new territory. A wagon-train of these families left Surry in 1868 for that distant land.

The soldiers who came home from the war to stay and those remaining on the home-front did not allow the defeat of the South to keep them from beginning again to build their county's enterprises.

Many new faces were seen in the business world, among them Rufus Roberts, John R. Paddison, A. J. Satterfield, G. W. Smith, John H. Jackson, Christopher Bunker, W. T. Thompson and others.

Dr. Ed Allred had joined the medical men and Dr. Matt Banner was Mt. Airy's pioneer dentist, followed by Dr. Thomas J. Mitchell. Dr. William S. Taylor came with his family as a boy, about 1865. As a young physician he was interested in many enterprises, opening the town's first drug-store.

In 1870 there were 36 mills and factories in Surry County. Besides those at Hamburg, Jacob Brewer had a cotton mill at what became known as Buck Shoals. The Green Hill cotton and woolen mill was established in 1868 by J. F. and W. A. Moore and S. L. Gilmer. A few years later the Alpine Mills were built and operated by the same firm.

The Laurel Bluff Mill was owned and operated by J. P. Rawley in connection with a general store. White Plains came into prominence with the largest wagon factory in the county.

Elkin added a coach department to their wagon factory. There was also a shoe factory in Elkin, the Gwyn and Chatham cotton mill was operating and in 1878 the Chatham Woolen Mill began operation.

There were foundries, blacksmith shops, tanneries; and a saddle and harness shop at Rockford. Cabinet making was coming into its own and there was a great increase in the manufacture of tobacco, large factories being built on the home grounds of such men as Hugh Gwyn, Winston Fulton, Murlin Sparger, Henderson Mitchell and Elisha Banner.

A little later came the sons of Winston Fulton, J. M. and J. H. Fulton, Wm. Martin Ban

ner, R. L. Gwyn, John M. Brower, Wash Smith, John Sparger, Rufus Roberts, M. Sparger and Sons, W. W. Ashby, William Haines, Robert Hithes Jr., G. M. Mitchell, John Patterson, W. E. Patterson, L. F. Smith and J. L. Ashby. At Siloam there were factories owned by R. E. and M. C. Reeves and the Marion Brothers. At Pilot Dix Davis and Sons operated a factory.

The first warehouse for the sale of tobacco was built in 1874 by A. L. Porter and J. R. Gilmer.

The tobacco industry thrived for a number of years, the finished product being hauled to markets in huge wagons drawn by four or six horses. They went down into South Carolina, Georgia and Mississippi.

The panic of 1893 followed by the operation of the Tobacco Trust, organized by James B. Duke, forced these small operators into bankruptcy.

It was then that Mount Airy turned to the mountain forests for new industries, wood-working and furniture manufacturing.

## TOBACCO

The manufacture of tobacco products began as early as 1852 or '53, according to an old record. The names of the men who first ventured into this new enterprise were Jonathan Roberts, Charles Whitlock, Ewell Belton and William Rawley.

The methods were primitive, wooden screws being used to "Prize the plugs"; the using of metal screws was first adopted by either Thomas F. Prather and W. M. Beamer or William Rawley. A little later Winston Fulton, Murlin Sparger, Henderson Mitchell, Hugh Gwyn and Elishe Banner engaged in the same business. Another name belonging to this period was Wilcher Cardwell.

There are many references to William Rawley, affectionately known as "Parson Bill." He was a large land owner, both inside and outside the village. A farm containing a thousand acres near Stewart's Creek he sold to the Siamese Twins. Before buying the farm the Twins had lived in the Village, occupying first a house on the site of the present W. E. Merritt home. Moving from there to the lower end of the street before taking up their permanent abode in the country.

## BUNKER

Eng and Chang Bunker, the world-famous Siamese Twins, are a cherished memory in the history of Surry County.

It was in 1839 that, weary with travel and public appearances, these remarkable men came down to North Carolina for recreation. They were young, handsome and wealthy. After a season of hunting and fishing in Wilkes County they found themselves liking the people and the location so much they decided to retire and settle there among the secluded hills.

They bought a small store near Trap Hill, became a part of the community, formed friendships and fell in love with sisters, the daughters of David Yates.

In their travels they had consulted many surgeons on both sides of the ocean, hoping to find one who would separate them, but with no success. It took courage to contemplate marriage and a normal family life with their handicap, but since they had always displayed an abundance of that trait in their characters, they proposed and were accepted.

A few years later they came over into Surry and lived in the village of Mount Airy until they bought a large farm containing a thousand acres near Stewart's Creek. There they built two comfortable houses some distance apart and established two normal homes, dividing their time equally between them.

Here they won the respect and admiration of their neighbors, becoming excellent farmers and valuable citizens. Their descendents have been among Surry's prominent families, playing their parts in war and in peace.

The oldest son of Chang enlisted in the Confederate Army at the age of eighteen and a grandson was a famed aviator in World Wars I and II, being one of Chenault's Flying Tigers when they won fame in the Pacific during the second world war.

He flew the first bomber across the Atlantic and was the first pilot to fly from the United States to South America over the Andes, on a mercy mission. This was Brigadier General Caleb Vance Haynes, a recipient of the Silver Star and the Distinguished Service Cross.

An article written some years ago contained this interesting item—"Eng and Chang were considered exceptional chess players. They seemed to have a natural aptitude for the game and their chessboard was almost as inseparable from them as they were from each other.

One unusual fact about this is that they never played against each other. Some said it was constant observation which had made each twin familiar with the other's game. Others said it was something intangible. Perhaps there was something like mental telepathy which kept either twin from concealing his motives from the other.

At any rate they avoided contests between themselves, one reading while the other played all comers. They were rarely photographed without the chessboard in the background.

One game was remembered and recounted for years after it took place. Matched with a professor from one of the colleges, the game lasted for three days before the Surry native swept all the professor's men from the board.

# First Surry Tax List Includes Many Familiar Names

By Luther N. Byrd

There were 650 families living in Surry County in 1771, according to the county's very first tax list, which was taken in that first year after the county was separated from Rowan and given its own government by act of the North Carolina assembly.

That first tax list was on file in the North Carolina Archives in Raleigh in 1943, when a copy of it was made by this writer while working on genealogical studies for families of Surry County and Northwest North Carolina.

Those listing taxes by name included only the heads of families, and they were not required to tell the number of persons in their family groups. They only listed the number of white polls, which included white males over 16 years of age at the time. Later tax lists were required to list the number of black polls or slaves.

This original Surry Tax List, with only the enumeration of white polls, cannot be taken as a census, but families were quite large at that time, and many families also included slaves, so it is a fair estimate to say there were probably as many as six persons to each family group, which would give an estimated population of approximately 4,000 persons living in the original area of Surry County.

That original area, as told in the series of historical articles which have appeared recently in the columns of the TIMES, included virtually all of the northwestern portion of North Carolina and some territory in what is now Tennessee. Nineteen years later, the first federal census of 1790, showed 7,161 population in what is now Surry and Yadkin Counties. By 1790 all the other areas had been cut off to form other counties.

The first Surry Tax List of 1771 showed many family names which have continued to be found in Surry County and many others which are still to be found in counties such as Stokes, Forsyth, Yadkin, Wilkes, Ashe, Alleghany and others that were included in the original bounds of Surry County.

Those listing taxes were grouped alphabetically by last names, but they were not arranged in exact alphabetical order within the various letter groupings. The names of heads of families who resided in Surry County in 1771 are given below:

John Adams, Charles Angel, Peter Addleman, Martin Armstrong, John Armstrong, John Allen, William Austin, David Allen, Adiniram Allen, John Angel, Nicholas Angel, Gersham Allen, Charles Adams, William Adams, Jese Alexander, Anguish Alexander, Richard Allen, Charles Adams, William Adams, William Adams Sr.

James Bork Jr., John Burns, John Beroth, Trauggot Bagge, Jacob Blum, Lorenz Bagg, Valentine Beck, George Bibighaus, Jacob Bonn, Newman Blackburn, Ambrose Blackburn, Augustine Blackburn, Gray Binum, Joseph Banner, Henry Banner, Elias Brock, Charles Brock, James Brown, Matthias Becats, Andrew Bohannon,

James Burk, John Brannum, Jesse Brown, Jerry Bradley, William Boles, Ambrose Blackburn Jr., Randle Brown, Jesse Brown Jr., Charles Brock, Thomas Ballard, Stephen Ballard, George Braswell, William Boyles, Henry Burch, Michael Baker, Joseph Burk, John Baker, Benjamin Burk, William Brown, David Brown, Richard Bennett,

James Bennett, William Bessown, William Burch, Thomas Boles, Bowater Bales, Peter Bowman, Robert Bowman, Elizabeth Boggs, Malcolm Beckum, James Brown, David Bryant, Margaret Briggs, John Bledsoe, Aaron Bledsoe, Barnabas Bledsoe, Moses Bledsoe, Willoughby Broughton, James Bradbury, William Bryant, William Barton,

Humphrey Best, Thomas Barker, Edward Boone, Jesse Bond, Ambrose Bramlett, John Burch, Martin Burk, George Barker, Nathaniel Barrett, Samuel Burknell, John Banks, Christian Conrod, Rudolph Christ, Phillip Carr, Anton Connor, Cornelius Cook, William Coaker, Henry Cook, Jacob Cox, Stephen Claton Sr., John Cooley,

Lewis Connor, William Correnenhet, Francis Coons, Henry Chambers, Joseph Cofer, Robert Cofer, Robert Cornelius, West Cornelius, Jacob Camperlin, Stephen Claton, James Charles, William Carmichael, Abel Cook, William Clotham, Joseph Cordel, Samuel Cooper, John Conwell, David Conwell, Thomas Carson, Adam Carger,

Moses Cockerham, Nicholas Cregan, Joshua Cox, Malcolm Corry, Benjamin Cox, Roland Cornelius, Joseph Cloud, Uriah Carson, James Coyle, Abraham Cole, Charles Cates, Abraham Colson, John Cates, John Carter, Mason Comes Sr., Godfrey Code, William Code, Ephraim Cox, Benjamin Churchwell, Benjamin Cleveland,

William Comes, James Colson, Joseph Cartwright, John Crane, Abel Cobb, Samuel Carter, John Cogewell, Frederick Cox, Richard Cox, John Dyer, William Davis, James Dunlap, Robert Drennon, Samuel Davis, William Davis, David Davis, Philip Davis, Morgan Davis, John Denney, Samuel Denney, Azariah Denney, Henry Denney,

William Dinkins, Charles Duncan, Hugh Donam, John Dunlap, Samuel Dunlap, John Damron, Andrew Douglass, Hohn Denney, William Denney, James Doak, Joseph Donagon, Charles Dotson, Philip Davis, Edmund Denney, William Dugger, John Dotson, Isaac Darnell, John Darnell, Thomas Denton, John Duncan, William Dytches,

(Continued

# First Surry Tax List (Cont.)

Reuben Dotson, Marshall Duncan, John Deatherage, William Duncan, John Donagon, Jacob Ernst, David Evans, Thomas Evans, Thomas Evans Jr., Edod Enock, Thomas Edeman, James Evans, Isom Evans, Thomas Elmore, William Ellison, George Elmore, Thomas Ellett, Thomas Elles, John England, Abner Everitt, Jacob Elsy, Ceda Edwards.

Michael Frey, Peter Frey Jr., Peter Frazer, Gottlieb Frockle, Barnabas Fair, Ambrose Fletcher, George Fulp, Joshua Frost, David Forbush, Davis Foler, Andrew Fisher, Line Fline, Thomas Fline, Job Flent, David Forbes, James Fulkerson, Lewis Forkner, Davis Fields, James Fisher, James Forrester,

William Forkner Jr., William Fitzgerald, James Fletcher, Samuel Freeman, Matthew Francis, James Fidler, John Fidler, James Findley, Benjamin Farmer, Abraham Fulkerson, Nathaniel Febrinton, Godfried Grabbs, George Goepfert, John Gryner, Thomas Gode, Isaac Garrison Sr., John Garrett, Richard Goode, James Glenn,

Thomas Gills, William Gibson, Samuel Garland, Frederick Green, Samuel Gentry, Richard Gentry, Benjamin Garrott, John Griffith, Joseph Graves, James Gray, William Guess, Peter Greenstreet, Joseph Garrott, Jacob Gibson, Daniel Gullich, Aquila Green, Benjamin Greer, Martin Gambul, Humphrey Gibson,

Valentine Gibson, Bartholomew Grogan, John German, Daniel Hopkung, Joseph Hakins, Joseph Holder, Bessiah Harrison, Martin Hauser, Peter Hauser, Michael Hauser, Balzer Hege, George Hauser, Christian Hackewelder, John Hoz, Rudolph Hauser, Samuel Hoz, William Halbert, John Hutchens, William Hill, James Hampton, Anthony Hampton,

Frederick Hicks, John Halbert, Frederick Helsenpeck, James Hensley, William Harrison, Alexander Hopkins, Moses Herrin, William Holbrook, Robert Hill, Stephen Hide, John Hamilton, Robert Hooker, William Hooker, Thomas Helton, William Hiott, Joseph Hiott, William Hall, Benjamin Hide, Abraham Howard, Charles Hill,

John Howard, David Harriman, Henry Hand, William Howard, John Harrison, Stepthany Holloway, Robert Husbands, William Hill, William Hargrove, Garrett Hendrix, Thomas Hall, Charles Hamlett, William Harrison, Samuel Haines, William Holder, Francis Hargrove, Hugh Hammock, Simon Hadley, Alexander Holton, John Helton,

Charles Hules, Benjamin Hensley, Ignatius Harrell, George Hufmand, Lenny Herrin, Daniel Huff, John Inyard, Joseph Insum, William James, John Johnston, John Johnston Jr., Abraham Jones, Joseph Jones, Nicholas Jentry (Gentry), Levy Jones, Thomas Jones, John Joice, Christian Kirschner, Adam Kramer, Jacob Kapp,

Christopher Kinest, Adam Kopler (Cobbler), Andrew Kremore, Henry King, Benajah King, Peter King Jr., Thomas Karr, John Kees, Jacob Lung, Ludwick Leinbeck, Aaron Linville, Amos Ladd, Noble Ladd, Richard Linville. William Lively, Patrick Logan, William Logan, John Langford, William Larwell, William Lake,

Thomas Linville, William Loven, Luke Lee, Henry Lewis, Hance Liken, Isaac Lee, William Lo (Lowe), James Langford, Mark Lively, Christian Messer, John Muller, Jacob Major, Christopher Merkle, Joseph Miller, John Muecke (Mickey), John Miller, Nathaniel Marlowe, Frederick Marshall, James Merkle, John Major,

