

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Mount Airy Second Ward
Mount Airy, North Carolina

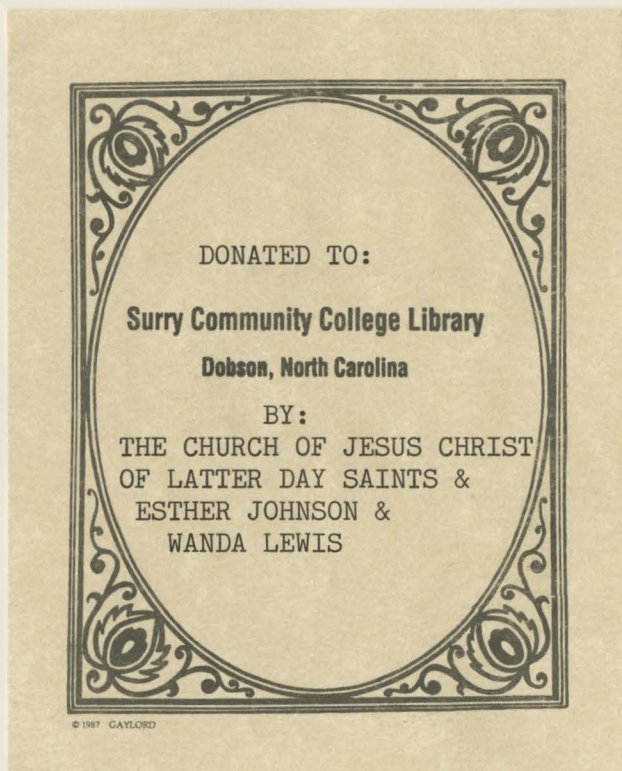


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Our Heritage ... Our People



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A HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

IN THE MT. AIRY AREA

Soon after the Church of Jesus Christ was restored, and duly organized on April 6, 1830, elder Jedediah M. Grant, a missionary, introduced the "Church" to the people of Surry, Stokes, and Rockingham counties in North Carolina and Patrick county in Virginia.

One of the first members of Surry county was Sister Elizabeth Shelton. She was baptized and confirmed in 1854 by elders A. Gregg and Jackson Taylor. Elder Henry G. Boyle organized the Surry County Branch on March 18, 1868. Dr. Anderson Grigg was called to be the presiding elder. On July 7, 1869, the Surry County Branch became the Pilot Mountain Branch. Brother Swain King was the leader.

Due to the emigration of many of the saints to Utah, the Pilot Mountain Branch was de-organized May 3, 1870. Church records show that during the early years of the Church, new members were encouraged to move to "Mormon" settlements in the west where they could enjoy the constant influence of the Church. Therefore, the duration of the branches and Sunday schools were short-lived; with many closings and interruptions. The Pilot Mountain Branch was reactivated April 30, 1876, by elder George Teasdale and elder John Rex Winder, Jr. Brother William Hill was ordained an elder and sustained as branch president.

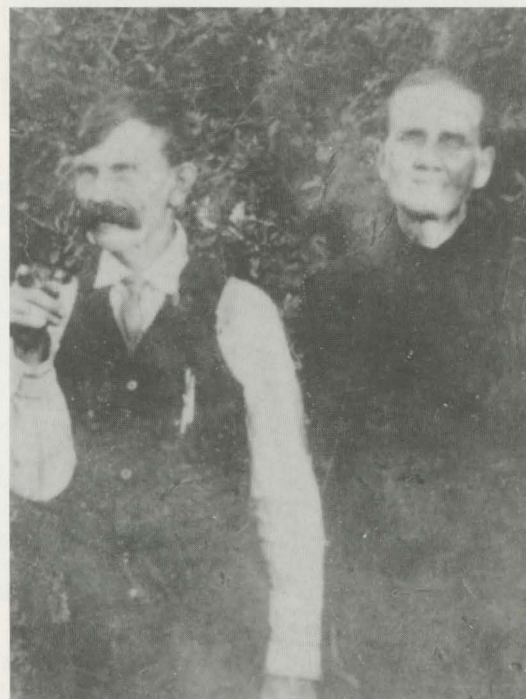
The Mt. Airy Branch was organized on July 28, 1879, by North Carolina conference president Jonas N. Beck. The organization took place at the home of William B. Shelton, who was called to preside over the branch.

