



SURRY COUNTY AMERICAN REVOLUTION
BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION, INCORPORATED
POST OFFICE BOX 1776
DOBSON, NORTH CAROLINA 27017



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HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS TOUR

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1. The Dick Snow House

This house was probably built in the 1820's or 30's. The following scene of "Good Morning" taken from Fisher River Scenes, took place in the Dick Snow House.

Dick Snow was a man of respectability, and had a wife whom he and every body else considered number one. The best of company, even the "quality," visited his house. The Misses Franklin, daughters of Meshech Franklin, "the Congressman," went to a Methodist quarterly meeting near Dick's residence, called on, and stayed all night with him. Dick was unacquainted with "quality ways," and when the ladies retired to bed up stairs, they bade the family goodnight. He didn't know what it meant, and it worried him worse than the nightmare. At last he concluded it was some rig the young ladies were running on him, and he resolved to retrieve what he had lost, for he was a man who did not like to be outdone. So, early next morning, he rose, built his fire, and watched the stair-steps until he heard the ladies coming down, he then ran and hid himself near the foot of the stairway. As soon as they landed on the lower floor, Dick rushed out if his hiding-place, scaring the misses not a little, and bawled out loudly, "Good Mornin' at ye, Ladies! I's fast anuff fur you this time. Now I'll quit ye, es we's even. You got me last night: I's got ye this mornin'."

2. Shipp's Mustering Grounds

Between Big Fish and Little Fish River in the Round Peak area was Shipp's Mustering Ground. There old veterans from the Revolutionary War used to congregate on stated occasions for drilling reminiscencing, sharp shooting, and a general good time.

Light refreshments were always served. There was "Ginger Cake Josh" with his mountain of "gingy cakes".

And there was Mr. Hamp Hudson, the only man in the county who kept a still house running all year long.

Now, Mr. Hudson had a dog named Famus who always accompanied his master wherever he went. Came mustering day and no Famus. Where was Famus? Word soon got around maybe by some jealous enemy of Mr. Hudson or by a temperance person, that the reason Famus wasn't around was that he got drowned in the mash and that Mr. Hudson had distilled the whiskey out of that very same mash.

"No, I'm not going to drink none of that Famus mash", was the general consensus.

Along came the middle of the afternoon. It was might hot. "Well, boys," he intoned, "I don't know too well about this matter. Maybe we've accused this feller Hamp wrongfully. He has always been a clever feller and it is a pity of he is innocent of this charge.



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The fact is, boys, it is a mighty dull, dry time. Nothing is a gwine on right. Boys, you are free men. I fought for your freedom. I say, boys, you can do as you please, but as for me, old Stoney Point Jimmy Smitty, FAMUS OR NO FAMUS, I MUST TAKE A LITTLE!"

3. Skull Camp Mountain

Skull Camp mountain is located just to the south of 89 about 15 miles west of Mount Airy. Legend surrounds the name of the Mountain. It is said that a Negro slave came into the community sometime prior to the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, seeking refuge. He never told anyone where he came from only that his name was George. He found a cave high on the mountain and there he lived. He would come down in the day and work for the area farmers. They would pay him in foodstuffs and used clothing. He seemed to manage very well and the community people did not seem to mind him staying for he was an industrious fellow. The people called him "Free George" since most of his race were still slaves. He lived the latter part of his life in the cave at the top of the mountain. One day Free George didn't come to work the people assumed he did not need food that day so he would be back when his food supply got low. He was never seen again. Years later a group of campers planned to spend the night in the cave at the mountain and found a complete skeleton lying on a rock near the rear of the front room. The campers slept elsewhere but the next day reported their story to the community. People began to refer to the mountain as Skull Camp Mountain. Which became the final resting place of the man called "Free George."

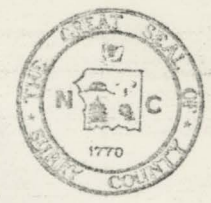
4. The Bernard Franklin House

This is the unrestored home of Bernard Franklin (1731-1828) who, with his family came to this section from Virginia around 1778. Bernard first settled along Mitchell's River, but in the late 1700's (probably 1792 which date is pressed in a brick on the west chimney) he traditionally built this house with the help of two of his sons and his slaves. The chimney brick is said to have been made on the place and the siding of the house plan by hand. Slave cabins stood at the back of the house just above the spring and rotting logs werw still there in the memory of people still living. A covered walkway to the east is thought to have connected the "mansion" house to the log kitchen now marked by a pile of stones.

Meshack moved into his father's house upon the death of his father in 1829 and most likely "modernized" the house in the latest fashion of marbleized wainscotting (all three sons became prominent polititions: Shadrach served in the state legislature; Meshack and Jesse in both the state legislature and in Congress, the latter becoming our 1821 governor.)



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The house is of very much interest to researchers not only because of the prominence of the Franklin family, but because of the unique architectural quality of the house. Fine in its day it is essentially the same as it was in the early 1800's, a rarity to researchers in that it has been neither restored nor altered.

This traditional Georgian-Federal house was built on the so-called Quaker plan--one huge room downstairs which included the stairs and two smaller rooms. Obviously, the crude partition added in later times will be removed. Upstairs, four bedrooms were thought to have been made from three and the the attic stairs altered by Meshack who had the wainscoting "marbelized". This paneling and the painted doors are of special interest to experts, not only because of their original state, but because they were evidently done by a local artist.

Because of its historical and architectural quality the house has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

5. The Bartholomew Hodges Cabin

This log cabin was built in 1800 by Bartholomew Hodges. One most interesting facts about the cabin is that it is still in the Hodges family. Bartholomew Hodges great-great-grandson, Lonzie Hodges now owns and occupies the cabin.

The house is built of logs cut from timber on the then 1,000 acre farm; the cabin is in a fair state of preservation. There were no windows in the cabin when it was built but in time Indians and wild animals became a problem and precautions were taken. In the upper story along each wall is a removable heavy timber covering louvers which were used to shoot through when attacked.

The house is built of logs and sealed with boards sawed with an old up and down saw. The rafters were hewed and put together with pegs. Oxen were used to drag the logs. The chimneys at either end of the house are built of rough slabs of rock and daubed with mud and crudely constructed, are still servicable.

6. Kapps Mill

Kapps Mill was built in 1827 and was one of the three largest serving Surry County. The builders, Nixon and Jackson, sold it in 1840 to John Kapps, whose name is still linked with the property. The mill remained in the Kapps family for the next 90 years. Irvy Wallace married on of Kapps' daughters. For 20



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years Kapps and Wallace owned the mill jointly until Wallace bought his father in law out in 1930. The mill has some very productive year, with alot of work invested, but in 1935 Wallace closed the doors because of economic trouble. If the mill had not closed in 1935 it probably would have in 1940. A flood on the Mitchell River did severe damage to the mill. The large roll stone which ground wheat was imbedded in mud under the mill as a result of that flood.

Along with the mill there is a house, general store, old buggy house, a spring house and stable.

7. Cedar Point

"Cedar Point" was once the plantation home of Richard and Elizabeth Hunt Gwyn. The plantation covered what is now all of Elkin and consisted of 6,000 acres of heavy timber. The house was built by Richard Gwyn around 1832. Richard Gwyn had first come to Jonesville early in 1820 and opened a general store. A few years later he moved across the River where the town of Elkin was to grow. Thomas Lenior Gwyn, youngest child of Richard, was to make quite a mark on Surry's history. He served in the Second Brigade of North Carolina Cavalry and was later co-founder of the Chatham Manufacturing Company.

When Stonemans army came through Elkin, Mr. Richard Gwyn road out to meet them and offered Gerenal Stoneman and his staff his home as headquarters. In the course of conversation between the Gwyns and Stoneman, he ask if they were related to the Gwyns in Baltimore and he was told they were. Nothing more was said but Stoneman saved the home and the cotton mill, owned by Richard Gwyn, although he sent squards to destroy the cotton factory at Turnersburg.

The house called "Cedar Point" is now owned by an Elkin attorney , Mike Randleman and his wife Elizabeth. They have made many repairs and improvements to bring the house back to the stately looking plantation house it once was.

8. Chatham Manufacturing Company

The Chatham Manufacturing Company grew from a grist mill which had been converted into a small wollen mill. The mill housed machinery which would process raw wool from fleece into cloth, yarn and blanket material. The mill was started by Thomas Lenior Gwyn and Alexander Chatham in 1878. The mill continued under the name of Gwyn and Chatham for 12 years when Mr. Gwyn's interest was



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acquired by three of the sons of Mr. Chatham. The name of the plant was then changed to the Chatham Manufacturing Company. Mr. Chatham served as president of the company until he organized and became president of Elkin's first bank, the Elkin National Bank. The woolen mill outgrew its location on Big Elkin creek, so in 1893 a new one story brick plant was built on the Yadkin River bottom. In 1899 a second story was added to the mill. Business continued to boom and in 1907 a branch operation was opened in Winston-Salem. In 1916 a flood nearly washed the company away, the waters of the Yadkin came within a foot of the second story. The people of Elkin worked together to salvage the machinery; damages neared \$100,000. In 1917, the plant was rebuilt on higher and drier land.

From the small woolen mill grew into an industry which has employed thousands of men and women and is ranked high among the list of the nation's successful manufacturing enterprises. It is the nations largest blanket factory, capable of producing 12 million blankets per year.