Abraham Martin, James McKown, Johnston Martin, Charles McAnally, Thomas Mears, James Martin, Moses Martin, William McColley, Richard Mayhab (Mabe), Richard Morris, Harmon Miller, Ptatley Mickes, Richard Murphy, Drury Mayes, Henry Manadue, Matthew Mayes, James McPeak, James Malkey, Reuben Matthews,

Nicholas Major, David Martin, George Morris, Stephen Miller, William Mcfee, Christopher Manor, George Manor, Edward Moore, Thomas Marler, Nathaniel Morrison, John Mc-Michael, Jacob Manor, Samuel Morgan, Anthony Morgan Sr., Hugh Montgomery, Anthony Morgan Jr., William Michael, Hugh Megarry, James Mercdith,

Thomas Mann, William Medlin, William Mabin, James Mason, William McColley, Jonas Neilson, John Nicholson, Joseph Neilson, John Nowlin, Henry Nicknison, Ely Norman, William Nichols, John Norris, Daniel Obarr, John Osburn, John

# Tax List (Cont.)

Ooten, Thomas Ooten, Stephen Osburn, Jonathon Osburn, William Oldham Jr.,

Richard Olderthighs, Valentine Osten, John Osten, William Pears, Frederick Pfeil, Christian Pfeiffer, Richard Perry, William Pierce, Benjamin Pettit, David Poindexter, Joseph Philips Jr., Abraham Pidgett, John Pipes, Adam Prough, Joseph Phillips, Hugh Porter, William Porter, Abner Pipes, Thomas Parks,

John Parks, John Parks Jr., Peter Person, Thomas Parks Jr., John Pand, Thomas Pettitt, John Pipes, Valentine Perkins, Andrew Polson, John Parks, Joseph Porter, Greenbury Patterson, Elisha Pierce, Thomas Potter, Abel Powk, William Peak, George Russell, William Ross, Thomas Rogers, John Russell, William Ridge,

William Roberts, Reuben Riggs, Lawrence Raus (Ross), David Riggs, Francis Runalds (Reynolds), John Rainwater, Edward Riggs, Samuel Riggs, William Roberson, John Rayburn, William Reeves, William Ridings, William Ridings Jr., William Ridance (probably also Ridings), John Reed, Nadas Reed, Andrew Rudolph,

William Rutledge, John Ridings, Michael Rank, Gottlief Reuter, George Renner, John Richter, John Rank, Darby Ryan, Robert Summers, Michale Saller, William Stone, John Slaton, Thomas Smith, John Shelton, Ralph Shelton, John Step, Jonathon Stamper, Thomas Spere (Speer), John Sumners, John Stone, William Stafford,

Henry Snow, Thomas Stone, John Swain, John Spencer, William Sparks, Robert Sanders, Philip Shelley, James Sams, John Simpson, Benjamin Stase, David Smith, Samuel Scritchfield, Nathaniel Scritchfield, Reuben Shores, William Shores, Joseph Smart, Cornelius Seal, George Sorrell, John Stewart, John Stewart Jr.,

William Stewart, Peter Stots, Elijah Smallwood, James Stewart, Solomon Sparks, James Shepherd, William Stanley, Joseph Stanley, Joseph Stanley Jr., Joseph Stewart, James Short, Benjamin Stewart, George Sprinkle, Michael Seller, Samuel Swanson, Foster Samuel, Samuel Shaw, Charles Samples, John Smith, William Stone, Jr.,

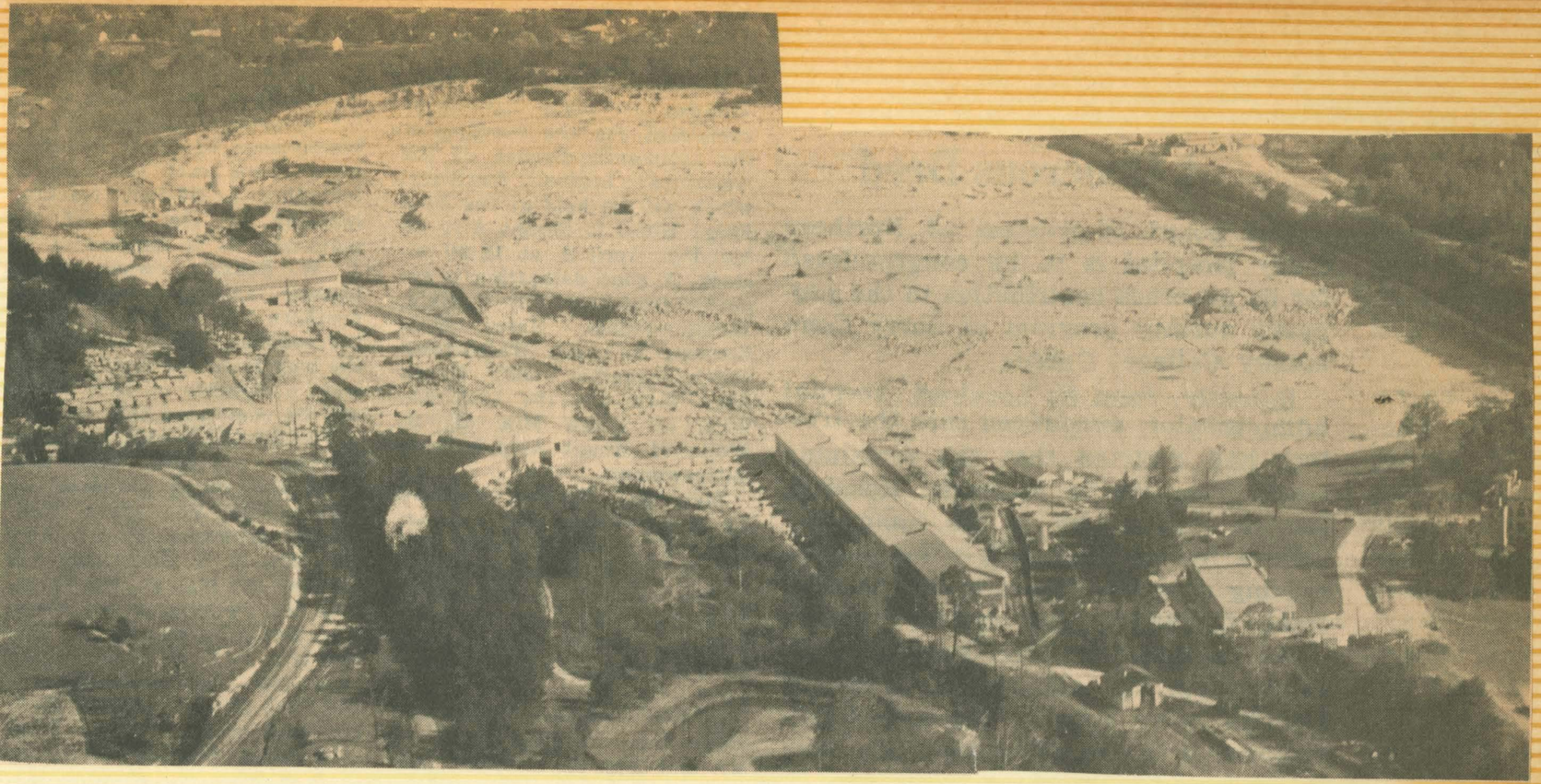
James Short Jr., John Scritchfield, Lorenz Smith, Peter Shermer, Werner Spenhour (Spainhour), William Shepherd, Andrew Speer, Henry Smith, George Schultz, John Strabm Christopher Smith, Peter Sehnert, Henry Spenhour, Henry Schor (Shore), Philip Schaub, Michael Seiz (Sides), Johannes Schaub, Jeremiah Scat,

Francis Steb, Joseph Spierpont, Drury Taylor, Isaac Thomas, Thomas Twiner, John Toliver, William Toliver, Stephen Tille (Tilley), William Turpin, James Taylor, John Talf, Michael Tauga, Joseph Thomas, Philip Transou, John Vannoy, John Vanhouser, Francis Vannoy, Andrew Vannoy, Valentine Vanhouser, Richard Varnel, William Venable,

Abraham Vanderpool, Whynant Vanderpool, William Varnel, Robert Walker, David Walker, Benjamin Watson, William Wood, Henry Watkins, William West, Richard Waldridge, Robert Walker Jr., Samuel Wright, Thomas White, John Williams, Timothy Williams, Isham Westmoreland, George Wilson, Jesse Walton, James Webb, John Wilson,

Thomas Wilson, William Wilson, Joseph Wilson, James Wilson, William Wilson Jr., George Wheatley, Benjamin Wilson, Martin Webb, Richard Woolbanks, Joseph Warren, Jacob Wilder, Thomas Warden, Peter Woodward, William Wolf, Ignatius Whiler, Nathaniel Watson, Thomas Walker, Charles Wadle (Waddell), Henry Waller,

William Wagoner, Samuel Wagoner, Rhoser Ward, Robert Warnock, Nathaniel Woodruff, Nathaniel Woodruff Jr., Thomas Woodruff, John Weatherspoon, John Wartele, Joseph Wasden, John York, Charles Yates, Benjamin Young, Henry Zilman, Isaac Zitwood.



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

**Granite Quarrying**

The other big industry that has played the principal part in the growth of Mount Airy in the past forty or fifty years is the quarrying of the beautiful white Mount Airy granite that lies in a huge deposit just one mile east of the city limits. This huge deposit of granite, more familiarly known as the Flat Rock, has been the scene of extensive quarrying operations for the past forty-four years, but the history of the granite industry in detail must of necessity go back another fifty years to the days when the Flat Rock was considered practically valueless and a "white elephant" on the hands of whoever owned it

The great deposit of white granite, considered one of the finest in the world, is spread over an area of about forty acres, and since colonial times it has gone by the name of Flat Rock. It is not known definitely just who the original owners of the land about Flat Rock were, but the first recorded owner was Samuel D. Moore, who lived more than a hundred years ago at the John Fuller home just across Lovill's creek. He was the grandfather of M. D. "Uncle Buck" Moore, now a justice of peace here, and was one of several Moores who settled around Mount Airy and owned much land around what is now the quarry.

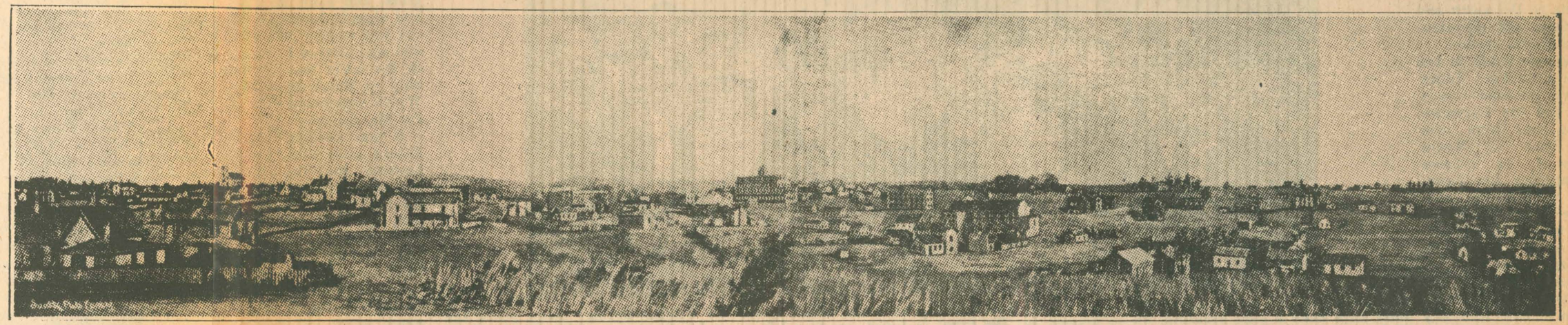
The connection of Samuel D. Moore with the quarry property was established through a deed executed in 1849 by "Old Man Tyre" Glenn to Allen Bingman. The deed in question referred to a portion of the quarry land, which had been just before that date in possession of Glenn. Tyre Glenn, himself, was a New England clock salesman, who first came to Mount Airy soon after 1820 and accumulated considerable property, including that section of land about the quarry that had formerly belonged to the Moores.

The deal whereby Allen Bingman obtained a portion of this land was one in which Tyre Glenn disposed of a plot of more than 600 acres near the quarry to three separate men. They were, in addition to Allen Bingman, R. S. Gilmer and Thomas W. Dick. R. S. Gilmer, better known as "Bobby" Gilmer, who was a prosperous merchant of that day, got practically all of the section that included the Flat Rock, and the land remained in possession of the Gilmer family until about 1890.

During all that forty years the Flat Rock was considered by the Gilmers to be practically worthless, since it could not be used for farming. Its only use during that time, according to old stories, was as a popular picnic ground, and rumors have it that some of the Gilmers offered to give the Flat Rock to anyone who would pay the taxes on it.

It was sometime about 1890, probably a little earlier, that visionary people began to dream of quarrying the rock for use in building and paving purposes, but no one could lay concrete plans for the work until Thomas Woodroffe and his sons, Thomas Woodroffe, Jr., George Woodroffe and William Woodroffe, came to Mount Airy from Greensboro and purchased the Flat Rock land from Robert S. Gilmer. William Woodroffe was subsequently killed in a blast at the quarry.

# *Mount Airy As It Used To Be and Is Today -- Showing Fifty Years of Amazing Progress*



Aerial photography was still a thing of the future half century ago when Mount Airy looked as it does in the picture above, so the photographer sought the highest viewpoint he could find, that being Siceloff Hill, where the home of Conrad Siceloff now stands, a section known at that time under the imposing name of Arlington Heights.

The older residents of Mount Airy will recognize several buildings in the old picture, which was taken about 1887 or 1888, the view being eastward over the then small business section of the Granite City. Several of the buildings have been definitely identified. They are as follows, beginning at the extreme lower left-hand corner and working to the right.

The house in the left foreground, surrounded by the fence, is the old Charles J. Whitlock home, now the home of I. W. Barber. Next to it is the E. H. Wrenn home, which still stands on the corner of Rawley avenue and Willow streets. Almost immediately above the Wrenn home, towering against the horizon is the old First Baptist church, built in the late 'seventies and later replaced by the present granite structure.

Slightly to the right of the First Baptist church, the two most prominent houses are the R. L. Haymore home and the old "Ab" Rawley home, which stood on the corner of North Main and Rawley avenue on the present site of the home of Mrs. Geo. D. Fawcett. The Rawley home was moved back on Rawley avenue, now being known as the A. G. Bowman home and occupied by Miss Martha Stone.

The large white two-story home, standing slightly in front and to the right of the Rawley home, was the George Satterfield house, which stood about where the present home of William Merritt stands. This house was burned in a fire that destroyed several houses on Rawley avenue in the 'nineties.

In the center of the picture stands the Blue Ridge Hotel, built on its present site in the 'eighties by the late Rufus Roberts. It was a very imposing structure, with its mansard roof and tower. Almost in front of the Blue Ridge Hotel one may see the old Jim Taylor home, which still stands on the northeast corner of Willow and Virginia Sts.