At the time of these early organizational meetings, there was a lot of anti-Mormon sentiment, however most citizens deplored the actions of the persecutors. Consequentially, over the years a friendlier climate developed.

From 1894-1898, there was a period of eastward expansion. With this decrease in emphasis of the emigra-



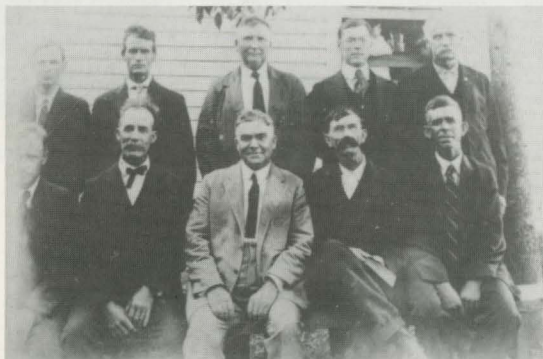
James Monroe Shelton home (Flat Rock area) where an early Sunday school was held.



James Monroe Shelton and Martha Hannah Shelton

tion of the saints to the west, many local branches and Sunday schools were organized in North Carolina. A Sunday school was organized in a bowery on the premises of Brother James Monroe Shelton of the Flat Rock section. Brother Shelton was appointed Sunday school superintendent.

Surry county continued to be a fruitful field of labor for LDS missionaries and on August 21, 1900, elder James Monroe Hiatt was called to preside over the Mt. Airy Branch. He continued to be a pillar of strength in the community and Church until his death in July, 1941. Brother James Monroe Hiatt presided over the branch until January 28, 1940, when James C. Hiatt, one of his sons was called to replace him. These great men along with William Henry Hiatt, James Monroe



Pioneer Church Leaders
 Front left to right: Jacob F. Hiatt, James Monroe Hiatt, Charles A. Callis, James Monroe Shelton, James Merlin Chappell.
 Back row: Wilford Hiatt, William Henry Hiatt, Paola Puckett, David Lafayette Hiatt, Jesse Lafayette Hiatt.

Shelton, Ephriam A. Hiatt, Jacob F. Hiatt, Jesse Lafayette Hiatt, John H. Jones, Calvin J. Jones, James M. Chappell, Wilford Hiatt, James W. Brinkley, and David L. Hiatt were the nucleus around which the Church grew in the Mt. Airy vicinity.

At a general conference held in Mt. Airy on August 25,



Mt. Airy's first chapel

1912, president Charles A. Callis of the Southern States Mission, dedicated a new church building. The chapel was a one room building approximately 35 feet wide and 40 feet long. A stand was in the back of the chapel with pews on each side. Benches were arranged down each outer wall, and in the center. It was heated by two pot-bellied stoves and lighted by kerosene lamps down each side and behind the pulpit. Buildings of this type construction may still be seen throughout the rural areas surrounding Mt. Airy and throughout North Carolina. An addition to the building was added in 1940, which doubled the meeting area and for the first time, provided for separate classroom space. A coal furnace was installed in the basement for heat and for the first time, electric lights were added. Four classrooms were also placed in the basement. This renovated building which was located just east of the present building by the large hickory tree, housed the branch until the present chapel was completed and dedicated in 1957.



Relief Society Pioneers

Front row: Mary Belle Puckett, Sarah Chappell, Susan Midkiff Hiatt, Susan Jones, Louisa Sanders Hiatt.

Back row: Emma Marion, Susan Chappell Cook, Ethel Puckett Hiatt, Ada Jones, Melissa Lowry, Gracie Shelton Hiatt.

In the fall of 1915, the Mt. Airy Branch Relief Society was organized. Sister Sarah Chappell was called as president. Sisters Selena Brinkley and Nancy Inman Hiatt were her counselors. Sister Gracie Darling Hiatt was secretary. The Relief Society gave the women of the Church an organized way to serve in compassionate service and also a way to help each other progress in the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the individual talents of all were utilized. Other outstanding women of this era were: Susan Midkiff Hiatt, Susan Jones, Pearl Mae Love, Stella Hiatt Williams, Margaret Sutphin Hiatt, Cora Lee Koontz, and Mary Laster. Many other women also shared their talents in active service over the years. One of the favorite projects of the Relief Society was the making of warm, colorful quilts.