9. Richard Gwyn Museum

The museum is the first school of Elkin. The school was built in 1850 by Richard Gwyn to provide a place of education in Elkin, so his children would not have to cross the Yadkin River to attend school in Jonesville. The only means of crossing the river were ferry and canoe. Although Jonesville was the largest town this side of Raleigh and was the seat of the famous Van Eaton Academy, Richard Gwyn preferred his children not have to cross the Yadkin.

The building served not only as a school, but as Elkin's first Methodist Church and as a kind of community building where Episcopal services and an occasional political speech were heard. In 1896 the Elkin Academy Company was incorporated. There were later a number of private schools in the area. In 1914 Elkin voted in a \$13,000 bond for a new school building, the Elkin Elementary school was built. This building was torn down in 1975 to make way for a new elementary school building.

The Jonathan Hunt Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution made the school building into the quaint and very interesting museum it is today.



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10. York Tavern

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The York Tavern was built in 1820's or 30's by Mark York and it is said that many notables entertained while Rockford was a bustling community. Andrew Johnson is said to have made the York Tavern his headquarters as a young lawyer. At that time, Rockford was a happy hunting ground for lawyers, with legal transactions being carried out for a territory stretching from Virginia to Concord, and from Forsyth to the Watauga line.

11. Reeves- Freeman Homestead Site

In Siloam the common dining room or office of the Freeman family still stands. The house was torn down in . In April of 1865 General Stonemans raiders were roaming the countryside. In Siloam Colonel Luffman was recuperating from a severe battle wound at the home of his friend Major R.E. Reeves. Early one morning there was a commotion in the yard of the Reeves home. Colonel Luffman looked out the window to discover a group of Federals and one was on his horse. The Yankee on the horse yelled "Surrender your guns" and the Colonel responded "This is my gun and that is my horse. Get off or I'll knock you off!" Colonel Luffman fired and the Yankee fell off the horse dead. A fight began, Major Reeves and Colonel Luffman decided that if they were to escape being killed they must flee. So they did to the nearby Yadkin River. They both hid in the River with only their nostrils out of the water. Major Reeves under some driftwood and Colonel Luffman under a rock. The Federalist searched high and low and came very near the two men but failed to find them. Back at the Reeves home Mrs. Reeves, mother of major Reeves, was having a hard time. The Yankees had emptied all the contents on the bureau drawers and set fire to the contents. As soon as they set fire, Mrs. Reeves would stamp it out. The Federalist thought there might be some gold in the house so they told Mrs. Reeves that they would kill her if she did not tell them where the gold was. Mrs. Reeves said, "If you do you will deprive me of many days."

Reluctantly the Federals gave up and assured Mrs. Reeves that they would not burn the house if she would promise to give their dead companion a decent burial. Mrs. Reeves promised to do this and did. The soldiers grave is just north of the place he was killed, in a pine grove on a hill.



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12. Bean Shoals Canal

Along about 1817 when the United States became interested in canal building (Erie Canal, Chesapeake & Ohio, etc.) some North Carolina citizens hopped on the band wagon too. They convinced the legislature that they could make the Yadkin River navigable from Wilkesboro to the South Carolina Line. To pursue this possibility they employed a John Hixon and a Hiram Jennings to survey the river. Hixon and Jennings came up with the conclusion that they could make a usable course "at a price of only \$57,330 were it not for one formidable four-mile stretch of river commonly known as Bean Shoals."

The Bean Shoals they could get around by building a dam, three locks, and a canal three miles long. This they could do for \$30,200. So the Yadkin Navigation Company was formed, farmers and businessmen bought stock, and work was begun. Jennings, between 1820 and 1825 began to build his canal. To hold the walls, he had to build "a rock wall of solid masonry fifteen feet high, along a line of more than twelve hundred feet."

To make a long story short, an "expert" was called in who proposed another plan, the project cost more than was anticipated; and, after more than \$38,000 had been spent and the company was going broke the project was abandoned just short of the canal's completion--around 1825.

So these are the canal walls you will see along the river. There are four sections of them.

You will not see the canal because the railroad company decided to lay its tracks along an easy course, the canal bed. So when you are walking the railroad tracks you are walking the canal bed.

Bean Shoals, itself, was known as early as 1780 when land along its banks was granted to a David Gordon and a James Brown. How the shoals came to be called Bean we do not know at this point. Maybe a man named Bean first owned the land. The community of Shoals probably got its name from Bean Shoals. The state of North Carolina has made it into a state park.



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13. The Pilot Mountain

The Indians called the mountain Jo-me-o-kee which meant "Great Guide" from which came the free translation Pilot Mountain. Tales have been told of its ancient use as a ceremonial place by the Indians. Its Indian name seems to reinforce the legend that it served as a guiding landmark for migrating tribes. It is said that Daniel Boone also used it as a landmark to guide his path. Pilot Mountain was mapped in 1751 by Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson, father of Thomas Jefferson. The original owner of the Pilot Mountain is known to be Andre Mathieu, who came to America with the French troops under Rochambeau and was wounded in action at the Battle of Yorktown in 1781. He was 31 at the time. He became an American citizen and lived as a businessman in New York City. He lived in New York City until shortly after 1803 when his wife and son died of yellow fever. He and his daughter moved to the Pilot Mountain area of Surry County, purchasing 7,000 acres of land near and including the Pilot Mountain. The mountain was passed down through his family to the Spoon family. Until it was offered for sale in _____ and bought by J.W. Beasley of Pilot Mountain. The mountain road to the little pinnacle area was then paved and many improvements made. The Pilot Mountain was sold by Mr. Beasley's widow in _____ to become a state park so that the mountain can remain in its natural form for the enjoyment of travelers and local people.

14. Johnny Jones Plantation and the Giant Boxwood

Johnny Jones came to Surry County from Patrick County, Virginia in the early nineteenth century. On October 10, 1828 he bought 340 acres of land near the Ararat community. He built a log house and planted a boxwood to adorn the yard. This was just about the time the Baptist of the area were splitting into two groups the Primitive Baptists and the Missionary Baptist. The Primitive Baptist believed it was wrong to train its preachers, to send missionaries to other areas, and to have music in the church. Johnny Jones headed this group. The Missionary Baptist who wanted missionaries, music and trained preachers were headed by Denson Poindexter. This group later dropped the "Missionary" and were simply known as Baptist.

As the Baptist congregation grew so did the boxwood and it was still growing when Johnny Jones died and left his home to his daughter, a Mrs. Williams.

The house and the boxwood survived through two more changes in land owners and until the land was purchased by A.J. Taylor, a surveyor, teacher, and farmer from the Westfield area



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and his wife Virginia Elizabeth Stone of Pilot Mountain. The boxwood was ailing from neglect and one of the first things Mrs. Taylor did was to start nursing the boxwood. In 1891 the boxwood began to look better and has continued to grow until this day. The home place is now owned by Mr. Taylor's son W. S. Taylor. In 1951 Mr. Taylor was asked to donate the 12 feet tall, 75 feet in circumference, and 22-25 feet in diameter boxwood to be the centerpiece in the White House boxwood garden. He replied to the four men who were overseeing the landscaping "We want it remain in this region, where its history is know and where it will perhaps be more keenly appreciated than would be the case should it be transferred to Washington." He also added that "A majority of the descendants of Johnny Jones, who planted the boxwood about 1840, and likewise, most of the descendants and relatives of my mother, who nurtured the shrub from 1890 to 1942, live in northwest North Carolina."

The boxwood and the log cabin still stand as reminders of earlier days in Surry County.

15. The Allison Tree

On August 20, 1892 Tom Allison, of Iredell Co. employed by a tobacco warehouse company of Mt. Airy, shot and killed a very prominent citizen of Mt. Airy, W.H. Brown, shipping clerk for Messrs. Forkner, Oliver, and Co., tobacco manufacturers. Allison had for sometime been boasting of his superiority as a marksman. He had been very bitter toward W.H. Brown, the reason is not exactly known. Allison had told Brown he could beat him in a foot race and wanted to make a bet of \$2.50 on it and challenged him to meet him at the livery stable on Saturday afternoon. Brown did not go. Allison met Brown on the street later, Allison claimed that Brown was not a man of his word and they passed some sharp language. They were walking along when Allison cursed Brown, Brown resenting it with his fist. Allison hit Brown with his cane, when Brown caught the cane Allison pulled out a pistol and shot twice with deliberate aim. Brown was dead. Allison ran but was caught by Mr. Mart Griffith. Brown was a kind and well intending gentleman who had come to Mt. Airy from western Virginia, but was from Georgia originally. Though among strangers he died among friends.

(sheriff)←--

Allison was arrested and placed in the Dobson Jail. On a cool starry night in September a small negro boy was playing when he saw a great crowd of men on horses coming up the road toward Dobson. The men had tied sacks around the horses feet so they would make no noise. This group of men went to the Dobson



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jail pretending to have a prisoner. Some stood guard outside and others entered the jail demanding the key to Allison's cell. Jailer Reid refused to give it to them so they searched until they found it. They took Allison and were gone within minutes. The jailer rang the courthouse bell to no avail. After some search the body of Allison was found swinging to an oak tree. From that time forward the tree became know as the "Hangman's Oak" or the "Allison Tree". The rotten tree was cut down in 1958 but the stump is still visible in a road bed next to the Allison Tree Gulf Station about 1½ miles northeast of Dobson on old #601.