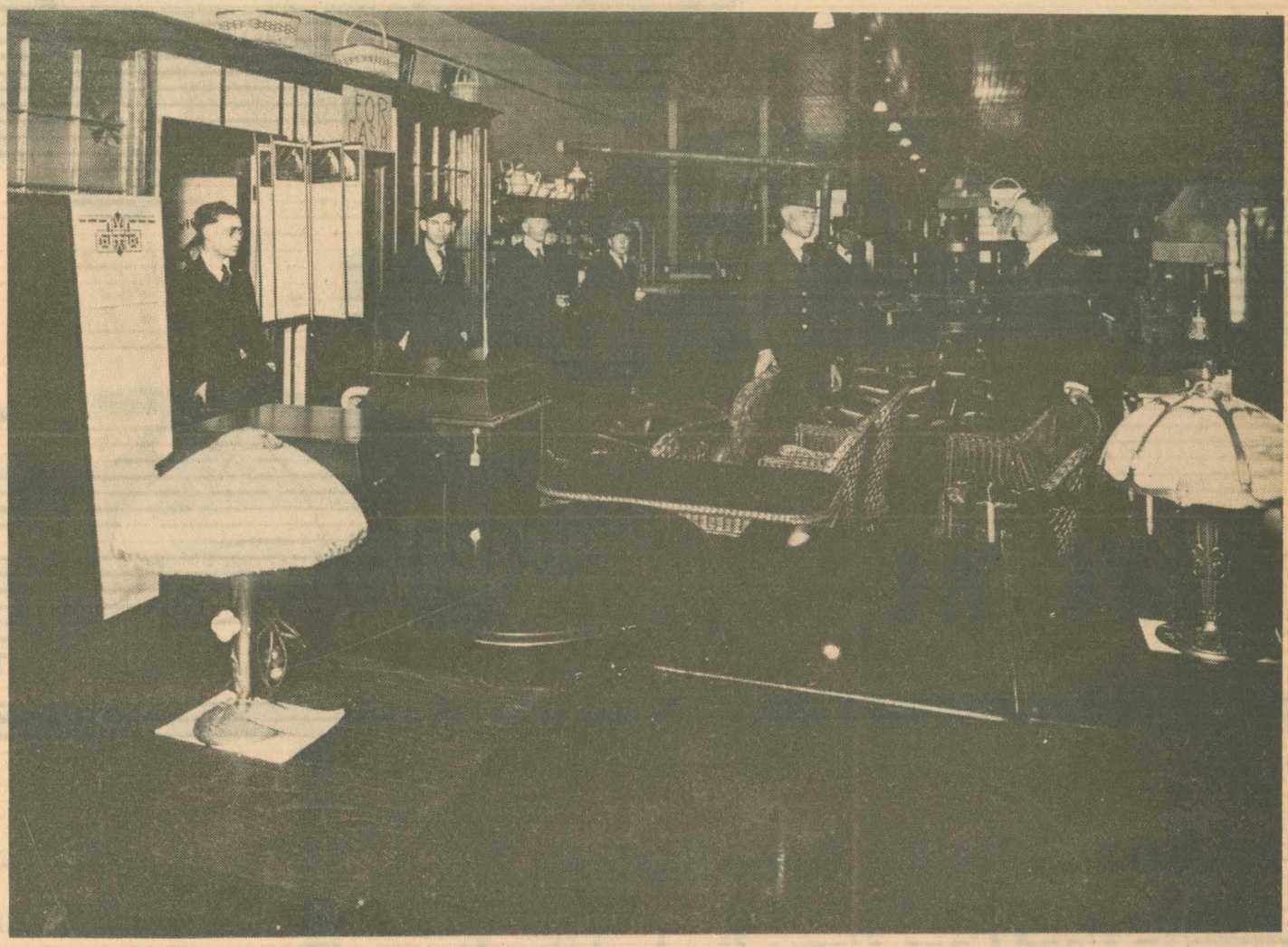
Slightly to the right of the Blue Ridge Hotel and in the foreground may be seen the big brick tobacco factory built by Sparger Brothers in the early 'Eighties. This building in recent years has been occupied by the Mount Airy Produce Exchange. Just above and slightly to the left of this structure may be seen a large frame building that stood where the Masonic Temple is now located. This was used by Sparger Brothers as a leaf house.

Slightly to the right of the Sparger Brothers factory may be seen the J. H. Sparger home, now the home of A. M. "Abby" Smith, and to the right of that is the home of B. F. Sparger. Just over and slightly to the left of the J. H. Sparger home may be seen the home of Judge Jesse Franklin Graves, with its towering grove of trees. Directly over the B. F. Sparger home may be seen the old Mount Airy Academy, which stood where the Rockford Street Graded School now stands.

Somewhat to the right of the B. F. Sparger home may be seen the large white home of H. C. Brown, which stood where the J. A. Yokley home now stands. Immediately over this house, showing against the horizon stands the home of the late Captain Mart Patterson, now occupied by William Allred. Close observers may recognize other buildings in the photograph.

*Article continues through p. 12*

# Carter Furniture Co. Salutes Surry



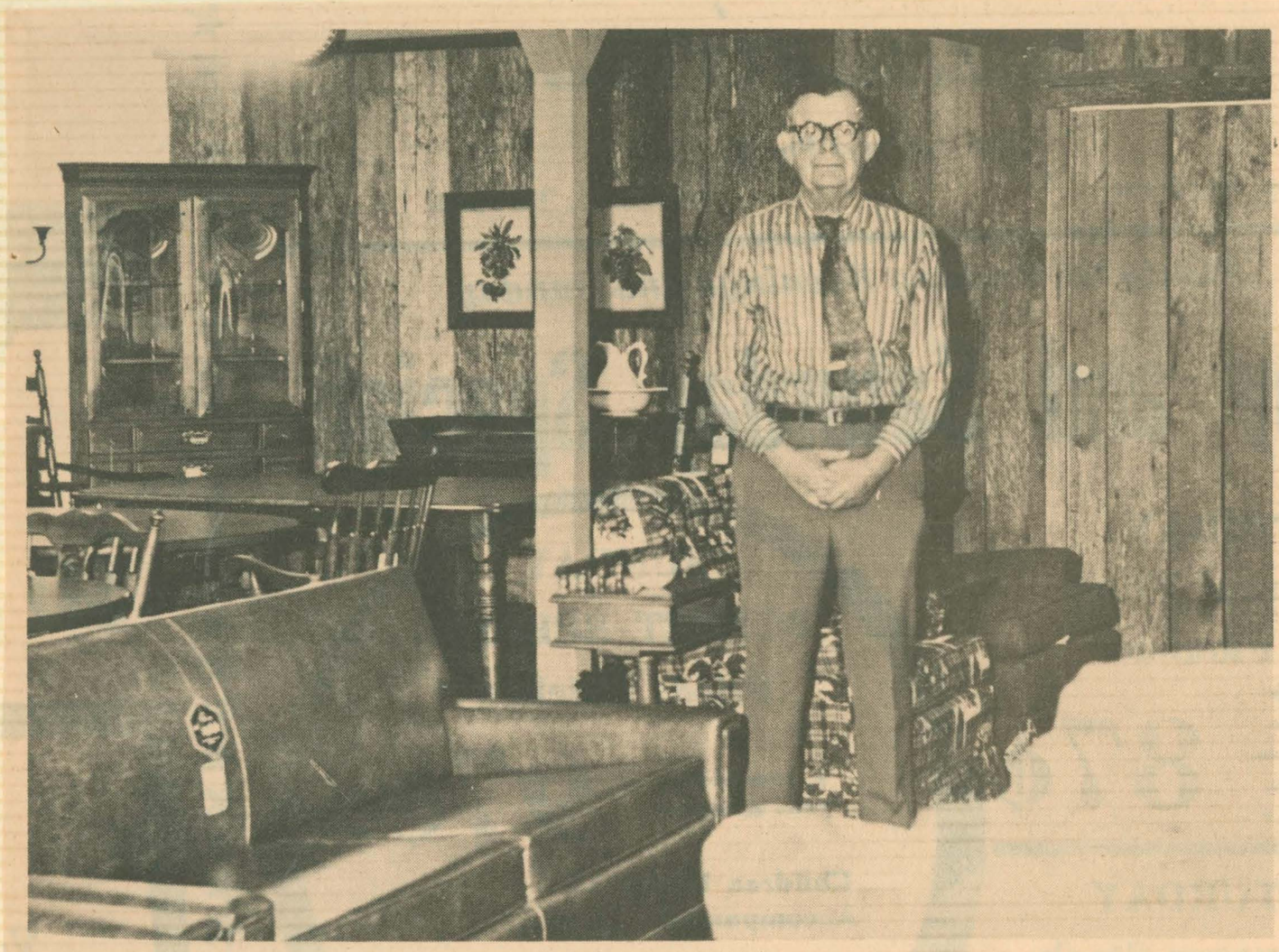
## CARTER - WALKER FURNITURE CO.

*Established 1917 — Main Sales Floor*

This picture of the main sales floor was made at Christmas time 1920, the store having been in business since 1917. Those shown in picture are left to right, Mr. W. F. Carter Jr., dec., manager of store and mayor of Mt. Airy in subsequent years; Mr. W. H. Carter, present manager of Carter's and working as an extra at Christmas time in 1920, joining the store as a regular employee in 1923; Mr. Thomas J. Lowry, dec., salesman and furniture repairman; Mr. Matthews, a customer in store; Mr. Tom Hatcher, dec., a customer in the store and later operator of Hatcher Hardware next door to Carter Furniture Co. in building now occupied by Owens Jewelry; and Mr. John Lowry, salesman and later head of maintenance at Renfro, now retired.

The lamps pictured in fore-ground are now fashionable and similar ones can be supplied by Carters.

# County On Its 200th Anniversary



## CARTER FURNITURE CO. - 1971

*Newly Decorated Sales Room*

**NEWLY DECORATED SALES ROOM . . .on ground floor reflects popular Early American Trend . . . other plans are being considered for future improvements in co-operation with the movement for a more beautiful Down Town Shopping Area . . .Presently the Carter Furniture Co. Staff is . . .Mr. W. H. Carter, manager, John B. Wolfe, Mrs. James F. Frye, Billy G. Belton, E. Fox Lawrence, whse. mgr., Jesse Holloway, Rodger Bryant, and Richard Pardue.**

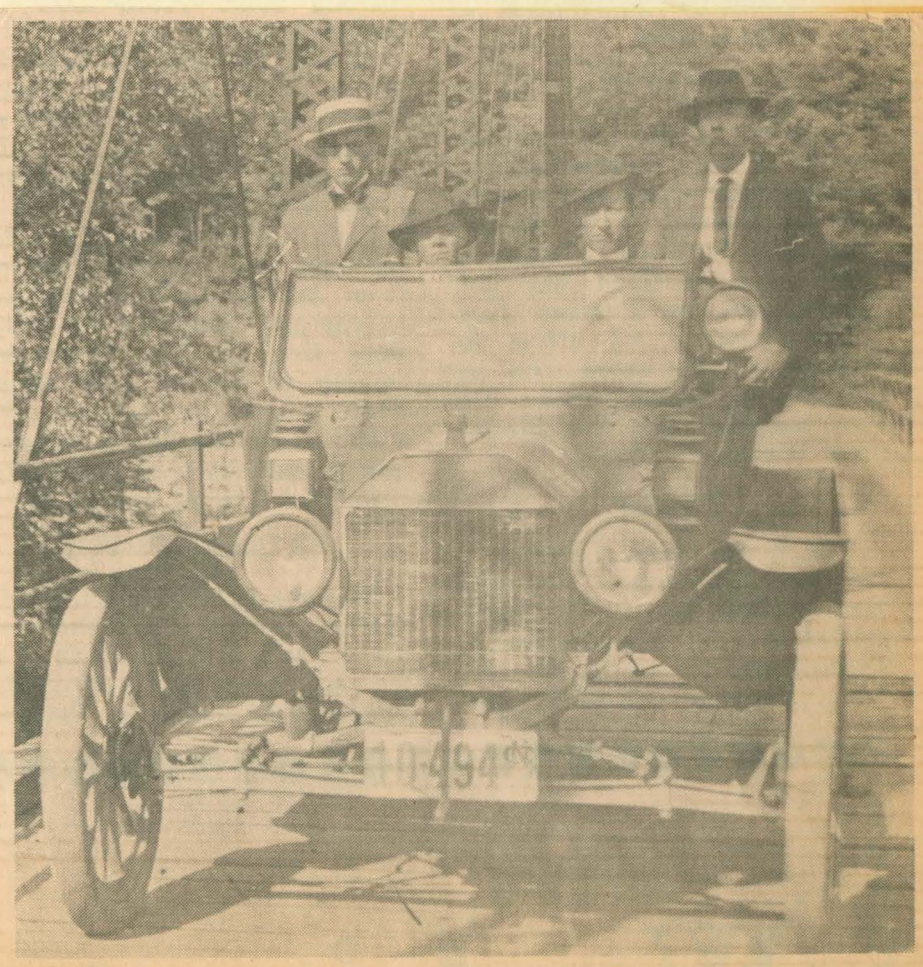
# CARTER - A Tradition In Furniture In Surry




Included in this group are John Foy, Hurley Siceloff, Jim Hale, George Dobie, Grayson Banner, John Reeves, Porson Paddison and Edward Ashby.



The old Dobbins Mill, now Snow's Creek Mill in Union Cross Section, still in operation. Photographed by Bill Marion.



This picture of four Surry Countians in a 1913 Model T. Ford was taken on Marion Bridge in Shoals. From the left are the late Nat Dezern, the late Wilson Dezern, Dal Dezern and Julius Dezern.

# *EDITORIALS Of The TIMES*

## Cooperation Of Many Made Possible This Anniversary Edition Of The TIMES

This week, the Mount Airy TIMES publishes its long-awaited anniversary edition, the issue of this newspaper that marks the two hundredth birthday of Surry County.

We make no bones about it. It is an edition we are extremely proud of. We trust that you will be, too.

This special edition would not have been possible without the support of and assistance from many. This is always true in any out of the ordinary undertaking.

Certainly, it would not have come into being without the complete support of our loyal advertisers. They have utilized many column inches of advertising space in this special edition to mark this auspicious occasion for the county.

To Mrs. W. F. Carter Jr., the TIMES is deeply indebted. She placed the entire collection of articles, newspapers, clippings, pictures and so forth—all painstakingly acquired through the years by Mrs. Carter and her late husband—at our disposal, to utilize as we wished and needed. Mere words cannot express our appreciation so, until a better phrase is coined, the TIMES can only say, most sincerely, "Thank You."