In the 1930's and 1940's, cottage meetings were frequently held throughout the various communities of the area. Some were held in homes of Church members, while others were held in the homes of friends.

It was not until the mid thirties that temple work began

to be actively done by the members. David L. Hiatt was the leader in this effort. The first trip was in 1935 by car. In 1936 and 1938, a model A Ford school bus was used to take several families at a time. The west was the only location of temples at the time.

There was a division of the Mt. Airy Branch on October 1, 1938. Under the direction of North Carolina District President, elder Frank L. Walker, the Granite City Branch was organized with elder Calvin J. Jones as president. The two branches were reunited on January 28, 1940. Elder James C. Hiatt was called



James Callis Hiatt



1956 Blazer Class

Front row: Michael D. Williams, Stephen Rex Hiatt, Monty Dean Hiatt, Reuben Ephriam Clark.

Back row: Wayne Arnold Sechrest, Monroe Ernest Hiatt.

to be the branch president. His life of teaching and coaching high school athletics fitted him well for the activities of the young people of the branch. He, along with his brother, William Vestal Hiatt, led a thriving, achieving boy scout troop, which won many top honors in the Old Hickory Council. This tradition is continuing today with several men having devoted considerable time and effort to the young men of the Church.

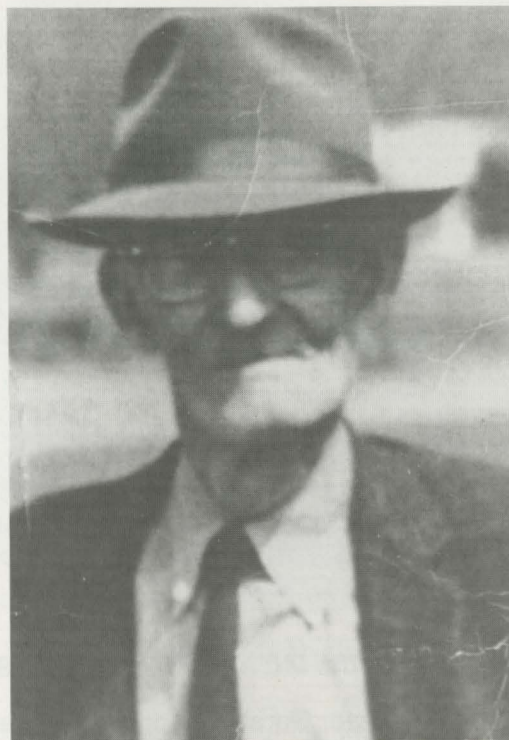
On April 17, 1935, North Carolina was divided into East and West districts. Brother James L. Bennett, Sr. of Durham became the first local elder to be appointed a district president. Brother David L. Hiatt of Mt. Airy



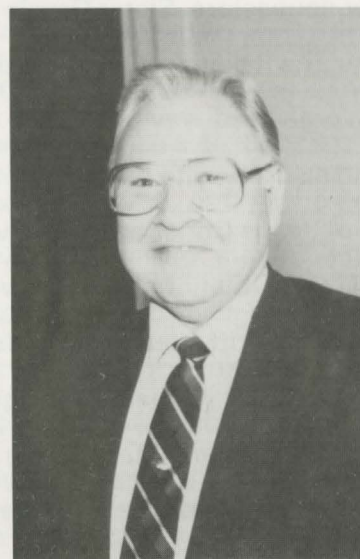
David L. Hiatt, State Patriarch - Teacher,
Mission President Counselor

and Brother Kenneth L. Duke of Durham were chosen to be his counselors.

Brother Luna A. Hiatt was called to preside over the Mt. Airy Branch on January 8, 1950. He served the



Luna A. Hiatt



President V. Talmage Hiatt

membership until September 20, 1953, when the office of branch president fell upon the head of Brother V. Talmage Hiatt. It was under his leadership that the present ward chapel was erected. It was dedicated on Sunday, February 24, 1957, by elder Sterling W. Sill, an assistant to the Council of Twelve Apostles.