16. Siamese Twins Homesites

The Siamese Twins came to the United States from Siam with an American seaman, Captain Coffin. They arrived in Boston, August 16, 1829 after a four and one half month passage. The twins went on exhibition tours in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia and then to London where a great number of medical and scientific men were invited to examine the twins. The twins, Eng and Chang, then stayed in London seven months on tour, then returning to New York. The twins knew they had not been treated fairly regarding money taken in, so they decided to end their employment by Captain Coffin. They had studied to learn reading, writing, and arithmetic so they managed very well on their own. They toured for some time on their own and later with many exhibitions. The Siamese Twins took the name Bunker in 1840 after some dear friends in New York City. The twins enjoyed hunting and fishing so when invited to spend some leisure time in Wilkes County, North Carolina they graciously accepted. During the course of their visit they met the Yates sisters, Miss Sally Ann and Miss Adeliade. In due time these sisters became the brides of Eng and Chang, respectively. They made their home in Wilkes County but as their families grew they realized they needed more fertile land in order to provide adequately. At this time Eng and Chang heard of a farm for sale on Stuarts Creek near the village of Mount Airy. They investigated and decided to move their families to Surry County. Both families lived together until they outgrew their house. At that time Chang bought a house in the village of Mt. Airy. Adelaide and her children moved there. Chang and Eng divided their time equally between the village and the farm homes. Because of their large families Chang and Eng thought they should go on tour to secure some more money so that they could educate their children. So many of the children were of school age that Mrs. Sally moved to the village near Mrs. Adelaide. Later the families returned to the adjoining farms of Chang and Eng. The brothers agreed three day would be spent at Changs' and three at Eng's, this schedule was not broken even in the case of sickness, marriage or death.



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The twins had a reputation of being sharp businessmen, rigidly punctual, conscientiously honest, kind hearted, and sincere.

While returning from an exhibition to Europe in 1870 Chang became ill and remained in poor health until his death and consequently the death of Eng in 1874. The twins died at home after traveling thousands of miles during their lifetimes. They were buried in the White Plains Church Cemetery.

17. The Granite Quarry

In 1872 John Gilmer inspected his new farm near Mount Airy, he found in his holding was a 50 acre, dome shaped hillside of granite. The "Flat Rock" at this time was considered worthless and deducted from the purchase price.

In 1888 the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley railway extended its line into Mount Airy. An Englishman named Thomas Woodruffe had been contracted to build the railroad stations along the line from Greensboro to Mount Airy. He was in the process of searching for building materials when he found the stone on John Gilmer's farm. He was impressed by the fine textured, evenly colored stone. He proceeded to purchase the Flat Rock from Gilmer for a price of \$5,000, in 1889 he began quarrying. Mr. Woodruffe's start was slow because Mount Airy was so far from major markets. In 1904 the North Carolina Granite Corporation was formed. J.D. Sargeant, a native of Vermont came to Mount Airy as a stone cutter and shortly afterward took over management of the North Carolina Granite Corporation. The once thought worthless rock dome on John Gilmer's farm has grown into the world's largest open face Granite Quarry.

18. White Sulphur Springs

Mount Airy was famous for its sulphur spring as a resort before it became a commercial and manufacturing center. White Sulphur Springs appealed to many groups of people. It was known for its spring water with medicinal qualities. White Sulphur Springs was an outstanding resort of its day with an enormous, first class hotel surrounded by a spacious eight acre yard, shaded by stately trees; there were hammocks, tennis courts, and croquet grounds for recreation. The hotel served delicious meals prepared and served in the old fashioned Southern style. The overall revitalizing atmosphere made the resort a haven for the work weary visitor, as well as those in poor health. The resort remained a center of activity for more than half a century losing its patrons to the lure of automobile travel and the newly paved roads of the twentieth century, and also to the discovery of more sophisticated medical practices.

Siamese Twins continued:

House of Chang....one mile east of Eng's on U. S. 601 across
Stewart's Creek on east side....slightly remodeled.

The Siamese Twins originally came to U. S. in 1829....deserted
Captain Coffin who exploited them...both were educated and married the
Yates Sisters, Sally Ann and Adelaide.
 (Eng) (Chang)



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Rockford - Town of. County seat of Surry County from 1789 to 1850. Andrew Jackson practiced law here. James K. Polk visited kinsman W.P. Dobson; both Aaron Burr and Andrew Johnson said to have been visitors.

Hamlin-Burrus Holyfield House - Antebellum house built by John Hamlin about 1840. $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west side above courthouse.

Burrus House - Antebellum 1856.

York Tavern - Old tavern probably built in 1830's or before by Mark York. Many notables of the day entertained here.

Masonic Hall - Oldest Masonic Lodge in northwest North Carolina. Organized in 1795 in Huntsville and moved to Rockford and chartered in 1797. Two storied part original part.

Rockford Courthouse - Built 1825. Replaced earlier wooden structure. Badly damaged by fire in 1925. Now used as private dwelling. Used as courthouse until 1853 when courthouse was built at Dobson.

Grant - Burrus Hotel - Reuben Grant received license in 1796 to operate a tavern at his home. Had heyday in late 1800's and early 1900's at height of railroad activity. Then operated by Burrus. Back part added later. Andrew Jackson reputedly stayed here. Damaged by fire Nov. 18, 1974.

Old Building - Said to have been a tobacco factory. Long one storied building of southeast side toward bridge probably oldest building in Rockford.

John Dobson Home. One mile east of Rockford on #2230, west side. Just across from Dobson Hill. Antebellum home built 1856. Old law office in yard.

Dobson Hill One mile east of Rockford on #2230. Remains of home of William Polk Dobson, for whom county seat of Dobson was named. On hill overlooking river formerly Richard Horn Plantation where court was held in out building around 1789-1791. Dobson graveyard surrounded by slave-built wall to north. Just back of house on north long log building said to have been originally used as law offices and then as dormitories for students of Richmond Hill Law School across river.



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Rocky Ford. Just below "White Bridge" between picnic site and town. Vehicles forded the river just about the "ripple" in water which inspired famous newspaper name, "Yadkin Ripple". Gave Rockford its name.

Ferry Site - 1795 permission given to Moses Ayers for ferry. Just east on river side of picnic site.



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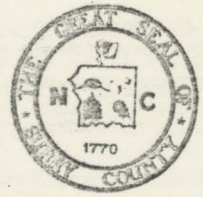
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Site Twenty-Nine: Bernard Franklin House (B-15) Born in 1731 and died in 1828. This is the unrestored home of Bernard Franklin who, with his family came to this section from Virginia around 1778. Bernard first settled along Mitchell's River, but in the late 1700's (probably 1792 which date is pressed in a brick on the west chimney) he traditionally built this house with the help of two of his sons and his slaves. The chimney brick is said to have been made on the place and the siding of the house plan by hand. Slave cabins stood at the back of the house just above the spring and rotting logs were still there in the memory of people still living. A covered walkway to the east is thought to have connected the "mansion" house to the log kitchen now marked by a pile of stones.

Meshack moved into his father's house upon the death of his father in 1829 and most likely "modernized" the house in the latest fashion of marbleized wainscoting (all three sons became prominent politicians: Shadrach served in the state legislature; Meshack and Jesse in both the state legislature and in Congress, the latter becoming our 1821 governor.)

The house is of very much interest to researchers not only because of the prominence of the Franklin Family, but because of the unique architectural quality of the house. Fine in its day it is essentially the same as it was in the early 1800's, a rarity to researchers in that it has been neither restored nor altered.

This traditional Georgian-Federal house was built on the so-called Quaker plan--one high room down stairs which included the stairs and two smaller rooms. Obviously, the crude partition added in later times will be removed. Upstairs, four bedrooms were thought to have been made from three and the attic stairs altered by Meshack who had the wainscoting "marbelized". This paneling and the painted doors are of special interest to experts, not only because of their original state, but because they were evidently done by a local artist.

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Site Twenty-Six: Fisher's Peak(B-12)...Highest Point in the county..named supposedly for Col. Daniel Fisher who died on the peak from "drinking cold water" or so they say. Further point west reached by Joshua Frye and Peter Jefferson who were surveying the North Carolina-Virginia boundary in 1749. Fisher River probably named for William Fisher....killed by Indians in 1758. Round Peak, mentioned in Taliaferro, Fisher River Scenes.

Site Twenty-Seven: Dick Snow House (B-11 A) This house was probably built in the 1820's or 30's. The following scene of "Good Morning" taken from Fisher River Scenes, took place in the Dick Snow House.

Dick Snow was a man of respectability, and had a wife whom he and every body else considered number one. The best of company, even the "quality" visited his house. The Misses Franklin, daughters of Meshech Franklin, "the Congressman," went to a Methodist quarterly meeting near Dick's residence, called on, and stayed all night with him. Dick was unacquainted with "quality ways," and when the ladies retired to bed up stairs, they bade the family goodnight. He didn't know what it meant, and it worried him worse than the nightmare. At last he concluded it was some rig the young ladies were running on him, and he resolved to retrieve what he had lost, for he was a man who did not like to be outdone. So, early next morning, he rose, built his fire, and watched the stair-steps until he heard the ladies coming down, he then ran and hid himself near the foot of the stairway. As soon as they landed on the lower floor, Dick rushed out of his hiding-place, scaring the misses not a little, and bawled out loudly, "Good Mornin' at ye, Ladies! I's fast anuff fur you this time. Now I'll quit ye, es we's even. You got me last night; I's got ye this mornin'."