Luther Byrd, former reporter and news editor of the TIMES, also comes in for our special thanks. It was Luther who, several months ago, jogged our memory with a telephone call from Elon College, where he teaches, reminding us that Surry was to mark its two hundredth birthday. He has contributed an article that appears in this edition. Too, articles that he left behind at the TIMES Office many years ago concerning various facets of Surry's history, form the basis for numerous stories in this edition.

Our grateful thanks go to Mrs. Myrtle Hill, the TIMES correspondent in Pilot Mountain, and her husband, Lester Hill, for their untiring work in collecting and/or making available pictures and articles from the Pilot Mountain section. We could never have done it without their invaluable assistance.

Finally, our thanks and appreciation to the several people throughout this section who contributed pictures that appear in this anniversary edition.

As you can see, the TIMES' anniversary edition came into being because of the cooperation of numerous individuals, businesses and industrial facilities. It is just such cooperation that marked Surry's progress during the past 200 years and will continue to keep our favorite county on its progressive path in the future.

weeks with his parents.

chicken stew will be held.

breakfast are welcome, he said.



THE OPENING OF THE FRANKLIN HOUSE to the public attracted several visitors Saturday and Sunday. Among those to view and tour the house and premises, with the assistance of Miss Caroline Kochtitzky and Miss Ruth Eades (Miss Kochtitzky is at the left and Miss Eades is fourth from the left) were Mrs. Wallace Shelton of Mount Airy, Pat Nixon of State Road, Wallace Shelton, and Opie and Mrs. Shelton of Asheville.

—NEWS Photo

## Franklin House In National Register

The Bernard Franklin House on Haystack Road is one of two well-known landmarks in the fifth congressional district which have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places, according to an announcement by U. S. Rep. Wilmer Mizell.

The designation will be signified by a bronze plaque and a certificate entitling the structures to permanent preservation by the National Park Service, he said. Entry into the National Register is based on historical, architectural and cultural significance to the area.

The other entry is a Zevely House in Winston-Salem.

May 11, 1973

industry already is being left by the consumer. The removal of

To police itself and avoid

## Franklin House Opens To Public

The doors of the Bernard Franklin House on Haystack road will be open to the public tomorrow and Sunday afternoon from 2-5 o'clock, according to members of the Surry County Historical Society who will greet visitors and conduct tours.

This late 1700 house is the former home of Bernard Franklin who emigrated to Surry County from Virginia around 1778. He was the father of Governor Jesse Franklin who, with brothers Meshack and Shadrach, served their state and county in the legislature and in Congress.

The house is of Georgian-Federalist architecture. It is of interest to historians and architects, not only for its connection to the Franklin family, but because the house has been virtually unchanged since the early 1800s.

As a result, the house has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places by the N. C. Department of Archives and History. Members of the Society have qualified for a $5 thousand grant from the Richardson foundation and they hope to receive $30 thousand in state funds which have been recommended by a state screening committee. The Society will use the money to begin restoration of the house.

To reach the Franklin house, go three and one half miles west on the Prison Camp Road on the Haystack Road. The house is on a knoll at the end of the pavement on the right.

## Pot Project

# MOUNT AIRY TIMES

*A Home Newspaper For Greater Mount Airy and Surry County*

MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1971


# Surry County To Be 200 Years Old Tuesday

## *Act Creating Surry From Rowan County Was Signed Into Law January 26, 1771*

Surry County will be 200 years old Tuesday.

While the act creating Surry from Rowan County was passed in December, 1770, it was not signed into law until January 26, 1771. The county government did not begin operations until three months later, on April 1, 1771.

When created, Surry included the present counties of Burke, Stokes, Forsyth, Yadkin, Wilkes, Alleghany and Ashe counties.

Reports had it that the boundaries of newly-created Surry extended to the Mississippi River.

Surry did not retain its extra-large size for too many years, however.

According to "The History of Surry County," authored by the late Jesse G. Hollingsworth of Mount Airy, Burke County was created from Surry in 1777 and, that same year, residents along the Nolichucky, Watauga, Holston and Clinch Rivers petitioned to create that section in a special district.

The third dismemberment of the county came in 1779, when Wilkes County was created and, in 1789, Stokes County became a separate entity. The final division occurred in 1850, when Yadkin County was created.

Surry's first county seat was at old Richmond. After Stokes was cut off from Surry, it was moved to Rockford, where it remained until Yadkin became a separate county. It was then moved to Dobson.

According to Hollingsworth's history of Surry County, the bill for the creation of the county was lost in the Assembly of 1769 because of the sudden dissolution of the legislature after adopting a resolution denying the right of the British Parliament to tax the province.

The bill was finally signed on January 26, 1771.

"It is a common belief among the people of this county that the act which called the county into existence established the western boundary along the Mississippi, but such a belief is not based upon facts," Hollingsworth wrote in his book.

"The crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains was the legal limit along the west side of the newly created county, although officals claimed to the settlements in Tennessee."

The act for the creation of the county called it "An Act dividing the northern part of Rowan County and creating a new county and parrish by the name of Surry and Saint Judes Parish."

Surry was created, according to the act, because the large extent of Rowan County "renders it grevous and burdensome to many of the inhabitants thereof to attend the courts and general matters, and other public businesses appointed thereof . . ."

In creating Surry, Rowan was divided "by a line beginning at a point forty-two miles north of Earl Granville's line, on the Guilford County line thence running north to the Virginia line, westwardly along the Virginia line to the mountains, along the mountains to the ridge that divides the waters of the Yadkin and the Catawba rivers; then along said ridge to the northwest corner of Rowan County; thence east along the Rowan County line to the beginning . . ."

According to Hollingsworth, the act related that Surry would "remain a part of the Superior Court of Justice usually held for the District of Salisbury."

Griffith Rutherford, John Dunn, Matthew Locke, Martin Armstrong and Anthony Hampton, Esquire were appointed commissioners to run the dividing lines between Surry and Rowan, the Surry historian related. They were also directed to "agree and contract with workmen for erecting and building a court house, prison and stocks . . ."

To reimburse the commissioners for the money they spent, a poll tax of two shillings proclamation money per annum was to be levied for three years following April 1.

Justices of the court in Surry were directed to nominate six freeholders to serve as grand and petit jurors of the superior court.

BASED ON CARTERS' MANUSCRIPT

# TIMES To Present Series Of Articles

# Celebrating Surry County's Bicentennial

## *Mr., Mrs. W. F. Carter's Surry History To Serve As Articles' Primary Source*

Surry County has been officially alive and growing now for 200 years.

The study of these two centuries of progress and of the period leading to Surry's birth has been the life-long interest of Mrs. Frank Carter Jr. and her husband, the late Mr. Carter.

Mr. Carter, a former Mount Airy mayor, prominent citizen and unofficial Surry historian, and Mrs. Carter have painstakingly and lovingly pieced together a history of Surry County that provides not only historical facts but also the spirit and flavor of Surry heritage and culture.

The result of their work is their unpublished manuscript, "Footprints in 'The Hollows': Surry County and Her People."

It is appropriate that a county's bicentennial, a highpoint in her history, should be commemorated by efforts of her citizens to understand and appreciate her history more fully.

**In this spirit, and in deep appreciation to Mrs. Carter for permitting us to use the Carters' history and to publish excerpts from it, the TIMES will publish a series of articles, based primarily upon the Carters' fascinating work, which examines and commemorates Surry's 200 years of growth.**

This week's introductory article consists of the introduction to the Carters' work and a brief examination of the historical beginnings of the Carolinas and Surry County.

Next week's article concerns the various Indian tribes living in the area before European settlement, some of their customs and traditions, and the adventures of one brave settler who undertook a journey alone into Indian country.

Subsequent articles will deal with topics such as the first settlers and settlements, "The Hollows" and how Surry County was formed, the impact of the American Revolution, and the formation of new counties from Surry and the major settlements within Surry.

It is fitting to begin this series of articles with the Carters' introduction to their own work.

**Footprints In The Hollows**

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

"In the long ago the only visible footprints in the soft earth of this region were those of the wild creatures of the forest. Then the Red Man came down from the north, marking the untrod land with his proud step, the footprints becoming trails that led in and out of this gracious upland country.

"He left his name in many places when he disappeared into the west. Sauratown Mountains came from one of the tribes, the Sara from Siouan. "Renfro" was the name of a small family tribe that inhabited the ridge known as Renfro Hill. "Yattkin," source of the Yadkin River's name and other names with their legends are Indian legacies.

"Who named "The Hollows" is not known, nor its exact boundaries. Beginning in the foothills it was encircled by the beautiful sweep of the Blue Ridge Mountain range on the north and west.

"Stretching south toward the Yadkin River and eastward to where the stately Pilot marked the gateway into it, it was watered by the many small rivers and creeks which flowed down from the mountainsides.

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

"It is of those who came long ago, leaving their footprints behind as they built the Surry County of today that this book is written.

"Many people have contributed to it from their store of family histories and their memories. To those footprints which cannot be traced we pay silent homage."

**The Early Period**

Relatively little is known of the Indians before the seventeenth century who inhabited the area which would be called "Carolina."

The first major European settlement in this area was in the late sixteenth century. But Sir Walter Raleigh's effort, known as "The Lost Colony," was futile.

Few other settlers of this period were willing to brave the treacherous reefs protecting the Carolina shore, instead colonizing further north in Virginia and New England.

For more than 50 years the Carolinas remained largely unsettled. But in the mid-seventeenth century King Charles II of England repaid eight powerful lords for their support by granting them all the land between Virginia and Northern Florida. These men became the eight "lord proprietors," and the Carolina Charter was signed in 1663.

The eastern sector of this area along the coast and as far inland as the rivers were readily navigable became relatively settled by 1730. A few trading posts further to the west were established to facilitate trade between settlers and Indians. One of these posts was on the Yadkin River, called "Yattkin" by the Indians.

**The Granville District**

By 1729 all but one of the proprietors had sold their interests back to the Crown. Only Lord Carteret, the first Lord of Granville, had retained his property rights, though he had relinquished his governing authority.

His tract of land was bounded on the north by Virginia and on the south by a parallel line running from Hatteras Isle into the mountains. The land covered roughly the northern part of North Carolina.

Usually land grants were made in fairly small sizes, being limited to parcels of a few 100 acres. One exception to this was the Wachovia grant made to Moravian leaders in Saxony, Germany of 100,000 acres in what was to become Surry County.

While Granville did not give up his claims to the area in his district, the unsold lands which remained after the start of the Revolutionary War were confiscated by the colonists.

**Next Week**

Next week's article takes a closer look at the Indian tribes that inhabited what is now Northwest North Carolina and their customs and traditions. Of particular interest is the account of the travels of John Lederer, a German settler who went alone into this uncharted Indian country in his effort to understand better this part of Carolina.

Footsteps in the Hollows: Surry and Her People

# Lederer Early Explorer Of Indian Piedmont

## *Travels Yield Knowledge Of Indians, Customs; Many Tribes In Piedmont*

**This is the second in a series of articles commemorating Surry County's bicentennial. The primary source of these articles is the manuscript "Footprints in the Hollows: Surry and Her People," prepared by Mrs. W. F. Carter Jr. and the late Mr. Carter. The TIMES is grateful to Mrs. Carter for permission to reprint parts of the manuscript. Quotes, unless otherwise acknowledged, are from the manuscript.**

While last week's article discussed the origins of the Carolina Charter and the Granville District, from which Surry County was carved, the actual exploration and settlement of this area took considerable time.

Besides the natural hazards of an uncharted land, many Indian tribes hostile to the ways of white men inhibited exploration.

This week's article tells of the early exploratory efforts of John Lederer and his impressions of the Carolina wilderness and Indian life. It also discusses many of the Indian tribes present in the area. We let the Carters' manuscript, based on Lederer's diary, tell the story.

**John Lederer, Explorer**

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

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

"John Lederer had come from Germany in 1668 or '69, visiting the Virginia colony. Here he became greatly interested in the American Indian, his habitations, his customs, his beliefs and way of life. He wanted to go into the country where they still reigned without the presence or threatened interference of the white man. In Governor Berkeley of Virginia he found the patron he needed.

"An expedition set out on the 20th of May, 1670, with 20 colonists, five Indians and Lederer. Their primary purpose was to find a way through the mountains to the west, solving the mystery of what lay beyond.

"The party traveled west for ten days or more to where they reached the foot of the mountains, where they found the going too rough for horseback riding.

"All turned back but Lederer and the Susquehanna Indian named Jackzetavon, who together set out on what was to be an exciting and rewarding journey into Indian country.

"After leaving the party, Lederer changed his course to go south by southwest. Avoiding the mountains, he entered Carolina near the center of the state, going westward until he crossed the Yadkin River, then south to the present South Carolina line.

"By charting his course from one village to another, he was able to travel the trails of the Indians, making his journey less hazardous. He found that all the tribes spoke the same language though they differed in dialects. Quoting from him on the manners and customs of the Indians inhabiting the western parts of Virginia and Carolina—

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

" 'But before I treat of their Ancient Manners and Customs, it is necessary that I should show by what means the knowledge of them have been conveyed from former ages to posterity. Three ways they supply their want of letters: first by Counters, second by Hieroglyphicks, thirdly by Tradition, delivered in long tales from father to son, which being children they were made to learn by rote.

" 'For Counters they use either pebbles or short scantlings of straw or reeds. Where a battle has been fought, or a colony seated, they raise a small pyramid of these stones, consisting of the number slain or transplanted.

" 'An account of time and other things, they keep on a string or leather thong tied in knots of several colors . . .

" 'They worship one God, Creator of all things, whom some call Okaee, others Mannith. To him alone the High Priest, or Peruki, offers sacrifice.

" 'Yet they believe he has no regard for sublunary affairs, but commits the government of Mankinds to lesser Dieties . . . good and evil spirits.'

"As Lederer travels into this unknown territory he says of it, 'I had just cause to fear these Indians because they had been in continual hostility with the Christians (whites), for ten years before; yet presuming that the truck I carried with me would procure my welcome, I adventured to put myself into their power, having heard they never offer any injury to a few persons from whom they apprehend no danger; nevertheless they examined me strictly, whence I came, whither I went and what my business was'."

"After three stops in villages in Virginia where he finds each a monarchy with its own names and laws, Lederer reaches Oenock in Carolina. This village is built around a field where sports were a major attraction. Their houses were built of, not barck, but "Watling and Plaister," round in shape with a small oven near by for cooking. Their fields were planted with grain in abundance.

"Fourteen miles southwest Lederer comes to Watery. Here he finds a monarch whose subjects are slaves to him. Their barbarity fills him with such horror that he hurries away.

"His next stop is with the Sara Indians. Here, he says, he is not far from the mountains which the Spaniards call Suala. This has been placed by later writings as probably near the Trading Post on the Yadkin River.