A chief means of raising funds for the construction

of the chapel was building fund suppers. Many of them were held with much success. The Cox Construction Co. and donated labor by local members built the chapel. Meetings were held in the building prior to its dedication. The first Sunday school meeting was held in it on November 11, 1956. Brother Wilbur D. Hiatt became the branch president on September 1, 1957.



Bishop Wilbur D. Hiatt

Junior L. Hiatt and Joseph A. Sechrest were called as counselors. Brother Grady Kirkman continued as branch clerk.



Bishop Paul R. Lewis

With the organization of the Greensboro Stake on September 13, 1961, the Mt. Airy Branch became the Mt. Airy Ward. Brother Wilbur D. Hiatt was sustained as its first bishop. He held this position until Brother V. Talmage Hiatt was called to be the bishop on March 30, 1969. Brother Paul R. Lewis succeeded brother Talmage Hiatt as bishop and served from 1974 to 1977.

The membership in the area continued to grow and in December of 1978, the Mt. Airy Ward was divided into two wards. The area north of highway 89 became



Bishop Eldon Cluff



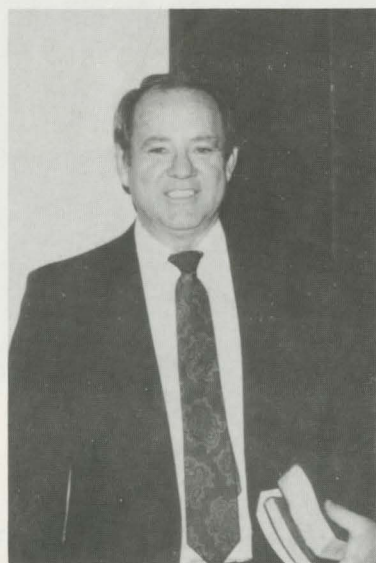
Bishop Gary C. Tilley

the First Ward with Eldon Cluff called to serve as bishop. The area south of highway 89 became the Second Ward and Gary C. Tilley was called as its bishop. In September, 81, when bishop Cluff returned to his home in the west, Henry L. Seivers, Sr. was call-



Bishop Henry L. Seivers, Sr.
and wife Lois

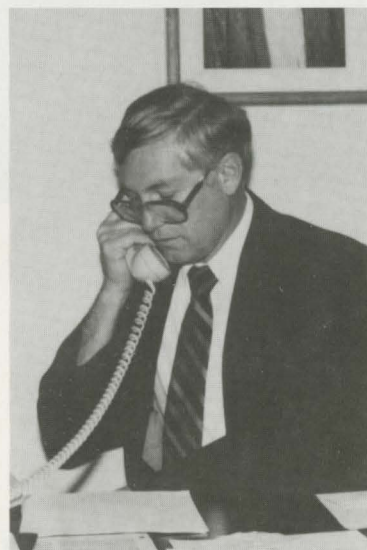
ed to preside as bishop of the First Ward. Then, in September, 82, Donald W. Hiatt was called to serve as the bishop of the Second Ward.



Bishop Donald W. Hiatt

In May of 1985, there was a further realignment of ward boundaries and a further division of wards. The

Pilot Mountain Branch was organized with Gray C. Tilley called to be the branch president. A branch composed of members in the Dobson, White Plains and Elkin areas became the Dobson Branch. Monty Hiatt was sustained as the branch president. The Mt. Airy area became the First Ward with bishop Henry Seivers continuing to serve. The area east and north of Mt. Airy, Flat Rock, and Ararat, Virginia became the Second Ward. Joseph G. Sloop was called to serve the Second Ward as bishop.



Bishop Joseph G. Sloop

Later changes (November, 86) have seen Henry Seivers released as First Ward bishop and Larry D. Johnson called to serve in that capacity. In Dobson, Monty Hiatt was released as branch president and replaced by Carroll Wray. Then, president Wray was released with brother John Griggs presently serving as the branch president.