If tour is on time, you should be here at 10:30 A.M.

Site Twenty-Eight: Franklin Primitive Baptist Church. Locally know as "Flat Top". Started in early 1800's either by Meschack or Bernard Franklin. First recorded deed 1824.

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Site Fifty Eight: General Wolfe Butner Birthplace. Stony Ridge Road.
Birthplace of World War I General for whom Camp Butner was named.
Butner also one time commander of Fort Bragg and of Panama Canal Department.

PILOT MOUNTAIN: also called by Indians Jo-me-o-kee, the Great Guide.
(Site Fifty-Nine) Time:#:3:20
Andre Mathieu, a Frenchman, first purchased the mountain, later passed on
to the Spoons and the Beasleys. Sold by Beaseley to the state for
present park.

Pilot Mountain--the town had its first post office in 1832 first called
Tom's Creek. later changed to Pilot Mountain in 1868. Incorporated in 1887.

In the 1700's was called Lovill's District after Captain Lovill, Revolutionary
War soldier.

Site Sixty: Level Cross Crossroads. Site of iron works for Ararat Forge

Site Sixty: Johnny Jones Plantation; came from Virginia in 1828. Early
Baptist Religious leader who supposedly fell from grace for exclaiming
an expletive. Boxwood planted in 1840. One of Largest boxwoods in state.
Wanted by White House remodeling committee for centerpiece for front lawn
but Taylor family refused stating that it ~~wax~~ should remain in Surry
County.

DOBSON: 4:15PM

Home of Surry Community College. Initiated by meetings of the Mt. Airy
and Dobson Lions Club in 1963 received County wide support. Formed in 1964.
One of the best community colleges in the state.
Site Sixty-ONE

Site Sixty-Two: Pick Shin Nature Center: Curator: Charles Fletcher.
Restored school house, country store, and log cabin. Future plans:
tobacco barn and a barn built the old fashioned way.

Dobson the town was originally founded in 1850 when it became the
county seat named after William Polk Dobson on whose plantation it
was built. The town was planned in squares. Fi

Site Sixty Three Courthouse. First courthouse on site built in 1853.
Dynamited to make way for new courthouse in 1916. New courthouse finished
in 1917; remodelled in 1971. (Optional and time permitting: Gay York,
Register of Deeds and staff will ~~be~~ show group some of the deeds of
the 1770's.

Site ~~XX~~ Sixty-Four. Bob Freeman House 85 South Main St. House reportedly
started before Civil War. Completed soon afterwards.

Site Sixty-Five Reeves Freeman House. Main part built probably in 1850's
and one of original house surrounding the square. Stoneman's raiders
reportedly stopped at this home but were warned about ~~sxxx~~ sickness in house

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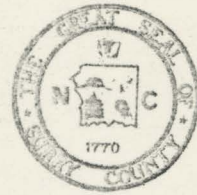
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Site Sixty-Five Reeves Freeman House. Main part built probably in 1850's
and one of original house surrounding the square. Stoneman's raiders
reportedly stopped at this home but were warned about ~~xxxx~~ sickness in house



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1. The Dick Snow House

This house was probably built in the 1820's or 30's. The following scene of "Good Morning" taken from Fisher River Scenes, took place in the Dick Snow House.

Dick Snow was a man of respectability, and had a wife whom he and every body else considered number one. The best of company, even the "quality," visited his house. The Misses Franklin, daughters of Meshach Franklin, "the Congressman," went to a Methodist quarterly meeting near Dick's residence, called on, and stayed all night with him. Dick was unacquainted with "quality ways," and when the ladies retired to bed up stairs, they bade the family goodnight. He didn't know what it meant, and it worried him worse than the nightmare. At last he concluded it was some rig the young ladies were running on him, and he resolved to retrieve what he had lost, for he was a man who did not like to be outdone. So, early next morning, he rose, built his fire, and watched the stair-steps until he heard the ladies coming down, he then ran and hid himself near the foot of the stairway. As soon as they landed on the lower floor, Dick rushed out of his hiding-place, scaring the misses not a little, and bawled out loudly, "Good Mornin' at ye, Ladies! I's fast anuff fur you this time. Now I'll quit ye, es we's even. You got me last night: I's got ye this mornin'."

2. Shipp's Mustering Grounds

Between Big Fish and Little Fish River in the Round Peak area was Shipp's Mustering Ground. There old veterans from the Revolutionary War used to congregate on stated occasions for drilling reminiscencing, sharp shooting, and a general good time.

Light refreshments were always served. There was "Ginger Cake Josh" with his mountain of "gingy cakes".

And there was Mr. Hamp Hudson, the only man in the county who kept a still house running all year long.

Now, Mr. Hudson had a dog named Famus who always accompanied his master wherever he went. Came mustering day and no Famus. Where was Famus? Word soon got around maybe by some jealous enemy of Mr. Hudson or by a temperance person, that the reason Famus wasn't around was that he got drowned in the mash and that Mr. Hudson had distilled the whiskey out of that very same mash.

"No, I'm not going to drink none of that Famus mash", was the general consensus.

Along came the middle of the afternoon. It was might hot. "Well, boys," he intoned, "I don't know too well about this matter. Maybe we've accused this feller Hamp wrongfully. He has always been a clever feller and it is a pity of he is innocent of this charge.



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The fact is, boys, it is a mighty dull, dry time. Nothing is a gwine on right. Boys, you are free men. I fought for your freedom. I say, boys, you can do as you please, but as for me, old Stoney Point Jimmy Smitty, FAMUS OR NO FAMUS, I MUST TAKE A LITTLE."

3. Skull Camp Mountain

Skull Camp mountain is located just to the south of 89 about 15 miles west of Mount Airy. Legend surrounds the name of the Mountain. It is said that a Negro slave came into the community sometime prior to the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, seeking refuge. He never told anyone where he came from only that his name was George. He found a cave high on the mountain and there he lived. He would come down in the day and work for the area farmers. They would pay him in foodstuffs and used clothing. He seemed to manage very well and the community people did not seem to mind him staying for he was an industrious fellow. The people called him "Free George" since most of his race were still slaves. He lived the latter part of his life in the cave at the top of the mountain. One day Free George didn't come to work the people assumed he did not need food that day so he would be back when his food supply got low. He was never seen again. Years later a group of campers planned to spend the night in the cave at the mountain and found a complege skeleton lying on a rock near the rear of the front room. The campers slept elsewhere but the next day reported their story to the community. People began to refer to the mountain as Skull Camp Mountain. Which became the final resting place of the man called "free George."

4. The Bernard Franklin House

This is the unrestored home of Bernard Franklin (1731-1828) who, with his family came to this section from Virginia around 1778. Bernard first settled along Mitchell's River, but in the late 1700's (probably 1792 which date is pressed in a brick on the west chimney) he traditionally built this house with the help of two of his sons and his slaves. The chimney brick is said to have been made on the place and the siding of the house plan by hand. Slave cabins stood at the back of the house just above the spring and rotting logs werw still there in the memory of people still living. A covered walkway to the east is thought to have connected the "mansion" house to the log kitchen now marked by a pile of stones.

Meshack moved into his father's house upon the death of his father in 1829 and most likely "modernized" the house in the latest fashion of marbleized wainscoting (all three sons became prominent polititions: Shadrach served in the state legislature; Meshack and Jesse in both the state legislature and in Congress, the latter becoming our 1821 governor.)



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The house is of very much interest to researchers not only because of the prominence of the Franklin family, but because of the unique architectural quality of the house. Fine in its day it is essentially the same as it was in the early 1800's, a rarity to researchers in that it has been neither restored nor altered.

This traditional Georgian-Federal house was built on the so-called Quaker plan--one huge room downstairs which included the stairs and two smaller rooms. Obviously, the crude partition added in later times will be removed. Upstairs, four bedrooms were thought to have been made from three and the the attic stairs altered by Meshack who had the wainscoting "marbelized". This paneling and the painted doors are of special interest to experts, not only because of their original state, but because they were evidently done by a local artist.

Because of its historical and architectural quality the house has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

5. The Bartholomew Hodges Cabin

This log cabin was built in 1800 by Bartholomew Hodges. One most interesting facts about the cabin is that it is still in the Hodges family. Bartholomew Hodges great-great-grandson, Lonzie Hodges now owns and occupies the cabin.

The house is built of logs cut from timber on the then 1,000 acre farm; the cabin is in a fair state of preservation. There were no windows in the cabin when it was built but in time Indians and wild animals became a problem and precautions were taken. In the upper story along each wall is a removable heavy timber covering louvers which were used to shoot through when attacked.

The house is built of logs and sealed with boards sawed with an old up and down saw. The rafters were hewed and put together with pegs. Oxen were used to drag the logs. The chimneys at either end of the house are built of rough slabs of rock and daubed with mud and crudely constructed, are still servicable.

6. Kapps Mill

Kapps Mill was built in 1827 and was one of the three largest serving Surry County. The builders, Nixon and Jackson, sold it in 1840 to John Kapps, whose name is still linked with the property. The mill remained in the Kapps family for the next 90 years. Irvy Wallace married on of Kapps' daughters. For 20



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years Kapps and Wallace owned the mill jointly until Wallace bought his father in law out in 1930. The mill has some very productive year, with alot of work invested, but in 1935 Wallace closed the doors because of economic trouble. If the mill had not closed in 1935 it probably would have in 1940. A flood on the Mitchell River did severe damage to the mill. The large roll stone which ground wheat was imbedded in mud under the mill as a result of that flood.