"Explorers who came into this region after Lederer found the Saras had moved up the Dan River, north of Pilot Mountain, establishing an upper Saura and lower Saura Town. From these villages probably comes the name "Sauratown Mts." These names are found on eighteenth century maps long after the villages were deserted.

"From Sara, Lederer traveled south by southwest for three days to reach Wisacky, a Waxhaw village, then across a river, probably the Catawba, to Ushery. This was a Catawba Indian village, the largest he has seen yet.

"While spending two days here

continued

he learns of a powerful nation of bearded men, who are only two and a half day's journey to the southwest. Thinking they may be Spaniards and having no desire to meet them, he turned homeward.

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

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

### The Indian Nations

Several Indian nations were known to inhabit Northwest North Carolina when white men, "palefaces" to Indians, began settlement. Included among these Nations were, according to eminent Surry historian Jesse Hollingsworth, Cherokees, Cheraws, Catawbas and Sauras, "all found west of the Tuscaroras' lands which occupied the eastern half of the state."

The strongest of these, the Cherokees, were probably driven south from the Northern U. S. by the ferocious Iroquois. The Cherokees in turn forced some of these other Indian Nations southeast toward South Carolina and Georgia.

The Cherokees, who originally controlled some forty thousand square miles, "were the mountaineers of the Southern Indians," Hollingsworth wrote.

"Records show them to have been an aggressive people, and since their relations with white man began they have shown a tenacity of purpose that is difficult to match.

"In fact so wedded were these people to their mountains that even today they are in possession of a small part of their former empire and all efforts of the national and state governments have failed to remove them from their mountain fastness."

Hollingsworth quotes one of the early travelers as starting that the Cherokees in their disposition and manners "'are grave and steady, dignified and circumspect in their deportment; rather slow and reserved in conversation, yet frank, cheerful and humane; tenacious of the liberties and natural rights of man; secret and determined in their council, honest, just and liberal, and always ready to sacrifice every pleasure and gratification, even their blood and life itself, to defend their territory and to maintain their rights'."

The Cherokees' rule, which extended over the mountain lands from Georgia to the Ohio River, including Kentucky, gave them control over the great mountain barriers between coastal English settlements and French garrisons along the Mississippi and Ohio. But they failed to make the most of this significant power because of divisions among the chiefs.

"The Cherokees," the Carters write, "had their villages, farms, orchards, their individual family lives in which the marriage ritual consisted of an exchange of gifts and the approval of the woman's council.

"The young warriors were allowed freedom of courtship and the process of divorce was as simple as the marriage rites. The woman simply returned to the home of her parents or the warrior left his dwelling for good. The children usually went with their mother."

### Renfrow

"Prior to settlement in the Hollows there was an Indian village along the Ararat River, or so there is reason to believe, built by a tribe of the Cherokees with a chief named Renfrow.

"The village, according to tradition, was built along the river above the present community of Bannertown with the Chief's house on a high hill overlooking the village. The earliest settlers in these parts found this hill to be named Renfrow Hill.

"The hill kept this name, with the 'w' being dropped, for at least two hundred years, remaining a landmark in the town of Mount Airy until it was leveled to form the site for a new post office in 1932. A few years later a further cut was made through the hill for the construction of East Pine Street."

### Indian Trails

Hollingsworth points out the distinct similarity of present-day railways and highway systems with the network of Indian trails crossing the Piedmont and mountain sections of Northwest North Carolina prior to 1760.

"The chief trail," he notes as quoted in the Carter manuscript, "that traversed Surry County was the southwest fork of the Saura-Saponi trail; it joined the Occonee trail—the east and west route of travel—near where Boonville is located, crossed the Yadkin River to the north side and followed the course of the Ararat River—known to the Indians as Tararat—to a section near present Mt. Airy then turned eastward, crossing north of the Sauratown Mountains, and formed a junction with the Tutela-Saura trail near Martinsville, Va."

Next week the series continues its examination of early Surry history, looking at the first white settlements.

# Carolina Settlers Had Varied Backgrounds

## *Many Groups Escaped Persecution, Sought New Home In CAROLINA*

**This is the third in a series of articles commemorating Surry County's bicentennial. The series is taken from a manuscript, "Footsteps in the Hollows: Surry and Her People," painstakingly prepared by Mrs. W. F. Carter and the late Mr. Carter, a former Mount Airy mayor. The article last week discussed the travels of young John Lederer through uncharted Indian country in the Carolinas in the seventeenth century, viewing the many indigenous tribes and Indian ways of life through his eyes. This week's article examines the various groups of white European settlers who carved a new life from the Carolina wilderness. Printed this week are excerpts from the Carters' manuscript.**

### FIRST SETTLERS

Between the beautiful but isolated part of Western Carolina and the populous regions along the coast was the barrier of non-existent roads and no navigable rivers.

The Yadkin River, which might have afforded an open gate had it flowed east across the state, turned its course south into South Carolina where it lost its name as well as its waters in the Pee Dee River.

The lands of the powerful and hostile Tuscaroras also acted as a barrier between the East and the West so it was from the north that settlers came, traveling down the "Great Wagon Road" from Philadelphia. The North Carolina maps of that day called this road the "Great Road from the Yadkin River through Virginia to Philadelphia."

To many who traveled it the only claim to greatness it could have lay in its length, as they slowly made their way along it with their horses, wagons, cattle and families.

As this road came on down into Carolina along the Sauratown Mountains, we assume that some of the travelers turned west instead of following the road south, and faced toward the curve of the Blue Ridge Mountain ranges.

Perhaps they followed Indian trails as they came into the great saucer which stretched from the Yadkin River to the foothills. Here, in the "Hollows," they came to make their homes, far away from the persecutions of the Old World and the exactions of the English government along the Eastern coasts.

Among those who came were Germans from war-torn Europe where for one hundred years there had been no permanent peace between the French and Germans, Catholic and Protestants.

From the highlands of Scotland they came: the Irish came, and the Scotch-Irish who were not Irish at all but Scots who had been taken from their lands by the English in 1609 and transplanted to the swamps of Ulster in Ireland.

There they had been so successful in turning the bogs into farms and grazing lands and the manufacture of their wool into goods that they found the hand of England raised against them. In 1699 an Act was passed prohibiting the exportation of any of their goods to any place except England and Wales.

This was followed by a law excluding them from holding any public office, practicing law or teaching school. Many of their churches (Presbyterian) were nailed shut. Their livelihoods and liberties thus curtailed many of them sought transportation to the New World. According to writings of James A. Froude, an English historian, this exodus to America "robbed Ireland of the bravest defenders of the English interests."

It was the Scotch-Irish who first detected the growing encroachment of English infringements on the rights of the colonists. They were in the majority of those who organized the Regulator Movement in Granville, Orange and Guilford.

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

It was here, in 1773, that the Moravians came, natives of the provinces of Moravia and Bohemia who had moved over into Germany to escape persecution for their religious beliefs. They came to settle on the vast land grant which had been purchased from the Earl of Granville.

The Moravians were a religious sect whose home was in Saxony under the leadership of a noble and consecrated Christian, Count Zinzendorf. They also had societies in England and had established colonies in Pennsylvania, one of them being called Bethlehem.

In 1752 the Earl of Granville suggested to the Moravian leaders in London, England, that they apply for lands in Carolina and plant a colony there. In the fall of that year, Bishop Spangenberg of Pennsylvania with five other members of the Bethlehem community came down to Edenton. They traveled the long miles from there to the foot of the Blue Ridge mountains looking for the most suitable location for their colony.

The further west they came the more pleased they were with the land, the climate and the resources. The springs, creeks and rivers kept it well-watered; there was much timber as well as open fields for farming on the site they finally selected.

From this report the secretary of the London Society obtained grants to nearly 100,000 acres of land in "the three forks of Muddy Creek" on the east side of the Yadkin River. The tract was named "Wachovia," probably from Wachau, the name of the estate of Count Zinzendorf.

The Society of Friends, also known as Quakers, came into the Hollows between 1740 and 1760. They were of English descent, part of a colony which migrated from Pennsylvania to North Carolina.

One group traveled down into the Piedmont settling in what would later become Guilford County. The other came into the Hollows by way of the Sauratown Mountains taking up land along Big Creek, Tom's Creek and other streams north and west of Pilot Mountain.

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

In the seventy years since Lederer had gone out from there to visit the Indians in Carolina, Virginia had become a land of vast plantations, worked by slave labor, and great houses copied from those of the mother country.

There was much wealth in a society of leisure living while the small land owner was forced further west or south.

The English custom of keeping a large estate intact at the death of the owner, by bequeathing it to the eldest son, was followed here. Other sons received sums of money and a slave or two, while still others had only the proud name of the family.

These adventured into the uninhabited lands south or west of the Virginia colony. The records of many who came to live in the Hollows show them to belong to families of the earliest settlers of Virginia.

continued

## FRONTIER LIFE

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

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

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

Nature had provided iron ore along some of the streams and this they mined and forged into farm implements, kettles, pots of various sizes and many of the needed commodities used in building. One such mine was located on the Tarrarat River, another on Tom's Creek near the Pilot Mountain.

On the farms was grown a plant called flax, the fiber of which was used in making cloth. In nearly every home there were flax spinning wheels set up which spun the flax into thread.

Wood was most commonly used for making basins, bowls, spoons, tubs, and the man with the whittling knife found a welcome from the womenfolks.

After the wood came pewter for plates, cutlery, candlesticks and many other articles.

Another object which was guarded with great care was the fire that burned constantly in the fireplace, being fed with huge logs which lasted for hours. Without it no food could be cooked and there was no warmth from the chill outside.

If the fire died down beyond rekindling, someone had to go to the nearest neighbor, with a covered vessel, to beg some live coals. This custom gave rise to a familiar question of that day—"Well, what's your hurry? Carrying coals of fire?" Two hundred years later it can still be heard in certain localities when someone pays a hurried visit.

The first manufacturing plant was the grist mill. The huge grinding stones were cut and shaped by someone with a natural "gift" for it, but getting it in operation was pretty much a community project.

Many settlers living along a stream would have their own mill while others preferred having a neighbor grind their grain. Some mills became popular meeting places for the settlers and here there would eventually be a general store, the barter system being often the means of exchange.

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

From the "Old Countries" had come too the skills for making wines and whiskeys. The material was there in the apples for brandies, the abundant harvest of grapes and berries for wines and the corn and rye for whiskey. Too they had persimmon and locusts for beer. The women drank sassafras tea, made from a local shrub. (The dictionary defines sassafras as "American fragrant aromatic shrub of the laurel family.")

In the listing of household goods found in old wills, there is often mention made of a still, counting it among the assets.

One of the problems encountered in frontier life was the difficulty in obtaining a marriage license. The Colonial government had decreed that all marriages came under the jurisdiction of the established Church of England and must be performed by their clergy or an appointed court official.

The scarcity of such clergy along the frontier coupled with the large fees charged by magistrates, when they could be contacted, led many couples simply to take their vows in the presence of family and friends, or to dispense with the ceremony altogether.

By 1776 the Colonial government was forced to recognize the futility of trying to enforce such a law and legalized all marriages which had been performed by "dissenting ministers" in the past and granting them the privilege of performing such duties in the future.

# Counties, Communities Develop In Area

## *Despite Problems, Hardy Settlers Lay Claim To New Life In Carolina*

**This is the fourth in a series of articles commemorating Surry County's bicentennial. The series is taken from a manuscript, "Footsteps in the Hollows: Surry and Her People," painstakingly prepared by Mrs. W. F. Carter and the late Mr. Carter, a former Mount Airy mayor.**

**Last week's article discussed the origins and ways of life of the new settlers. Attention focuses this week on some of the settlements, the formation of new counties and certain grants of land. The article begins with George Bancroft's description of the settlers in this area.**

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

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

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

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

"The borderers laid it to heart if their land was taken in Virginia. They chose rather to belong to Carolina where they pay no tribute to God or Ceasar."

If by "God" he meant the Church of England, then he was right no doubt, but worship God in their own simple way, without any trappings or ceremonies, the answer must surely be, they did.

### WACHOVIA

Counted among the blessings of those who settled in the "Hollows" should be the close proximity of Wachovia, the settlement of the Moravians.

In contrast to the pioneers who came in singly or in families to build their homes on large tracts of land, widely separate from each other, the Moravians built their homes close together along a common street, thus forming a settlement.

Their farmlands, orchards and vineyards extended beyond the village and were held in common. Of the twelve men who formed the first party to come to Carolina, each was a specialist in a particular trade.

Soon Bethabara, the first of the Moravian villages, became an important trading center, drawing people from the south and east, as well as those north of the Yadkin.

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

Bethabara found it necessary to fortify their village and mill by building palisades of upright logs around them. As the Indians came down into the Yadkin valley many settlers fled to the village and found it a haven of safety.

Of the many who came there were some who wanted to stay near the fort instead of facing again the dangers of isolation. For these, who were mostly Germans, speaking a common language, the Moravians built another village a short distance away and named it Bethania.

In 1776 the Moravians decided to move from Bethabara to a place further south on their land grant, and so founded the town of Salem, moving the inhabitants from Bethabara to the new location.

By doing so they brought themselves nearer to the seat of local government, Rowan Courthouse. At this time Rowan County extended from Anson County to the Virginia line.

The Moravians set an example for their neighbors in establishing schools for their children. As early as 1762 a day school was opened at Bethania.

For the inhabitants of the upper country this was not possible, so education depended on home teaching. And this was carried out much more faithfully than some think. Reading, writing, spelling, and "doing sums" comprised the foundation upon which the individual could advance his learning through what ever material was available. Quite often the family Bible was the textbook.

continued

## ANSON AND ROWAN COUNTIES

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

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

In 1750 Anson County was formed from the western part of Bladen. Three years later Rowan was formed from the northern part of Anson, extending from the Granville line which divided the state through to the Virginia line, bordered on the east by the newly formed county of Orange.

It was named in honor of Matthew Rowan, a prominent leader of the section and, for a short time after the death of Governor Gabriel Johnston, acting governor.

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

Among the early grants were several to Morgan Bryan, made in 1752. These lay scattered from Mulberry Fields to the Tararat River and south to the mouth of Deep Creek.

One tract of 450 acres on the Yadkin River and Hogan's Creek he deeded to Samuel Freeman in 1771. The village of Siloam was later built on this tract.

Another tract west of this one was also deeded to Samuel Freeman in 1767.

As grants were acquired along the Yadkin and Mitchell Rivers, others were being made to land nearest the Virginia border, watered by the Tararat River.

In 1756 a 500 acre land grant was made out to Frederick Fulkerson which lay along this river near the Virginia line. Another deed to the land on the north fork of the Tararat (Ararat), known as Blether's Creek, bore the date 1761. Patrick Cole received a grant of 400 acres in 1762, the land being sold to Jonathan Osburn in 1774 and designated as "On a creek known as Loving, being the middle fork of the Tararat River."