The influence of the members of the Church continues to grow in the area. Today, there is increased activity in the two wards and branches of the Church in the Mt. Airy area. The Pilot Mountain and Dobson branches have new chapels and Mt. Airy is beginning con-

struction on a new building. The present membership is approximately:

Mt. Airy First	275
Mt. Airy Second	290
Pilot Mountain	165
Dobson	100
Total	830

Since elder Jedediah M. Grant began his missionary work in Surry County, hundreds of missionaries have taught the Gospel to thousands and many have joined the church. These conversions along with natural increase make up a long roll of members in the area. Most of them have been actively engaged in the work of carrying on the priesthood and Church auxiliary organizations of the Church. Many have served full time missions. These varied activities have helped the members grow spiritually and share their testimonies with others. While sharing gospel experiences with other members, Sister Martha Hannah Shelton related this story. When asked by a somewhat inquisitive neighbor about why she and Monroe joined the Church, she replied, "I just don't know how we came to stumble upon the truth."

Selfless dedication, based upon such testimonies, by

hundreds of men, women, boys and girls has made the Church strong in the Mt. Airy area.

Junior L. Hiatt July, 1989

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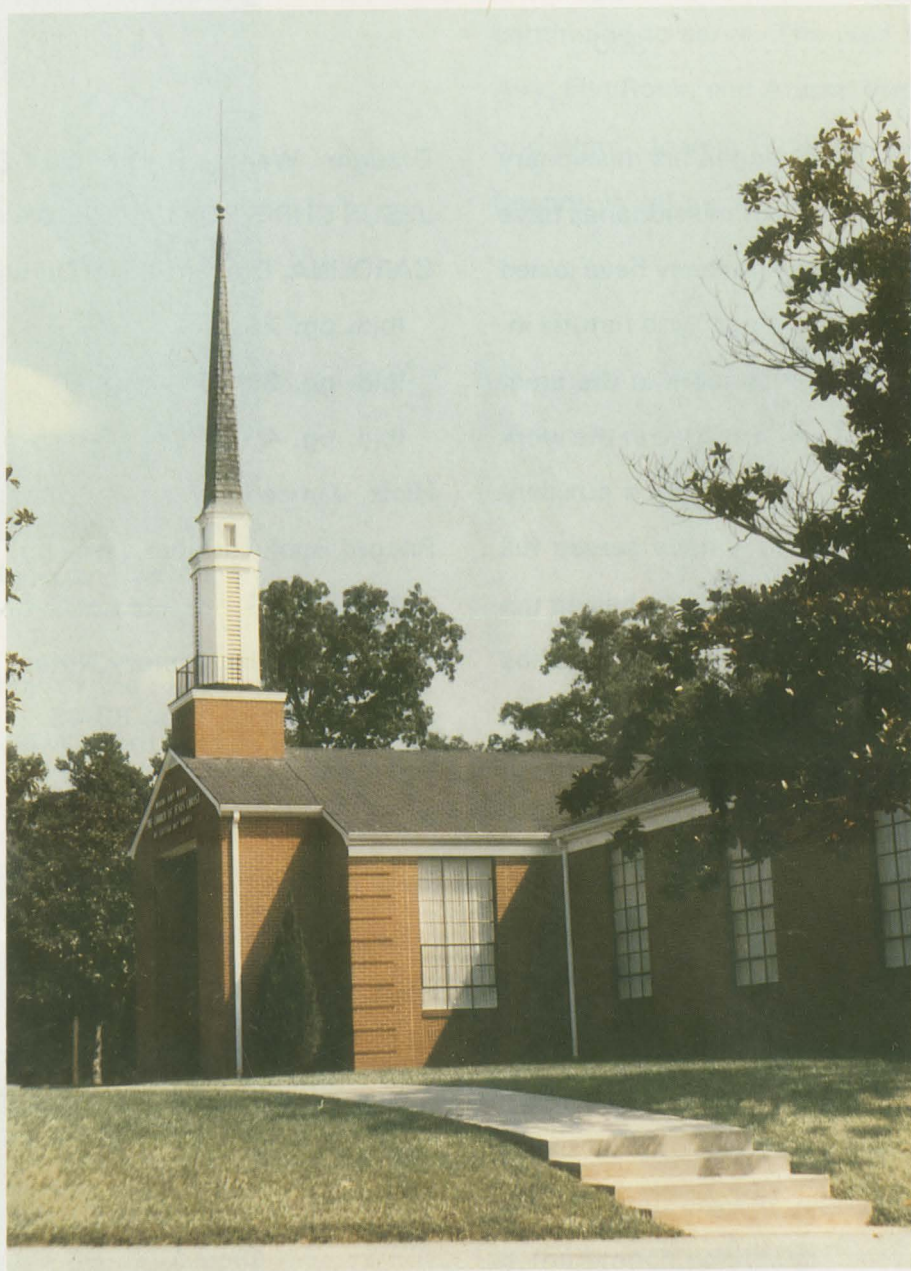
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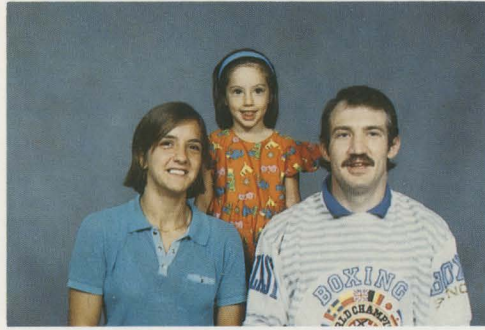
Ibid