Along with the mill there is a house, general store, old buggy house, a spring house and stable.

7. Cedar Point

"Cedar Point" was once the plantation home of Richard and Elizabeth Hunt Gwyn. The plantation covered what is now all of Elkin and consisted of 6,000 acres of heavy timber. The house was built by Richard Gwyn around 1832. Richard Gwyn had first come to Jonesville early in 1820 and opened a general store. A few years later he moved across the River where the town of Elkin was to grow. Thomas Lenior Gwyn, youngest child of Richard, was to make quite a mark on Surry's history. He served in the Second Brigade of North Carolina Cavalry and was later co-founder of the Chatham Manufacturing Company.

When Stonemans army came through Elkin, Mr. Richard Gwyn road out to meet them and offered Gerenal Stoneman and his staff his home as headquarters. In the course of conversation between the Gwyns and Stoneman, he ask if they were related to the Gwyns in Baltimore and he was told they were. Nothing more was said but Stoneman saved the home and the cotton mill, owned by Richard Gwyn, although he sent squards to destroy the cotton factory at Turnersburg.

The house called "Cedar Point" is now owned by an Elkin attorney , Mike Randleman and his wife Elizabeth. They have made many repairs and improvements to bring the house back to the stately looking plantation house it once was.

8. Chatham Manufacturing Company

The Chatham Manufacturing Company grew from a grist mill which had been converted into a small wollen mill. The mill housed machinery which would process raw wool from fleece into cloth, yarn and blanket material. The mill was started by Thomas Lenior Gwyn and Alexander Chatham in 1878. The mill continued under the name of Gwyn and Chatham for 12 years when Mr. Gwyn's interest was



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acquired by three of the sons of Mr. Chatham. The name of the plant was then changed to the Chatham Manufacturing Company. Mr. Chatham served as president of the company until he organized and became president of Elkin's first bank, the Elkin National Bank. The woolen mill outgrew its location on Big Elkin creek, so in 1893 a new one story brick plant was built on the Yadkin River bottom. In 1899 a second story was added to the mill. Business continued to boom and in 1907 a branch operation was opened in Winston-Salem. In 1916 a flood nearly washed the company away, the waters of the Yadkin came within a foot of the second story. The people of Elkin worked together to salvage the machinery; damages neared \$100,000. In 1917, the plant was rebuilt on higher and drier land.

From the small woolen mill grew into an industry which has employed thousands of men and women and is ranked high among the list of the nation's successful manufacturing enterprises. It is the nations largest blanket factory, capable of producing 12 million blankets per year.

9. Richard Gwyn Museum

The museum is the first school of Elkin. The school was built in 1850 by Richard Gwyn to provide a place of education in Elkin, so his children would not have to cross the Yadkin River to attend school in Jonesville. The only means of crossing the river were ferry and canoe. Although Jonesville was the largest town this side of Raleigh and was the seat of the famous Van Eaton Academy, Richard Gwyn preferred his children not have to cross the Yadkin.

The building served not only as a school, but as Elkin's first Methodist Church and as a kind of community building where Episcopal services and an occasional political speech were heard. In 1896 the Elkin Academy Company was incorporated. There were later a number of private schools in the area. In 1914 Elkin voted in a \$13,000 bond for a new school building, the Elkin Elementary school was built. This building was torn down in 1975 to make way for a new elementary school building.

The Jonathan Hunt Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution made the school building into the quaint and very interesting museum it is today.



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10. York Tavern

The York Tavern was built in 1820's or 30's by Mark York and it is said that many notables entertained while Rockford was a bustling community. Andrew Johnson is said to have made the York Tavern his headquarters as a young lawyer. At that time, Rockford was a happy hunting ground for lawyers, with legal transactions being carried out for a territory stretching from Virginia to Concord, and from Forsyth to the Watauga line.

11. Reeves- Freeman Homestead Site

In Siloam the common dining room or office of the Freeman family still stands. The house was torn down in . In April of 1865 General Stonemans raiders were roaming the countryside. In Siloam Colonel Luffman was recuperating from a severe battle wound at the home of his friend Major R.E. Reeves. Early one morning there was a commotion in the yeard of the Reeves home. Colonel Luffman looked out the window to discover a group of Federals and one was on his horse. The Yankee on the horse yelled "Surrender your guns" and the Colonel responded "This is my gun and that is my horse. Get off or I'll knock you off!" Colonel Luffman fired and the Yankee fell off the horse dead. A fight began, Major Reeves and Colonel Luffman decided that if they were to escape being killed they must flee. So they did to the nearby Yadkin River. They both hid in the River with only their nostrils out of the water. Major Reeves under some driftwood and Colonel Luffman under a rock. The Federalist searched high and low and came very near the two men but failed to find them. Back at the Reeves home Mrs. Reeves, mother of major Reeves, was having a hard time. The Yankees had emptied all the contents on the bureau drawers and set fire to the contents. As soon as they set fire, Mrs. Reeves would stamp it out. The Federalist thought there might be some gold in the house so they told Mrs. Reeves that they would kill her if she did not tell them where the gold was. Mrs. Reeves said, "If you do you will deprive me of many days."

Reluctantly the Federals gave up and assured Mrs. Reeves that they would not burn the house if she would promise to give their dead companion a decent burial. Mrs. Reeves promised to do this and did. The soldiers grave is just north of the place he was killed, in a pine grove on a hill.



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12. Bean Shoals Canal

Along about 1817 when the United States became interested in canal building (Erie Canal, Chesapeake & Ohio, etc.) some North Carolina citizens hopped on the band wagon too. They convinced the legislature that they could make the Yadkin River navigable from Wilkesboro to the South Carolina Line. To pursue this possibility they employed a John Hixon and a Hiram Jennings to survey the river. Hixon and Jennings came up with the conclusion that they could make a usable course "at a price of only \$57,330 were it not for one formidable four-mile stretch of river commonly known as Bean Shoals."

The Bean Shoals they could get around by building a dam, three locks, and a canal three miles long. This they could do for \$30,200. So the Yadkin Navigation Company was formed, farmers and businessmen bought stock, and work was begun. Jennings, between 1820 and 1825 began to build his canal. To hold the walls; he had to build "a rock wall of solid masonry fifteen feet high, along a line of more than twelve hundred feet."

To make a long story short, an "expert" was called in who proposed another plan, the project cost more than was anticipated; and, after more than \$38,000 had been spent and the company was going broke the project was abandoned just short of the canal's completion--around 1825.

So these are the canal walls you will see along the river. There are four sections of them.

You will not see the canal because the railroad company decided to lay its tracks along an easy course, the canal bed. So when you are walking the railroad tracks you are walking the canal bed.

Bean Shoals, itself, was known as early as 1780 when land along its banks was granted to a David Gordon and a James Brown. How the shoals came to be called Bean we do not know at this point. Maybe a man named Bean first owned the land. The community of Shoals probably got its name from Bean Shoals. The state of North Carolina has made it into a state park.



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13. The Pilot Mountain

The Indians called the mountain Jo-me-o-kee which meant "Great Guide" from which came the free translation Pilot Mountain. Tales have been told of its ancient use as a ceremonial place by the Indians. Its Indian name seems to reinforce the legend that it served as a guiding landmark for migrating tribes. It is said that Daniel Boone also used it as a landmark to guide his path. Pilot Mountain was mapped in 1751 by Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson, father of Thomas Jefferson. The original owner of the Pilot Mountain is know to be Andre Mathieu, who came to America with the French troops under Rochambeau and was wounded in action at the Battle of Yorktown in 1781. He was 31 at the time. He became an American citizen and lived as a businessman in New York City. He lived in New York City until shortly after 1803 when his wife and son died of yellow fever. He and his daughter moved to the Pilot Mountain area of Surry County, purchasing 7,000 acres of land near and including the Pilot Mountain. The mountain was passed down through his family to the Spoon family. Until it was offered for sale in and bought by J.W. Beasley of Pilot Mountain. The mountain road to the little pinnacle area was then paved and many improvements made. The Pilot Mountain was sold by Mr. Beasley's widow in to become a state park so that the mountain can remain in its natural form for the enjoyment of travelers and local people.

14. Johnny Jones Plantation and the Giant Boxwood

Johnny Jones came to Surry County from Patrick County, Virginia in the early nineteenth century. On October 10, 1828 he bought 340 acres of land near the Ararat community. He built a log house and planted a boxwood to adorn the yard. This was just about the time the Baptist of the area were splitting into two groups the Primitive Baptists and the Missionary Baptist. The Primitive Baptist believed it was wrong to train its preachers, to send missionaries to other areas, and to have music in the church. Johnny Jones headed this group. The Missionary Baptist who wanted missionaries, music and trained preachers were headed by Denson Poindexter. This group later dropped the "Missionary" and were simply know as Baptist.

As the Baptist congregation grew so did the boxwood and it was still growing when Johnny Jones died and left his home to his daughter, a Mrs. Williams.