Other deeds show the presence of many families here in the Hollows, as these—William Robeson with 200 acres; John Stewart, the name also spelled Stuart; John Childress; Quintin Pooler and Mrs. Susannah Bledsoe. An attorney who handled many of these deeds was Major Andrew Baillie (Bailey).

Another name belonging to this period was Faulkner, his deed being recorded in Rowan County. His holdings were in this vicinity, a creek running through the property being named Faulkner's Creek. One branch of this family later moved to Tennessee and down to Mississippi, giving foundation to the claim that the famed author and lecturer, William Faulkner, was of this early Surry County family. The names of those remaining here somehow became written as Forkner.

This change in spelling happened to many of the early settlers. All courthouse records and papers were handwritten, making spelling and penmanship very important. A name given orally would be spelled as it sounded unless the owner was present to spell it out, and a name could sound different to different people. Names written illegibly often had the spelling changed in the copying of the item. Sometimes families changed their spelling of the family name for personal reasons.

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

# Surry County Formed In 1771, Boundaries Defined, Court Set

## *New "Surry County" Included Many Of Present Northwest NC Counties*

**This is the fifth in a series of articles commemorating Surry County's bicentennial. The series is taken from a manuscript, "Footprints In The Hollows: Surry and Her People," prepared by Mrs. W. F. Carter Jr. and the late Mr. Carter, a former mayor of the city.**

**Last week's article discussed many of the communities and new settlements in the area which was to become Surry County. This week, the article centers on the new county itself, the territory it encompassed and the counties which were to come from it.**

### SURRY COUNTY

In 1769 the leaders of Wachovia and a few men from the Hollows petitioned the Governor and General Assembly to form a new county, embracing the northern part of Rowan.

At a meeting in December, 1770, this petition was granted, to become effective early in the year of 1771. Two new counties were formed, Guilford and Surry.

Guilford was composed of the northwestern part of Orange and the northwestern part of Rowan. Surry was to begin 42 miles north of the Granville line in Rowan County and extend to the Virginia line.

The surveyors who were appointed to run the lines made the survey between Surry and Guilford and between Surry and Rowan but the western boundary was left unmarked. Here the land extended to what would some day be Tennessee.

From this vast region have come the following counties—

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

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

Third — Stokes County, formed from Surry in 1789.

Fourth — Ashe County, formed from Wilkes in 1799.

Fifth — Forsyth, formed from Stokes in 1849.

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

Seventh — Yadkin, formed from Surry in 1850.

Eighth — Alleghany, formed from Ashe in 1859.

When Surry was formed its great size, combined with the fact that Guilford came into existence at the same time forming the eastern boundary while far to the west no lines had been chartered, caused many queries as to Surry's actual size. A description was coined which aptly described the state of mind of the average citizen on the subject. With pardonable pride he described his county as—"South to Rowan, north to Virginia, east to God knows where and west to the Judgment Day."

#### The Formation of Surry

The Act dividing the northern part of Rowan County and erecting a new county and parish by the name of Surry, included the following articles:

I—Whereas the large extent of the county of Rowan, renders it grevious and burdensome to many of the inhabitants thereof to attend the Courts and General Musters, and other public businesses appointed thereof;

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

III—And for the administration of Justice, be it enacted by the authority aforesaid that after the aforesaid first day of April . . . that a court for the said county of Surry be constantly held by the Justices thereof, at Gideon Wright's on the third Tuesday in February, May, August and November . . . .

#### Origin of the Name Surry

In the old Saxon language "Surry" meant South River and applied to the southern part of England. The Duke of Surry was a powerful feudal lord who held a prominent place in the King's councils.

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

continued

**First Courthouse**
**Gideon Wright's Homeplace**

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

Martin Armstrong, one of the surveyors, had also been to Newbern in the interest of the new county but being in sympathy with the Regulators, he stood no chance of obtaining favors from the governor.

When agitation for a new county was first begun, it was thought the proper place for the courthouse would be at Mulberry Fields, a meeting place for the people in the Hollows. This would have been about the center of the county as it was first drawn. Wright's home was too for to the east.

Dissatisfaction over the location and disapproval of Wright's part in the Regulators' troubles delayed the building of the courthouse indefinitely. Those who favored the Regulators gained a victory at the first meeting of the Surry court, according to Jesse Hollingsworth's History of Surry County—

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

**Boundary Lines Between Surry, Rowan and Guilford, 1771**

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

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

**Richmond Courthouse—**
**(Now known as "Old Richmond" in Forsyth County)**

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

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

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

# Young Surry County Faced Struggle In 1770's

## *Committees Of Safety Formed As Area Worked For Independence*

**This is the sixth in a series of articles commemorating Surry County's bicentennial. The series is taken from a manuscript, "Footprints In The Hollows: Surry And Her People," prepared by Mrs. W. F. Carter Jr. and the late Mr. Carter, a former mayor of this city.**

**While last week's article examined the formation of Surry County in 1771 and the vast amount of land the county then encompassed, this week the focus is on the difficulties this young county faced during the Revolutionary War, the measures that had to be taken, and some of Surry's citizens who played important roles during this difficult time.**

### Committees of Safety

In the years between the Battle of Alamance and the Declaration of Independence, lines were sharply drawn between those loyal subjects of the Crown and those settlers who were becoming more and more in favor of Independence from England.

The unrest was so great in many sections that it brought about the formation of committees of safety.

According to Lefler's History of North Carolina, 18 North Carolina counties and four towns established Safety Committees in the latter part of 1774 and the early months of 1775. The members of these committees were usually chosen by mass meetings.

The most effective and active of these bodies, Lefler continues, were those of Pitt, New Hanover, Rowan, Mecklenburg, Craven, Tryon and Surry. A historian Conner describes these bodies of law enforcement in this manner:

"Born of necessity, originating in the political and economic confusion of the time, they touched the lives of the people in their most intimate affairs, and gradually extended their jurisdiction until they assumed to themselves all the functions of government.

"They enforced with vigor the resolves of the Continental and Provincial Congresses, some of which were most exacting in their demands and burdensome in their effects.

"They conducted inquiries into the actions and opinions of individuals, and not only determined what acts and opinions constituted a man an enemy of his country but passed upon his guilt or innocence and fixed his punishment.

"They raised money by voluntary subscriptions, fines and assessments for the purchase of gunpowder, arms, and all other implements of war.

"The militia had to be enlisted, organized, equipped and drilled. In short a revolution had to be inaugurated and it fell to these committees to do it."

Governor Martin denounced these "extraordinary tribunals" as "motley mobs" and "promoters of sedition." They certainly were "Extraordinary" and from the point of view of a Royal Governor did promote "sedition" but they were not motley mobs.

Many of the men who served on them were persons of wealth, intelligence, character and culture.

Most of them were leaders in their communities, among whom were: Cornelius Harnett, William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, Willie Jones, Abner Nash, Benjamin Cleveland and others who achieved eminence in the history of the state and nation . . .

### Surry County's Committee Of Safety

Benjamin Cleveland, Chairman
Samuel Freeman
Benjamin Herndon
Jesse Hampton
John Hudspeth
George Wheatley
Frederick Alberton
Matthew Moore
William Brown
Thomas Johnson
Joseph Williams
Richard Gorde
Charles Lynch
Augustus Blackburn
John Snead
Paul Patrick
David Martin
John Dunkin
James Jones
Joseph Phillips
William Hill
John Hamlin
John Armstrong
George Lash
Malcolm Curry
Joseph Winston
John Parks
William Hickman
William Hall
Charles Waddle
Jesse Walton
James Doke
Matthew Brooks
Martin Armstrong
John Pinchley
David Allen
Jacob Ferce
Elijah Isaacs
Robert Lanier
William Lenoir, Clerk

It was stated that while certain Moravians, for example, refused a place on the committee because of their religious faith which forbade the bearing of arms, they pledged themselves to always be ready to obey those in authority.

Relations between the English government and the American colonies had become so strained by 1774 that a call was made, informally, by the Virginia House of Burgesses, for a Continental Congress.

A letter was sent to each of the colonies asking for a congress to meet "to deliberate on all those general measures which the united interests of America may from time to time require."

Gov. Martin refused to call the Assembly in time for the appointment of delegates to this meeting, which was to be held in Philadelphia on Sept. 1st.

A mass meeting was held in Wilmington, July 21, where it was decided to call for delegates to meet at New Bern on August 25. Thirty of the 36 counties sent a total of 71 delegates to this meeting, called the First Provincial Congress in North Carolina.

From this body was selected the delegates to meet with the first Continental Congress in Philadelphia, Sept. 1774. The men were Richard Caswell, William Hooper and Joseph Hewes.

Surry County did not send delegates to the first meeting at New Bern, the distance being so great, but when the Congress met the following year at Hillsborough five men, selected from the Committee of Safety, were appointed Surry's delegates to the Provincial Congress.

### Provincial Congress

The delegates from Surry to the Provincial Congress meeting at Hillsborough, August 11, 1775, were Robert Lanier, William Hill, Joseph Williams, Martin Armstrong and Joseph Winston.

Officers who served in the Surry County Militia during the Revolutionary War are listed here. Some of them were appointed officers in the Continental Army and served with distinction.

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

It is to be remembered that at this time all the state west of Guilford and north of Rowan was included in Surry County. As the counties are formed from Surry, many of these names are found to be residents of the various counties.

# Surry's Growth Continued Despite Revolutionary War

## Many Of Surry's Sons Gained Fame For Part In War; New Counties Formed

**This is the seventh in a series of articles commemorating Surry County's bicentennial. The series is taken from a manuscript, "Footprints in the Hollows: Surry and Her People," prepared by Mrs. W. F. Carter Jr. and the late Mr. Carter, a former mayor of the city.**

**This week's article continues an examination of Surry County and her growth during the difficult times of the Revolutionary War, looking at some of Surry's sons who took part in the war and at the new counties which continued to be formed out of the Northwest North Carolina territory.**

**The first section, "A Time of War," is a brief condensation of several much longer chapters prepared by the Carters.**

### A TIME OF WAR

The times of the Revolutionary War were indeed difficult ones for the young county of Surry, then hardly five years old. The task of forming and consolidating a viable government was greatly complicated by the need for Surry's young men to fight for independence against a well-trained British foe.

Surry County served the cause of independence well. Her men participated in many of the major battles in the state and many of her sons gained much fame for their efforts in battle.

Colonel Joseph Winston, Captain Robert Cleaveland, Richard Talliaferro, Captain Jesse Franklin (who was to become governor of the state) and Col. Benjamin Cleaveland, all made important contributions for the colonists.

The efforts of Surry County and North Carolina men particularly in the Battles of Kings Mountain and Guilford Courthouse, gained acclaim throughout the 13 colonies.

An adopted son of North Carolina, Harry Golden, writing in 1964 on American history, commented favorably on these efforts.

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

After the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, which demoralized the Tory forces, Lord Cornwallis was quoted as saying, "I never saw such fighting since God made me. The Americans fought like demons."

**Washington District (1776) and Wilkes County (1778)**

While the war was in progress the General Assembly went about its business as usual, and one business was the act of creating new counties.

Surry was deeply affected by this as its citizens found themselves deprived of those vast lands that reached "West to the Judgment Day."

On August 22, 1776, the inhabitants living along the Watauga, Holston and Nolachucky Rivers, petitioned the Council of Safety, saying that "since they are within the bounds of this State" they wanted to be allowed to set up courts and elect representatives to the General Assembly.

This petition was formerly acted upon ad their representatives took seats in the Provincial Congress at Halifax on November 19, 1776. Thus Washington District was officially recognized as a part of the governmental structure of North Carolina.

At the Battle of Kings Mountain, 1780, the men from Washington County, the word "District" had been changed to County, numbered 240 under Col. John Seiver. All this was later to become a part of Tennessee. It now became the western boundary of Wilkes.

**Wilkes County**

The lines of Wilkes County, which became effective February 15, 1778, were drawn as follows: "Beginning at a point Twenty Six Miles due west of Surry Court House, thence north to the Virginia Line, thence West along the said line to the Ridge that divides the Waters of Holston and New Rivers, thence along the said Ridge to Burke County Line, thence Eastwardly along the line that divides the counties of Surry and Burke to Rowan County Line, thence along Rowan County Line to point due South of the Beginning, thence North to the Beginning, be erected into a Distinct County by the name of Wilkes."

The newly formed county took from Surry many prominent families, including William Lenoir, Benjamin Cleaveland and Bernard Franklin.

Cleaveland was the first member of the General Assembly from Wilkes to serve in the House of Commons, 1778, and in the Senate in 1779.

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

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

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

**Stokes County**

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

# New Surry Courthouse At Rockford

# Was To Serve 3 United States Presidents

## *Period Characterized By Flow Of Population, Relaxed Style Of Life; Era's Leaders Noted*

**This is the eighth in a series of articles commemorating Surry County's bicentennial. The series is taken from a manuscript, "Footprints in the Hollows: Surry and Her People," prepared by Mrs. W. F. Carter Jr. and the late Mr. Carter, a former mayor of the city.**

**This week's article examines the efforts of the young county to find a courthouse and looks at the lifestyle of that period and at some of the men who led the formation of government in the era.**

**Rockford Courthouse— Surry County, 1790**

When Stokes was formed from Surry County the old courthouse at Richmond was sold, the money being divided equally between the two counties for use on their respective new courthouses.

The act dividing the county specified that the Surry court was to be held at the home of Richard Horn until a courthouse, prison and stocks could be erected at a central place.

In 1790 Rockford was established on fifty-three acres of land deeded by Thomas and Moses Ayres for that purpose. Commissioners were named to erect public buildings.

The village was laid out on the north side of the Yadkin River where the water was wide and shallow with a rocky river-bed, making the crossing easier for the inhabitants from the lower half of the county.

The first courthouse was built of wood and was destroyed by fire after a few years. The second building was also a frame house, this being replaced by a handsome brick structure, the brick being hauled from Fayetteville by wagon train. Tradition says this brick had been used as ballast for seagoing vessels.

The walls of this building were made eighteen inches thick, reaching up two stories high, a wide and spacious house with a porch on one side flanked by arches of brick. Four large white columns, reaching to the roof, added dignity to the front entrance. Until 1850, it served as the county courthouse, passing into private ownership when the county was again divided.

Although Surry County had twice been reduced in size, it still extended to Rowan County, placing Rockford near the center. At this time Rowan included the present county of Davie, Davie being formed from Rowan in 1836.

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

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

Andrew Johnson followed the trade of tailor, using one of the small lawyer offices which were built along the hillside, thus financing his law studies.

James K. Polk was said to have used a small cabin on the premises of his kinsman, William K. Dobson, a lawyer who lived on a large plantation in the vicinity of Rockford.