**The Mount Airy Second Ward Today ...
Our People ...**



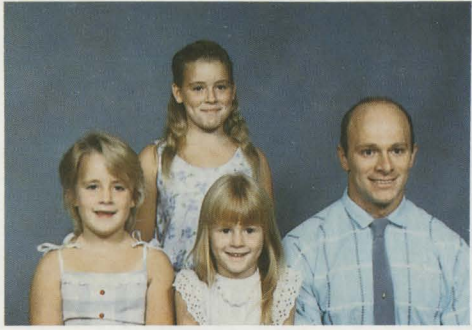
BEST, Peggy & Jim
Josh, Lisa



BRIDGES, Susy & Michael
Annie



BROWN, Sylvia & Billy L.
Anthony, Angela



BROWN, Wes K.
Heather, Cortney, Alexis



COX, Virgie
Kathy



DAVIS, Betsy & Joe
Joey, James, Teresa, Russell



DAWSON, Margaret



DICKERSON, Peggy & Jack D.



DICKERSON, Sonia & Darrell



DRAUGHN, Karen & Rudy T.
Angela, John, Marcus



DUNCAN, Virginia



GAMMONS, Ella & Clyde



GENTRY, Carolyn & Geoffrey
Gregory, Bryan, Kyle, Bradley



GOINS, Dana



GOINS, Kathy & Doug
Douglas Jr., Jerry, Emillie, Michael



GOINS, Martha E.
Gene



GRAVELY, Jackie & Jack



HENSLEY, Carol & Burton
Kenneth, Roscoe



HENSLEY, Michelle & Kenneth
Carol E.



HIATT, Amy & Ephraim



HIATT, Ara Jean & Wilbur D.



HIATT, Betty W. & Don W.



HIATT, Blanche



HIATT, Fay & Paul
Engle, Charlon



HIATT, Irene & Junior



HIATT, Macy



HIATT, Norma J. & V. Talmage



HIATT, Shirley & Leon
Jill, Susie, Beth



HIATT, Vera & Arlyss



HIATT, Versie



HUNTER, Christine



**INMAN, Janet
Christopher**



INMAN, Myrtle & Clarenc B.



JACKSON, Elfrey



**JARRELL, Sherita & Adrian
Kristen, Ethan, Adam**



JOHNSON, Cornelia



JOHNSON, Dana & Donnie



LAWRENCE, Mary & Herbert



LEFTWICH, Lillie



**LEWIS, Wanda & Paul R.
Donna, David**



LOVE, Pearl



**MABE, Mary Frances
Jennifer**



**MARION, Rene & Bryan
Amanda, Roxane, Valarie**



**MASSEY, Nancy
Todd, Heath**



**NORMAN, Dianne & Joe Bill
Chris, Brandon**



PAYNE, Pauline



PHILLIPS, Joseph F.



**ROBERTSON, Debbie & Alan
Kriston**



SECHREST, Delia



SHELTON, Maude & J.Q.



**SIMMONS, Glenda
WATSON, Audrey, Amber**



**SLOOP, Andrea & Joseph; Tracie,
Johannah, Andrew, Ben, David, Zachary**



**STEVENS, Sarah
Ernie Collins**



VOGLER, Bessie



WATTS, Shirley & Jimmy



WILLIAMS, Stella & George



‡BROWN, Susan Hunter

‡Denotes submitted photograph



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