The house and the boxwood survived through two more changes in land owners and until the land was purchased by A.J. Taylor, a surveyor, teacher, and farmer from the Westfield area



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and his wife Virginia Elizabeth Stone of Pilot Mountain. The boxwood was ailing from neglect and one of the first things Mrs. Taylor did was to start nursing the boxwood. In 1891 the boxwood began to look better and has continued to grow until this day. The home place is now owned by Mr. Taylor's son W. S. Taylor. In 1951 Mr. Taylor was asked to donate the 12 feet tall, 75 feet in circumference, and 22-25 feet in diameter boxwood to be the centerpiece in the White House boxwood garden. He replied to the four men who were overseeing the landscaping "We want it remain in this region, where its history is know and where it will perhaps be more keenly appreciated than would be the case should it be transferred to Washington." He also added that "A majority of the descendants of Johnny Jones, who planted the boxwood about 1840, and likewise, most of the decendants and relatives of my mother, who nurtured the shrub from 1890 to 1942, live in northwest North Carolina."

The boxwood and the log cabin still stand as reminders of earlier days in Surry County.

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15. The Allison Tree

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On August 20, 1892 Tom Allison, of Iredell Co. employed by a tobacco warehouse company of Mt. Airy, shot and killed a very prominent citizen of Mt. Airy, W.H. Brown, shipping clerk for Messrs. Forkner, Oliver, and Co., tobacco manufacturers. Allison had for sometime been boasting of his superiority as a marksman. He had been very bitter toward W.H. Brown, the reason is not exactly known. Allison had told Brown he could beat him in a foot race and wanted to make a bet of \$2.50 on it and challenged him to meet him at the livery stable on Saturday afternoon. Brown did not go. Allison met Brown on the street later, Allison claimed that Brown was not a man of his word and they passed some sharp language. They were walking along when Allison cursed Brown, Brown resenting it with his fist. Allison hit Brown with his cane, when Brown caught the cane Allison pulled out a pistol and shot twice with deliberate aim. Brown was dead. Allison ran but was caught by (sheriff) Mr. Mart Griffith. Brown was a kind and well intending gentleman who had come to Mt. Airy from western Virginia, but was from Georgia originally. Though among strangers he died among friends.

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Allison was arrested and placed in the Dobson Jail. On a cool starry night in September a small negro boy was playing when he saw a great crowd of men on horses coming up the road toward Dobson. The men had tied sacks around the horses feet so they would make no noise. This group of men went to the Dobson



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jail pretending to have a prisoner. Some stood guard outside and others entered the jail demanding the key to Allison's cell. Jailer Reid refused to give it to them so they searched until they found it. They took Allison and were gone within minutes. The jailer rang the courthouse bell to no avail. After some search the body of Allison was found swinging to an oak tree. From that time forward the tree became know as the "Hangman's Oak" or the "Allison Tree". The rotten tree was cut down in 1958 but the stump is still visible in a road bed next to the Allison Tree Gulf Station about 1½ miles northeast of Dobson on old #601.

16. Siamese Twins Homesites

The Siamese Twins came to the United States from Siam with an American seaman, Captain Coffin. They arrived in Boston, August 16, 1829 after a four and one half month passage. The twins went on exhibition tours in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia and then to London where a great number of medical and scientific men were invited to examine the twins. The twins, Eng and Chang, then stayed in London seven months on tour, then returning to New York. The twins knew they had not been treated fairly regarding money taken in, so they decided to end their employment by Captain Coffin. They had studied to learn reading, writing, and arithmetic so they managed very well on their own. They toured for some time on their own and later with many exhibitions. The Siamese Twins took the name Bunker in 1840 after some dear friends in New York City. The twins enjoyed hunting and fishing so when invited to spend some leisure time in Wilkes County, North Carolina they graciously accepted. During the course of their visit they met the Yates sisters, Miss Sally Ann and Miss Adeliade. In due time these sisters became the brides of Eng and Chang, respectively. They made their home in Wilkes County but as their families grew they realized they needed more fertile land in order to provide adequately. At this time Eng and Chang heard of a farm for sale on Stuarts Creek near the village of Mount Airy. They investigated and decided to move their families to Surry County. Both families lived together until they outgrew their house. At that time Chang bought a house in the village of Mt. Airy. Adelaide and her children moved there. Chang and Eng divided their time equally between the village and the farm homes. Because of their large families Chang and Eng thought they should go on tour to secure some more money so that they could educate their children. So many of the children were of school age that Mrs. Sally moved to the village near Mrs. Adelaide. Later the families returned to the adjoining farms of Chang and Eng. The brothers agreed three day would be spent at Changs' and three at Engs', this schedule was not broken even in the case of sickness, marriage or death.



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The twins had a reputation of being sharp businessmen, rigidly punctual, conscientiously honest, kind hearted, and sincere.

While returning from an exhibition to Europe in 1870 Chang became ill and remained in poor health until his death and consequently the death of Eng in 1874. The twins died at home after traveling thousands of miles during their lifetimes. They were buried in the White Plains Church Cemetery.

17. The Granite Quarry

In 1872 John Gilmer inspected his new farm near Mount Airy, he found in his holding was a 50 acre, dome shaped hillside of granite. The "Flat Rock" at this time was considered worthless and deducted from the purchase price.

In 1888 the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley railway extended its line into Mount Airy. An Englishman named Thomas Woodruffe had been contracted to build the railroad stations along the line from Greensboro to Mount Airy. He was in the process of searching for building materials when he found the stone on John Gilmer's farm. He was impressed by the fine textured, evenly colored stone. He proceeded to purchase the Flat Rock from Gilmer for a price of \$5,000, in 1889 he began quarrying. Mr. Woodruffe's start was slow because Mount Airy was so far from major markets. In 1904 the North Carolina Granite Corporation was formed. J.D. Sargeant, a native of Vermont came to Mount Airy as a stone cutter and shortly afterward took over management of the North Carolina Granite Corporation. The once thought worthless rock dome on John Gilmer's farm has grown into the world's largest open face Granite Quarry.

18. White Sulphur Springs

Mount Airy was famous for its sulphur spring as a resort before it became a commercial and manufacturing center. White Sulphur Springs appealed to many groups of people. It was known for its spring water with medicinal qualities. White Sulphur Springs was an outstanding resort of its day with an enormous, first class hotel surrounded by a spacious eight acre yard, shaded by stately trees; there were hammocks, tennis courts, and croquet grounds for recreation. The hotel served delicious meals prepared and served in the old fashioned Southern style. The overall revitalizing atmosphere made the resort a haven for the work weary visitor, as well as those in poor health. The resort remained a center of activity for more than half a century losing its patrons to the lure of automobile travel and the newly paved roads of the twentieth century, and also to the discovery of more sophisticated medical practices.



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1. The Dick Snow House

This house was probably built in the 1820's or 30's. The following scene of "Good Morning" taken from Fisher River Scenes, took place in the Dick Snow House.

Dick Snow was a man of respectability, and had a wife whom he and every body else considered number one. The best of company, even the "quality," visited his house. The Misses Franklin, daughters of Meshech Franklin, "the Congressman," went to a Methodist quarterly meeting near Dick's residence, called on, and stayed all night with him. Dick was unacquainted with "quality ways," and when the ladies retired to bed up stairs, they bade the family goodnight. He didn't know what it meant, and it worried him worse than the nightmare. At last he concluded it was some rig the young ladies were running on him, and he resolved to retrieve what he had lost, for he was a man who did not like to be outdone. So, early next morning, he rose, built his fire, and watched the stair-steps until he heard the ladies coming down, he then ran and hid himself near the foot of the stairway. As soon as they landed on the lower floor, Dick rushed out if his hiding-place, scaring the misses not a little, and bawled out loudly, "Good Mornin' at ye, Ladies! I's fast anuff fur you this time. Now I'll quit ye, es we's even. You got me last night: I's got ye this mornin'."

2. Shipp's Mustering Grounds

Between Big Fish and Little Fish River in the Round Peak area was Shipp's Mustering Ground. There old veterans from the Revolutionary War used to congregate on stated occasions for drilling reminiscencing, sharp shooting, and a general good time.

Light refreshments were always served. There was "Ginger Cake Josh" with his mountain of "gingy cakes".

And there was Mr. Hamp Hudson, the only man in the county who kept a still house running all year long.

Now, Mr. Hudson had a dog named Famus who always accompanied his master wherever he went. Came mustering day and no Famus. Where was Famus? Word soon got around maybe by some jealous enemy of Mr. Hudson or by a temperance person, that the reason Famus wasn't around was that he got drowned in the mash and that Mr. Hudson had distilled the whiskey out of that very same mash.

"No, I'm not going to drink none of that Famus mash", was the general consensus.

Along came the middle of the afternoon. It was might hot. "Well, boys," he intoned, "I don't know too well about this matter. Maybe we've accused this feller Hamp wrongfully. He has always been a clever feller and it is a pity of he is innocent of this charge.



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The fact is, boys, it is a mighty dull, dry time. Nothing is a gwine on right. Boys, you are free men. I fought for your freedom. I say, boys, you can do as you please, but as for me, old Stoney Point Jimmy Smitty, FAMUS OR NO FAMUS, I MUST TAKE A LITTLE!"