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

The little village of Richmond deteriorated rapidly after the courthouse was moved. It had had its birth amid strife and its death was equally violent. Out of a dark and stormy sky one day there descended a tornado, sweeping everything before it. The houses fell like match boxes, the doors of the courthouse were found on a distant hill and the shingles fell in Germantown, many miles away. And no one ever wanted to rebuild on the spot.

The difficult years after the war were bringing changes, not all of them good for Surry. The hostilities that marked the footprints in the Hollows with blood were not soon forgotten. Those who had given so much of themselves for the cause of independence were now much poorer than those who had stayed clear of the struggle, taking the side of the British.

The young men who had grown up during the war were looking for new worlds to conquer and the Indian lands beyond the mountains drew many of them. Some had been soldiers who accepted the government's offer of land in return for their military services.

One of the older of these soldiers was Colonel Benjamin Cleaveland. After one year in the General Assembly the Colonel, who had had an impediment in his speech, decided that frontier life suited him better. He remembered a section of land he had passed through while on an expedition against the Cherokees. At that time he had promised himself that when the war was over he would come back to this virgin land which seemed in tune with his pioneer spirit; so, leaving his handsome home, located at a bend on the Yadkin River and called "Round-A-Bout," he moved his household to a new land grant at the junction of Tagaloo River and Chauga Creek. This was in South Carolina near where Fort Madison was located. Here the old warrior died in 1806.

There was a tradition that he made one more journey, the long one back to his boyhood home in Orange County, Virginia, where he was buried on his father's old plantation.

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

This period of immigration from the county was balanced by other families coming into it. The Indian barrier having been removed from the central part of the state, many came from counties east and south of Surry.

The healthful climate with cool summers and winters that were tempered by the shield

continued

of mountains surrounding it, beckoned those looking for a better location.

The Moravian settlement attracted many of German descent who became some of Surry's most substantial builders of men and industry.

There has been the supposition that many Scotch-Irish settled in Surry but, according to historians these people left Ireland to gain religious and political freedom, and it is said that wherever they went a "Kirk and school followed." Since there is no record of any Presbyterian church being established in "The Hollows" before 1856, it follows that Surry had very few Scotch-Irish. Most of the inhabitants were of English descent.

Now that peace had come the people could turn their attention to improving their farms and building new homes as well as improving those which were constructed when they had only logs to lay upon each other for a shelter.

These log houses were now covered over with boards and more rooms added at the front; or the log house would be left to serve as an outdoor kitchen, a frame or brick house being built a few yards in front of it. The food would be prepared in the kitchen and carried in covered vessels to the "big house."

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

The easiest and most pleasant way to travel was by horseback though wagons and later, carriages, were used for family journeys. Often the mother would have a child riding up front as she sat sideways on the horse. The more affluent had side-saddles but the lack of one did not deter the female riders. It would be another one hundred years before a woman would be seen riding cross-saddle.

In those years the people were dependent on each other for entertainment so visiting was a favorite pasttime, singly and in groups. Music, they made themselves with song and fiddle; games, indoors and out, were entered into with zest while dancing they loved. Life was simple but they made of it an enjoyable affair.

**TIME 1789-1825**

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

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

**Senate**

Joseph Winston—1789-90
Gideon Edwards—1791-1803
Peter Eaton—1804
Jesse Franklin—1805-06
Thomas Wright—1807-17
William P. Dobson—1818-19
Solomon Graves—1820-23
Pleasant B. Roberts—1824
Henry B. Poindexter—182?

**House of Commons**

Jonathan Haines
Jesse Franklin
Hugh Armstrong
Francis Poindexter
Meshack Franklin
Joseph Williams, Jr.
Nathan Chafin
William Dowling
Charles Talliaferro
Edward Sweatt
Josiah Hatley
Edward Lovell
Henry B. Poindexter
E. Thompson
Colihu Moore
Abselom Bostick
Jacob Sheppard
Henry Speer
Micajah Oglesby
Thomas Wright
Nicholas Horn
David Davis
David Scott
Lewis Williams
Mathew M. Hughes
Gabriel Hanby
Solomon Graves
P. D. Roberts
Thomas Hampton
David Durratt

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

**United States Congress**

Jesse Franklin — elected to Congress, 1795-97; U. S. Senator, 1799-1805; elected president pro tem of Senate, 1804; U. S. Senator, 1807-1813; elected Governor of North Carolina, 1820-21.

Meshack Franklin (younger brother of Jesse)—elected to Congress in 1807, served until 1815; Councilor of State for 12 years; helped rewrite the state constitution, 1835.

Robert Williams — elected to Congress, 1797-1803; moved to Tennessee where he was prominent in state government.

Lewis Williams—member of Congress, 1815-1842.

As is noted in the above list of office holders, Jesse Franklin was a U. S. Senator from 1799-1805. In 1803 the state of Ohio was admitted into the Union, the question of slavery coming up when a Cuban slaveholder sought residence in the state.

Senator Franklin was chairman of the committee to consider this problem and he used his influence to have the ordinance of 1787 upheld, which excluded slavery from the Northwest Territory.

# Jesse Franklin Of Surry County

# Was Early Senator, Governor, Statesman

## Franklin Went From War Hero To Statesman, Was Early Advocate Of Need For Public Education

**This is the ninth in a series of articles commemorating Surry County's bicentennial. The series is taken from a manuscript, "Footprints In The Hollows: Surry And Her People," prepared by Mrs. W. F. Carter Jr. and the late Mr. Carter, a former mayor of the city.**

**It is fitting that this week's article, which falls during the week of the bicentennial date itself, should concern the life of one of Surry's most noted citizens, Jesse Franklin, and an issue, public education, which continues to be a principal issue even today.**

### Revolutionary War Leaders— Captain Jesse Franklin

### Soldier, Statesman and Governor of North Carolina

The name of Jesse Franklin has appeared frequently on the pages of this narrative of the people of Surry County, but those were the acts of a youth in military service.

In the light of his contribution to the county, the state and nation through the remainder of his life, it is fitting to insert that record here where he ended a brilliant military career and took up an equally honorable political life.

Jesse Franklin was a third generation native-born American. His two grandfathers were born in Albemarle County, in a section of Virginia that produced the Madisons, Jeffersons and Washingtons. When the war was over, he returned to Virginia for his bride, Miss Meecha Perkins of Buckingham Co.

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

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

In 1793 the county line between Wilkes and Surry was moved, giving Surry the Mitchell River section. In that year Jesse represented Surry in the General Assembly.

In 1795 he represented his district in Congress for one term. And it was in 1795 that Jesse established his own home, buying 411 acres on Fisher River in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, for the sum of three hundred and ten pounds of Virginia money.

This land, part of an original grant made to Henry Kirby, was in a beautiful location, being on a slight eminence overlooking the sparkling waters of the river, facing east across the lowlands with the sheltering curve of the mountains to his back. Jesse built the house that was to last down to the present time, known far and wide as the "Jesse Franklin home." No matter who lived in it in the years after the Franklins were gone, it was always his house.

The years 1795-97 were exciting ones for Franklin as he began his duties as Congressman from the fourth district, comprised of the counties of Surry, Wilkes, Rowan and Ashe.

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

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

In 1797-98 Franklin represented Surry in the State Assembly and in 1799 this body elected him to a seat in the United States Senate to succeed the able and brilliant Alexander Martin.

Some indication of the standing and influence enjoyed by Franklin in Congress is shown by the fact that in 1804 he was made president pro tem of the Senate, a position he held until the end of his term in 1805. At this time Nathaniel Macon, of North Carolina, was speaker of the lower house of Congress.

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

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

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

At the expiration of his term he returned home with the intention of retiring permanently from public life. He was now 53 years old and had seen 26 years in the service of his state and nation, but again he was singled out for service and responded. Between 1813 and 1816, he served two years as Councilor of State.

In 1816 the call came from President Monroe, appointing him a commissioner with Andrew Jackson and General Merriwether to form a treaty with the Chickasaw Indians. The meeting place on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River where the treaty was signed is the present site of the city of Memphis.

Franklin was also appointed a commissioner with James Mebane and Robert Love to survey and sell lands acquired by treaty with the Cherokee Indians. These lands embraced more than 1,000 square miles of territory lying in northwest North Carolina.

He spent the summer of 1820 performing this duty. When he returned from this mission he was elected Governor of this state. The terms ran for one year and after the term ended Franklin declined to run for re-election because of ill health.

Governor Franklin's message to the General Assembly, Nov. 20, 1821, was broad and constructive. In it he recognizes the vast importance of the union and urges upon all the necessity of cherishing that enlightening spirit of compromise in which it was formed.

The Supreme Court he regarded as of great importance; he recommended that the Superior Court be separated from the Courts of Equity, for which he gave some very plausible reasons.

He recommended, in strong terms, the organization of the militia as the only safe reliance for the defense of the country; he recommended a prudent, steady and progressive system of internal improvements.

continued

It was said of Franklin that he was a student rather than an agitator, a statesman rather than a politician, a counselor rather than an orator.

That he was a modest man is proven by the fact that he would never sit for a picture or painting, that he refused to wear ruffles on his shirts, the fashion of the day but proclaiming a vanity he did not feel. The description of him is of a man above medium height, grave, dignified, but always friendly and ready to counsel with all who sought him out.

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

**Sons of Franklin—**
James Macon. Hardin Perkins, and Bernard.

**Daughters of Franklin—**
Sarah Panill, Ann (Nancy), Mary Cleaveland, Elizabeth, and Matilda.

**Education**

In the state's history of this period education was a matter of private concern. Those families who could afford it provided for teachers and tutors for their children, but most of them felt no concern for the education of those children whose parents were unable to meet this expense.

There was still too much of the old world customs and feelings of rank and privilege, and it was members of this class who dominated the State Assembly.

Jesse Franklin disagreed with these views as he pled for public schools, financed by all the people. He believed in the dignity of the individual and this could be safeguarded only by education. While he was in the state senate he worked toward this goal of free schools.

In his address as governor in 1821 he had this to say,

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

Franklin's desire for state supported schools was not granted in his lifetime but in 1825 the legislature passed a law creating a literary fund. Though this fund was not enough to be of material value in aiding the local tax districts in financing public schools, Surry County voted, by a substantial majority, in favor of the fund. The tax amounted to twenty dollars for each district which was supplemented by twice that amount from the literary fund.

The Literary Fund was badly managed, adding little to the State's educational needs. The tax on the districts was too small to be of much aid, so the subscription schools continued to be operated. These schools would run three or four months in the year, sometimes longer.

Surry was fortunate in the quality of leadership in these subscription schools because here education was of first importance to its people. And it followed that the schools which were opened here attracted wide attention from other counties and states.

In 1811 a subscription school was opened by a Professor Hickman, an excellent teacher who attracted pupils from surrounding counties and from Virginia. His school was located on Rockford Road, probably near the site of the present Rockford Street School in Mount Airy, as this place later had an Academy built on it. The Hickman School operated until 1820.

About this time the Academy idea became popular. Chartered by the State, these schools were for boys only. The state records show that one of these was established at Jonesville, receiving its charter in 1818. This school was under the auspices of the Methodist church which was taking a leading part in the religious life of the state.

Methodism, which was an offspring of the Church of England, gained ground quickly after the war. It became the popular religion of the English descendants in America who had, to a degree, lost touch with the mother church during and after the years of strife.

This new form of their old church, stripped of much of its formal ritual, fitted in with the democratic ideas of the new republic. Surry County was fortunate in having two of their most distinguished bishops, Coke and Asbury, spend some time as "circuit riders" in the county, establishing Methodist Societies.

These became churches in which the Sunday-school was strongly advocated. They also established day schools when possible. In 1794 a school was being operated south of the Yadkin River which was named "The Cokesbury School."

The interest of the Moravians in education for the youth has been mentioned in an earlier chapter. One more religious group should be credited with their efforts in education, the Friends, or Quakers. These people were firm believers in education with special emphasis on primary and secondary schools, but like the Moravians they wanted their children to be taught by members of their religious sect.

New Garden School, a boarding school for boys and girls, was established in Guilford County as a means for providing this kind of education. It received a charter in 1833.

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

Governor Franklin's dream for public schools began to be realized in 1838 when the matter was put to a vote in the state. Sixty-one out of 68 counties favored state-supported schools, including Surry. The first public school is said to have been opened in Rockingham County. By 1846 every county, despite problems, had one or more schools.

# Early Surry Schools Well-Known, Respected In State

## Early Surry Educational System Produced Many Noted State Leaders

**This is the tenth in a series of articles commemorating Surry County's bicentennial. The series is taken from a manuscript, "Footprints In The Hollows: Surry and Her People," prepared by Mrs. W. F. Carter Jr. and the late Mr. Carter, a former mayor of the city.**

**This week's article continues an examination of early schooling in Surry County. The Carters have taken much of the factual content from the work of the late Jesse Hollingsworth, with his consent.**

Although by 1846 every county in the state had one or more schools, they were beset by problems. There was no state superintendent or supervisor. There was opposition to being taxed for the schools and the damaging idea that public schools were charity schools.

Equipment and trained teachers were lacking. There was the hostility of the Academies and other private institutions of learning, creating the image of public schools being sort of "step-children."

Up to the twentieth century private schools were favored over public schools for the education of the youth.

Between 1850 and 1860 there were some private schools in Surry which attracted wide attention. One of these was at Rockford for both boys and girls, taught by Mr. and Mrs. West, a couple held in high esteem among the state's educators.

After some years they moved to Mt. Airy, having separate schools for boys and girls. There was a music department in charge of Miss McQueen of Nova Scotia. This school had pupils from Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia. The Wests were succeeded by Mr. and Mrs. Reed who taught for some years.

The Civil War brought difficulties to the school system. For some time after the start of the war both public and private schools continued to operate, but later the call to arms closed the boys' private schools and crippled the public schools.

The local tax funds were diverted to more urgent needs of county government. Male teachers were also not exempted from military service, thus taking away the ablest instructors. Miss Gilmer, a teacher of girls, was called to teach in the Statesville Female College during the war years.

At the close of the war, Mr. and Mrs. Reed renewed their educational work at Mount Airy. They were succeeded by James S. Hill, who conducted a boys' school for a brief time, turning the work over to Gus Grayhan. Some time later the Academy was manager by Sam Burton.

It was under the administration of Rufus H. Smith that the Academy again had a wide reputation for the quality of its education. In 1880 this school was conducted by J. F. Davis.

The female schools were taught in Mount Airy by Miss Lizzie Gilmer, in Elkin by Miss Metta Folger and in Dobson by Miss Lucy C. Journey.

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

In 1890 Miss Lizzie Gilmer was continuing her school for girls at Mount Airy, while the school for boys was being conducted by R. H. Skeen at a site on South Main Street.