3. Skull Camp Mountain

Skull Camp mountain is located just to the south of 89 about 15 miles west of Mount Airy. Legend surrounds the name of the Mountain. It is said that a Negro slave came into the community sometime prior to the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, seeking refuge. He never told anyone where he came from only that his name was George. He found a cave high on the mountain and there he lived. He would come down in the day and work for the area farmers. They would pay him in foodstuffs and used clothing. He seemed to manage very well and the community people did not seem to mind him staying for he was an industrious fellow. The people called him "Free George" since most of his race were still slaves. He lived the latter part of his life in the cave at the top of the mountain. One day Free George didn't come to work the people assumed he did not need food that day so he would be back when his food supply got low. He was never seen again. Years later a group of campers planned to spend the night in the cave at the mountain and found a complege skeleton lying on a rock near the rear of the front room. The campers slept elsewhere but the next day reported their story to the community. People began to refer to the mountain as Skull Camp Mountain. Which became the final resting place of the man called "free George."

4. The Bernard Franklin House

This is the unrestored home of Bernard Franklin (1731-1828) who, with his family came to this section from Virginia around 1778. Bernard first settled along Mitchell's River, but in the late 1700's (probably 1792 which date is pressed in a brick on the west chimney) he traditionally built this house with the help of two of his sons and his slaves. The chimney brick is said to have been made on the place and the siding of the house planned by hand. Slave cabins stood at the back of the house just above the spring and rotting logs werw still there in the memory of people still living. A covered walkway to the east is thought to have connected the "mansion" house to the log kitchen now marked by a pile of stones.

Meshack moved into his father's house upon the death of his father in 1829 and most likely "modernized" the house in the latest fashion of marbleized wainscotting (all three sons became prominent polititions: Shadrach served in the state legislature; Meshack and Jesse in both the state legislature and in Congress, the latter becoming our 1821 governor.)



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5 The house is of very much interest to researchers not only because of the prominence of the Franklin family, but because of the unique architectural quality of the house. Fine in its day it is essentially the same as it was in the early 1800's, a rarity to researchers in that it has been neither restored nor altered.

This traditional Georgian-Federal house was built on the so-called Quaker plan--one huge room downstairs which included the stairs and two smaller rooms. Obviously, the crude partition added in later times will be removed. Upstairs, four bedrooms were thought to have been made from three and the the attic stairs altered by Meshack who had the wainscoting "marbelized". This paneling and the painted doors are of special interest to experts, not only because of their original state, but because they were evidently done by a local artist.

Because of its historical and architectural quality the house has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

5. The Bartholomew Hodges Cabin

This log cabin was built in 1800 by Bartholomew Hodges. One most interesting facts about the cabin is that it is still in the Hodges family. Bartholomew Hodges great-great-grandson, Lonzie Hodges now owns and occupies the cabin.

The house is built of logs cut from timber on the then 1,000 acre farm; the cabin is in a fair state of preservation. There were no windows in the cabin when it was built but in time Indians and wild animals became a problem and precautions were taken. In the upper story along each wall is a removable heavy timber covering louvers which were used to shoot through when attacked.

The house is built of logs and sealed with boards sawed with an old up and down saw. The rafters were hewed and put together with pegs. Oxen were used to drag the logs. The chimneys at either end of the house are built of rough slabs of rock and daubed with mud and crudely constructed, are still servicable.

6. Kapps Mill

Kapps Mill was built in 1827 and was one of the three largest serving Surry County. The builders, Nixon and Jackson, sold it in 1840 to John Kapps, whose name is still linked with the property. The mill remained in the Kapps family for the next 90 years. Irvy Wallace married on of Kapps' daughters. For 20



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years Kapps and Wallace owned the mill jointly until Wallace bought his father in law out in 1930. The mill has some very productive year, with a lot of work invested, but in 1935 Wallace closed the doors because of economic trouble. If the mill had not closed in 1935 it probably would have in 1940. A flood on the Mitchell River did severe damage to the mill. The large roll stone which ground wheat was imbedded in mud under the mill as a result of that flood.

Along with the mill there is a house, general store, old buggy house, a spring house and stable.

7. Cedar Point

"Cedar Point" was once the plantation home of Richard and Elizabeth Hunt Gwyn. The plantation covered what is now all of Elkin and consisted of 6,000 acres of heavy timber. The house was built by Richard Gwyn around 1832. Richard Gwyn had first come to Jonesville early in 1820 and opened a general store. A few years later he moved across the River where the town of Elkin was to grow. Thomas Lenior Gwyn, youngest child of Richard, was to make quite a mark on Surry's history. He served in the Second Brigade of North Carolina Cavalry and was later co-founder of the Chatham Manufacturing Company.

When Stonemans army came through Elkin, Mr. Richard Gwyn road out to meet them and offered Gerenal Stoneman and his staff his home as headquarters. In the course of conversation between the Gwyns and Stoneman, he ask if they were related to the Gwyns in Baltimore and he was told they were. Nothing more was said but Stoneman saved the home and the cotton mill, owned by Richard Gwyn, although he sent squards to destroy the cotton factory at Turnersburg.

The house called "Cedar Point" is now owned by an Elkin attorney, Mike Randleman and his wife Elizabeth. They have made many repairs and improvements to bring the house back to the stately looking plantation house it once was.

8. Chatham Manufacturing Company

The Chatham Manufacturing Company grew from a grist mill which had been converted into a small wollen mill. The mill housed machinery which would process raw wool from fleece into cloth, yarn and blanket material. The mill was started by Thomas Lenior Gwyn and Alexander Chatham in 1878. The mill continued under the name of Gwyn and Chatham for 12 years when Mr. Gwyn's interest was



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acquired by three of the sons of Mr. Chatham. The name of the plant was then changed to the Chatham Manufacturing Company. Mr. Chatham served as president of the company until he organized and became president of Elkin's first bank, the Elkin National Bank. The woolen mill outgrew its location on Big Elkin creek, so in 1893 a new one story brick plant was built on the Yadkin River bottom. In 1899 a second story was added to the mill. Business continued to boom and in 1907 a branch operation was opened in Winston-Salem. In 1916 a flood nearly washed the company away, the waters of the Yadkin came within a foot of the second story. The people of Elkin worked together to salvage the machinery; damages neared \$100,000. In 1917, the plant was rebuilt on higher and drier land.

From the small woolen mill grew into an industry which has employed thousands of men and women and is ranked high among the list of the nation's successful manufacturing enterprises. It is the nation's largest blanket factory, capable of producing 12 million blankets per year.

9. Richard Gwyn Museum

The museum is the first school of Elkin. The school was built in 1850 by Richard Gwyn to provide a place of education in Elkin, so his children would not have to cross the Yadkin River to attend school in Jonesville. The only means of crossing the river were ferry and canoe. Although Jonesville was the largest town this side of Raleigh and was the seat of the famous Van Eaton Academy, Richard Gwyn preferred his children not have to cross the Yadkin.

The building served not only as a school, but as Elkin's first Methodist Church and as a kind of community building where Episcopal services and an occasional political speech were heard. In 1896 the Elkin Academy Company was incorporated. There were later a number of private schools in the area. In 1914 Elkin voted in a \$13,000 bond for a new school building, the Elkin Elementary school was built. This building was torn down in 1975 to make way for a new elementary school building.

The Jonathan Hunt Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution made the school building into the quaint and very interesting museum it is today.



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10. York Tavern

The York Tavern was built in 1820's or 30's by Mark York and it is said that many notables entertained while Rockford was a bustling community. Andrew Johnson is said to have made the York Tavern his headquarters as a young lawyer. At that time, Rockford was a happy hunting ground for lawyers, with legal transactions being carried out for a territory stretching from Virginia to Concord, and from Forsyth to the Watauga line.

11. Reeves- Freeman Homestead Site

In Siloam the common dining room or office of the Freeman family still stands. The house was torn down in . In April of 1865 General Stonemans raiders were roaming the countryside. In Siloam Colonel Luffman was recuperating from a severe battle wound at the home of his friend Major R.E. Reeves. Early one morning there was a commotion in the yeard of the Reeves home. Colonel Luffman looked out the window to discover a group of Federals and one was on his horse. The Yankee on the horse yelled "Surrender your guns" and the Colonel responded "This is my gun and that is my horse. Get off or I'll knock you off!" Colonel Luffman fired and the Yankee fell off the horse dead. A fight began, Major Reeves and Colonel Luffman decided that if they were to escape being killed they must flee. So they did to the nearby Yadkin River. They both hid in the River with only their nostrils out of the water. Major Reeves under some driftwood and Colonel Luffman under a rock. The Federalist searched high and low and came very near the two men but failed to find them. Back at the Reeves home Mrs. Reeves, mother of major Reeves, was having a hard time. The Yankees had emptied all the contents on the bureau drawers and set fire to the contents. As soon as they set fire, Mrs. Reeves would stamp it out. The Federalist thought there might be some gold in the house so they told Mrs. Reeves that they would kill her if she did not tell them where the gold was. Mrs. Reeves said, "If you do you will deprive me of many days."

Reluctantly the Federalists gave up and assured Mrs. Reeves that they would not burn the house if she would promise to give their dead companion a decent burial. Mrs Reeves promised to do this and did. The soldiers grave is just north of the place he was killed, in a pine grove on a hill.

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12. Bean Shoals Canal

Along about 1817 when the United States became interested in canal building (Erie Canal, Chesapeake & Ohio, etc.) some North Carolina citizens hopped on the band wagon too. They convinced the legislature that they could make the Yadkin River navigable from Wilkesboro to the South Carolina Line. To pursue this possibility they employed a John Hixon and a Hiram Jennings to survey the river. Hixon and Jennings came up with the conclusion that they could make a usable course "at a price of only \$57,330 were it not for one formidable four-mile stretch of river commonly known as Bean Shoals."