A male academy was being operated by a Mr. Brown at Elkin, the girls' school there having passed into the hands of Mrs. R. B. Galloway.

At Dobson L. M. Lyon conducted a co-educational school; at Rockford a private school was conducted by Prof. Cundiff, this being moved to Siloam at a later date.

At Pilot Mountain the Trinity Academy was under the leadership of J. B. Sparger and Miss Lou Cass, assistant.

In 1899 Mount Airy organized the first graded school in the county, supported largely by local taxes and donations from the Peabody Fund.

(These school facts were obtained from the History of Surry County by J. G. Hollingsworth, with his consent.)

**Richmond Hill Law School**

This famous school was built on the Yadkin River opposite Rockford, the county seat of Surry.

Among the names of Virginians who came to North Carolina to settle along the Yadkin River in the middle of the 18th century was Col. Richmond Pearson, planter and merchant. His home, named "Richmond Hill," was situated

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in what is now Davie County.

It was there his youngest son, Richmond Mumford Pearson, was born on June 28, 1805. He graduated from UNC in 1823, then studied law under Justice of the N. C. Supreme Court, Leonard Henderson. From there he advanced to a law office in Rowan County, to the legislature, a Court Judge, then Chief Justice of the N. C. Supreme Court from 1858 to 1878.

Pearson married Margaret Williams from the Panther Creek section of Forsyth County in 1883 and lived in Mocksville until he built a magnificent brick home in an isolated spot on the Yadkin River overlooking the village of Rockford, in Surry County. He named his home "Richmond Hill" after his birthplace and opened a law school there in 1848.

Surry County was fortunate to have such a school across its southern border, offering a law course to young students. It was here that J. F. Graves received the law training which enabled him to become one of the state's Superior Court judges.

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

**Surry County—1826-1852**

Members of the General Assembly from Surry—

1826 — Senate, Pleasant B. Roberts; House of Commons, Elisha Arnold, Gallahue (Gollihue) Moore.

1827 — Senate, William P. Dobson; House, Wm. Douglas, Ephraim Hough.

1828 — Senate, Meshach Franklin; House, Mordecai Fleming, Alfred C. Moore;

1829 — Senate, Meshach Franklin; House, Alfred C. Moore, Ephraim Hough.

1830 — Senate, William P. Dobson; House, Mordecai Fleming, Alfred C. Moore.

1831 — Senate, William P. Dobson; House, Mordecai Fleming, Daniel J. Courts.

1832 — Senate, William P. Dobson; House, Thomas J. Word, Daniel J. Courts.

1833 — Senate, William P. Dobson; House, Thomas J. Word, Daniel J. Courts.

1834 — Senate, William P. Dobson; House, H. M. Waugh, Pleasant Henderson.

1835 — Senate, Harrison M. Waugh; House, Thomas L. Clingman, Mordecai Fleming.

1836 — Senate, William P. Dobson; House, Daniel J. Courts, P. B. Roberts, James Calloway.

1837—Members begin two-year terms—

1838 — Senate, Meshach Franklin; House, R. C. Puryear, Nathaniel Boyden, M. Oglesby.

1840 — Senate, R. C. Purwear; House, B. Poindexter, Nathaniel Boyden, Columbus Franklin II.

1842 — Senate, Wm. P. Dobson; House, Dickson Taliaferro, Theo C. Houser, John J. Conrad.

1844 — Senate, A. B. McMillan; House, R. C. Puryear, —— Brown, D. Taliaferro.

1846 — Senate, A. B. McMillan; House, R. C. Puryear, ——Gwyn, James Sheek.

1848—Senate, George Bower; House, James Sheek, —— Williams, ——Oglesby.

1850—Senate, George Bower; House, J. R. McLean, James Sheek, Joseph Cockerham.

1852 — Senate, R. C. Puryear; House, James Gwyn, Joseph H. Dobson.

Daniel W. Courts of Surry County was state treasurer from 1837-39 and 1852-62.

# Surry County, 1825-1889, Years Of Growth

This article comes from "Footprints In the Hollow: Surry And Her People," prepared by Mrs. W. F. Carter Jr., and the late Mr. Carter.

### 1825 to 1860

The years between 1825 and 1860 saw Surry make tremendous growth. The manufactured goods and the produce traveled by wagon trains to distant markets, going as far south as Georgia.

The livestock, cattle, sheep and hogs were driven on foot across the county to southeastern towns while great flocks of wild turkeys from the mountains were somehow persuaded to travel by foot and flight to markets far from their mountain homes.

The road through the eastern section of the county, up Fancy Gap and across the Blue Ridge Mountains was the only graded road along these mountains for 75 miles and was kept in fairly good condition by public tolls.

It was this road coupled with the progressive spirit of the settlers which caused Mount Airy to emerge from a post office stop to a village of considerable size before 1860.

The wagon and coach factories were enlarged, the milling of grain kept pace with a growing demand and the manufacture of tobacco products was begun.

As the post office moved from the Jonathan Unthank home to a store building of James Tucker who was postmaster from 1832 to 1835, the location moving north to be set up, in 1838, in the home of Samuel D. Moore who was then living on the road near where it crossed Lovell's Creek.

Mr. Moore was at this time conducting a hotel. In the year 1848 Allen Denny, proprietor of the Blue Ridge Hotel, was postmaster. This hotel which was to serve the people of Surry County for more than a hundred years, had a proud history.

From early records comes the following information—

The first hotel by this name was kept by a Mr. Perkins. It was a very large frame building, being erected in the thirties. One night Mrs. Perkins was preparing for guests when, on entering a linen room, the candle which she was carrying set fire to some lint cotton, the building being destroyed.

Immediately after this Thomas Wright built, on the same spot, a large brick hotel then regarded as the most pretentious building in Surry County. Later Col. Harrison Waugh bought it. but two or three years prior to this Allen Denny acquired it. It was at this time, 1848, Mr. Denny was serving as postmaster. There was, in 1849, a business block extending from the hotel south to Renfro Hill, the site of the present post office, with the following merchants — Robert S. Gilmer, Samuel D. Moore, Murphy and S. T. Allred, Scott and McAdoo of Guilford County, conducting a branch of their Greensboro store, and W. R. Bray with a tailor shop. Mr. Bray had come to Surry, traveling with friend, Andrew Johnson, stopping in Elkin on their way to Tennessee. Mr. Bray decided to remain in Elkin while his friend went on west where he was later nominated for the vice-presidency on a ticket with Lincoln. Prior to this he had served as governor of Tennessee and U. S. Senator.

Mr. Bray later moed to Mt. Airy where his family founded the Bray Milling Co. Down at Hamburg the many enterprises of Jacob Brower were doing a thriving business.

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

It was in 1849 that Tyre Glen decided to dispose of his lands in Surry and move to Georgia. An interesting man, he came from New England about 1820 as a clock peddler. His business prospered so that he was soon able to acquire a large amount of land near the village, including the rock section.

A man of uncertain temper he became so incensed at Mr. Brower at one time it is said he threatened to cut off the water supply from the mills by turning the course of the Ararat River. When he sold his lands Mr. Robt. S. Gilmer purchased the section containing the rock. Mr. Glen transferred his interests from land to the slave trade, becoming, in the next ten years, so wealthy that he was able to return to the state and, after the war, build a fabulous estate in Yadkin County.

### THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES—1861-1865

This was a war fought to preserve those freedoms which the states had written into the Constitution in 1787.

The record of Surry's delegates who signed this Constitution made it clear that they believed in the right of the states to withdraw from the Union if and when it was deemed best for their people.

General Lee had freed his slaves before the war, declaring that slavery was a "moral and political evil." Stonewall Jackson agreed with Lee in his views along with many Southern leaders. They wanted a chance, without the interference of the Northern states, to work out a system to abolish slavery and to right the tariff wrongs imposed on them by the power of the Northern states in the Congress.

But the South was denied this constitutional right — and so the grandsons and great-grandsons of those who fought to free their country from Mother England, now fought to preserve the rights gained in that struggle.

As soon as North Carolina joined the Confederacy Surry began to organize her military companies — Company A 28th Regiment was organized by Capt. Richard Reeves; Company C, 21st Regiment was commanded by Capt. B. Y. Graves; Company H, 21st Regiment was under the command of Capt. J. R. Waugh; and Company I, 21st Regiment was organized by John C. Gilmer.

A company was organized later by Captain J. C. Norman. A page in an old scrapbook, compiled by the Surry County Daughters of the Confederacy, describes the leave-taking of this company.

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

Hollingsworth's History states that at least seven hundred soldiers from Surry County fought with the Confederacy and perhaps 100 left to join the Union Army. Another writer states that Surry County furnished practically her entire military age group to the Confederate Army—"There is hardly a battlefield in Northern Virginia that does not mark the resting place of one or more of her sons."

### SURRY COUNTY—1865-1889

At the close of the war Surry again found many of its young men seeking new lands beyond the war-ravaged South. Some settled in Missouri and Texas, others going still farther west. In 1866-67 the Mormons of Utah sent missionaries into the South, some coming into Surry and Stokes where they persuaded whole families to migrate to their new territory. A wagon-train of these families left Surry in 1868 for that distant land.

The soldiers who came home from the war to stay and those remaining on the home-front did not allow the defeat of the South to keep them from beginning again to build their county's enterprises.

Many new faces were seen in the business world, among them Rufus Roberts, John R. Paddison, A. J. Satterfield, G. W. Smith, John H. Jackson, Christopher Bunker, W. T. Thompson and others.

Dr. Ed Allred had joined the medical men and Dr. Matt Banner was Mt. Airy's pioneer dentist, followed by Dr. Thomas J. Mitchell. Dr. William S. Taylor came with his family as a boy, about 1865. As a young physician he was interested in many enterprises, opening the town's first drug-store.

In 1870 there were 36 mills and factories in Surry County. Besides those at Hamburg, Ja-

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cob Brewer had a cotton mill at what became known as Buck Shoals. The Green Hill cotton and woolen mill was established in 1868 by J. F. and W. A. Moore and S. L. Gilmer. A few years later the Alpine Mills were built and operated by the same firm.

The Laurel Bluff Mill was owned and operated by J. P. Rawley in connection with a general store. White Plains came into prominence with the largest wagon factory in the county.

Elkin added a coach department to their wagon factory. There was also a shoe factory in Elkin, the Gwyn and Chatham cotton mill was operating and in 1878 the Chatham Woolen Mill began operation.

There were foundries, blacksmith shops, tanneries; and a saddle and harness shop at Rockford. Cabinet making was coming into its own and there was a great increase in the manufacture of tobacco, large factories being built on the home grounds of such men as Hugh Gwyn, Winston Fulton, Murlin Sparger, Henderson Mitchell and Elisha Banner.

A little later came the sons of Winston Fulton, J. M. and J. H. Fulton, Wm. Martin Banner, R. L. Gwyn, John M. Brower, Wash Smith, John Sparger, Rufus Roberts, M. Sparger and Sons, W. W. Ashby, William Haines, Robert Hithes Jr., G. M. Mitchell, John Patterson, W. E. Patterson, L. F. Smith and J. L. Ashby. At Siloam there were factories owned by R. E. and M. C. Reeves and the Marion Brothers. At Pilot Dix Davis and Sons operated a factory.

The first warehouse for the sale of tobacco was built in 1874 by A. L. Porter and J. R. Gilmer.

The tobacco industry thrived for a number of years, the finished product being hauled to markets in huge wagons drawn by four or six horses. They went down into South Carolina, Georgia and Mississippi.

The panic of 1893 followed by the operation of the Tobacco Trust, organized by James B. Duke, forced these small operators into bankruptcy.

It was then that Mount Airy turned to the mountain forests for new industries, wood-working and furniture manufacturing.

## TOBACCO

The manufacture of tobacco products began as early as 1852 or '53, according to an old record. The names of the men who first ventured into this new enterprise were Jonathan Roberts, Charles Whitlock, Ewell Belton and William Rawley.

The methods were primitive, wooden screws being used to "Prize the plugs"; the using of metal screws was first adopted by either Thomas F. Prather and W. M. Beamer or William Rawley. A little later Winston Fulton, Murlin Sparger, Henderson Mitchell, Hugh Gwyn and Elishe Banner engaged in the same business. Another name belonging to this period was Wilcher Cardwell.

There are many references to William Rawley, affectionately known as "Parson Bill." He was a large land owner, both inside and outside the village. A farm containing a thousand acres near Stewart's Creek he sold to the Siamese Twins. Before buying the farm the Twins had lived in the Village, occupying first a house on the site of the present W. E. Merritt home. Moving from there to the lower end of the street before taking up their permanent abode in the country.

## BUNKER

Eng and Chang Bunker, the world-famous Siamese Twins, are a cherished memory in the history of Surry County.

It was in 1839 that, weary with travel and public appearances, these remarkable men came down to North Carolina for recreation. They were young, handsome and wealthy. After a season of hunting and fishing in Wilkes County they found themselves liking the people and the location so much they decided to retire and settle there among the secluded hills.

They bought a small store near Trap Hill, became a part of the community, formed friendships and fell in love with sisters, the daughters of David Yates.

In their travels they had consulted many surgeons on both sides of the ocean, hoping to find one who would separate them, but with no success. It took courage to contemplate marriage and a normal family life with their handicap, but since they had always displayed an abundance of that trait in their characters, they proposed and were accepted.

A few years later they came over into Surry and lived in the village of Mount Airy until they bought a large farm containing a thousand acres near Stewart's Creek. There they built two comfortable houses some distance apart and established two normal homes, dividing their time equally between them.

Here they won the respect and admiration of their neighbors, becoming excellent farmers and valuable citizens. Their descendents have been among Surry's prominent families, playing their parts in war and in peace.

The oldest son of Chang enlisted in the Confederate Army at the age of eighteen and a grandson was a famed aviator in World Wars I and II, being one of Chenault's Flying Tigers when they won fame in the Pacific during the second world war.

He flew the first bomber across the Atlantic and was the first pilot to fly from the United States to South America over the Andes, on a mercy mission. This was Brigadier General Caleb Vance Haynes, a recipient of the Silver Star and the Distinguished Service Cross.

An article written some years ago contained this interesting item—"Eng and Chang were considered exceptional chess players. They seemed to have a natural aptitude for the game and their chessboard was almost as inseparable from them as they were from each other.

One unusual fact about this is that they never played against each other. Some said it was constant observation which had made each twin familiar with the other's game. Others said it was something intangible. Perhaps there was something like mental telepathy which kept either twin from concealing his motives from the other.

At any rate they avoided contests between themselves, one reading while the other played all comers. They were rarely photographed without the chessboard in the background.

One game was remembered and recounted for years after it took place. Matched with a professor from one of the colleges, the game lasted for three days before the Surry native swept all the professor's men from the board.

This book arranged by Ola Marion Atkinson and Joyce Atkinson Feezor

March, 1973