The Bean Shoals they could get around by building a dam, three locks, and a canal three miles long. This they could do for \$30,200. So the Yadkin Navigation Company was formed, farmers and businessmen bought stock, and work was begun. Jennings, between 1820 and 1825 began to build his canal. To hold the walls, he had to build "a rock wall of solid masonry fifteen feet high, along a line of more than twelve hundred feet."

To make a long story short, an "expert" was called in who proposed another plan, the project cost more than was anticipated; and, after more than \$38,000 had been spent and the company was going broke the project was abandoned just short of the canal's completion--around 1825.

So these are the canal walls you will see along the river. There are four sections of them.

You will not see the canal because the railroad company decided to lay its tracks along an easy course, the canal bed. So when you are walking the railroad tracks you are walking the canal bed.

Bean Shoals, itself, was known as early as 1780 when land along its banks was granted to a David Gordon and a James Brown. How the shoals came to be called Bean we do not know at this point. Maybe a man named Bean first owned the land. The community of Shoals probably got its name from Bean Shoals. The state of North Carolina has made it into a state park.



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13. The Pilot Mountain

The Indians called the mountain Jo-me-o-kee which meant "Great Guide" from which came the free translation Pilot Mountain. Tales have been told of its ancient use as a ceremonial place by the Indians. Its Indian name seems to reinforce the legend that it served as a guiding landmark for migrating tribes. It is said that Daniel Boone also used it as a landmark to guide his path. Pilot Mountain was mapped in 1751 by Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson, father of Thomas Jefferson. The original owner of the Pilot Mountain is know to be Andre Mathieu, who came to America with the French troops under Rochambeau and was wounded in action at the Battle of Yorktown in 1781. He was 31 at the time. He became an American citizen and lived as a businessman in New York City. He lived in New York City until shortly after 1803 when his wife and son died of yellow fever. He and his daughter moved to the Pilot Mountain area of Surry County, purchasing 7,000 acres of land near and including the Pilot Mountain. The mountain was passed down through his family to the Spoon family. Until it was offered for sale in and bought by J.W. Beasley of Pilot Mountain. The mountain road to the little pinnacle area was then paved and many improvements made. The Pilot Mountain was sold by Mr. Beasley's widow in to become a state park so that the mountain can remain in its natural form for the enjoyment of travelers and local people.

14. Johnny Jones Plantation and the Giant Boxwood

Johnny Jones came to Surry County from Patrick County, Virginia in the early nineteenth century. On October 10, 1828 he bought 340 acres of land near the Ararat community. He built a log house and planted a boxwood to adorn the yard. This was just about the time the Baptist of the area were splitting into two groups the Primitive Baptists and the Missionary Baptist. The Primitive Baptist believed it was wrong to train its preachers, to send missionaries to other areas, and to have music in the church. Johnny Jones headed this group. The Missionary Baptist who wanted missionaries, music and trained preachers were headed by Denson Poindester. This group later dropped the "Missionary" and were simply know as Baptist.

As the Baptist congregation grew so did the boxwood and it was still growing when Johnny Jones died and left his home to his daughter, a Mrs. Williams.

The house and the boxwood survived through two more changes in land owners and until the land was purchased by A.J. Taylor, a surveyor, teacher, and farmer from the Westfield area



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and his wife Virginia Elizabeth Stone of Pilot Mountain. The boxwood was ailing from neglect and one of the first things Mrs. Taylor did was to start nursing the boxwood. In 1891 the boxwood began to look better and has continued to grow until this day. The home place is now owned by Mr. Taylor's son W. S. Taylor. In 1951 Mr. Taylor was asked to donate the 12 feet tall, 75 feet in circumference, and 22-25 feet in diameter boxwood to be the centerpiece in the White House boxwood garden. He replied to the four men who were overseeing the landscaping "We want it remain in this region, where its history is know and where it will perhaps be more keenly appreciated than would be the case should it be transferred to Washington." He also added that "A majority of the descendants of Johnny Jones, who planted the boxwood about 1840, and likewise, most of the decendants and relatives of my mother, who nurtured the shrub from 1890 to 1942, live in northwest North Carolina."

The boxwood and the log cabin still stand as reminders of earlier days in Surry County.

15. The Allison Tree

On August 20, 1892 Tom Allison, of Iredell Co. employed by a tobacco warehouse company of Mt. Airy, shot and killed a very prominent citizen of Mt. Airy, W.H. Brown, shipping clerk for Messrs. Forkner, Oliver, and Co., tobacco manufacturers. Allison had for sometime been boasting of his superiority as a marksman. He had been very bitter toward W.H. Brown, the reason is not exactly known. Allison had told Brown he could beat him in a foot race and wanted to make a bet of \$2.50 on it and challenged him to meet him at the livery stable on Saturday afternoon. Brown did not go. Allison met Brown on the street later, Allison claimed that Brown was not a man of his word and they passed some sharp language. They were walking along when Allison cursed Brown, Brown resenting it with his fist. Allison hit Brown with his cane, when Brown caught the cane Allison pulled out a pistol and shot twice with deliberate aim. Brown was dead. Allison ran but was caught by (sheriff) ← Mr. Mart Griffith. Brown was a kind and well intending gentleman who had come to Mt. Airy from western Virginia, but was from Georgia originally. Though among strangers he died among friends.

Allison was arrested and placed in the Dobson Jail. On a cool starry night in September a small negro boy was playing when he saw a great crowd of men on horses coming up the road toward Dobson. The men had tied sacks around the horses feet so they would make no noise. This group of men went to the Dobson



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jail pretending to have a prisoner. Some stood guard outside and others entered the jail demanding the key to Allison's cell. Jailer Reid refused to give it to them so they searched until they found it. They took Allison and were gone within minutes. The jailer rang the courthouse bell to no avail. After some search the body of Allison was found swinging to an oak tree. From that time forward the tree became known as the "Hangman's Oak" or the "Allison Tree". The rotten tree was cut down in 1958 but the stump is still visible in a road bed next to the Allison Tree Gulf Station about 1½ miles northeast of Dobson on old #601.

16. Siamese Twins Homesites

The Siamese Twins came to the United States from Siam with an American seaman, Captain Coffin. They arrived in Boston, August 16, 1829 after a four and one half month passage. The twins went on exhibition tours in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia and then to London where a great number of medical and scientific men were invited to examine the twins. The twins, Eng and Chang, then stayed in London seven months on tour, then returning to New York. The twins knew they had not been treated fairly regarding money taken in, so they decided to end their employment by Captain Coffin. They had studied to learn reading, writing, and arithmetic so they managed very well on their own. They toured for some time on their own and later with many exhibitions. The Siamese Twins took the name Bunker in 1840 after some dear friends in New York City. The twins enjoyed hunting and fishing so when invited to spend some leisure time in Wilkes County, North Carolina they graciously accepted. During the course of their visit they met the Yates sisters, Miss Sally Ann and Miss Adeliade. In due time these sisters became the brides of Eng and Chang, respectively. They made their home in Wilkes County but as their families grew they realized they needed more fertile land in order to provide adequately. At this time Eng and Chang heard of a farm for sale on Stuarts Creek near the village of Mount Airy. They investigated and decided to move their families to Surry County. Both families lived together until they outgrew their house. At that time Chang bought a house in the village of Mt. Airy. Adelaide and her children moved there. Chang and Eng divided their time equally between the village and the farm homes. Because of their large families Chang and Eng thought they should go on tour to secure some more money so that they could educate their children. So many of the children were of school age that Mrs. Sally moved to the village near Mrs. Adelaide. Later the families returned to the adjoining farms of Chang and Eng. The brothers agreed three day would be spent at Chang's and three at Eng's, this schedule was not broken even in the case of sickness, marriage or death.



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The twins had a reputation of being sharp businessmen, rigidly punctual, conscientiously honest, kind hearted, and sincere.

While returning from an exhibition to Europe in 1870 Chang became ill and remained in poor health until his death and consequently the death of Eng in 1874. The twins died at home after traveling thousands of miles during their lifetimes. They were buried in the White Plains Church Cemetery.

17. The Granite Quarry

In 1872 John Gilmer inspected his new farm near Mount Airy, he found in his holding was a 50 acre, dome shaped hillside of granite. The "Flat Rock" at this time was considered worthless and deducted from the purchase price.

In 1888 the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley railway extended its line into Mount Airy. An Englishman named Thomas Woodruffe had been contracted to build the railroad stations along the line from Greensboro to Mount Airy. He was in the process of searching for building materials when he found the stone on John Gilmer's farm. He was impressed by the fine textured, evenly colored stone. He proceeded to purchase the Flat Rock from Gilmer for a price of \$5,000, in 1889 he began quarrying. Mr. Woodruffe's start was slow because Mount Airy was so far from major markets. In 1904 the North Carolina Granite Corporation was formed. J.D. Sargeant, a native of Vermont came to Mount Airy as a stone cutter and shortly afterward took over management of the North Carolina Granite Corporation. The once thought worthless rock dome on John Gilmer's farm has grown into the world's largest open face Granite Quarry.

18. White Sulphur Springs

Mount Airy was famous for its sulphur spring as a resort before it became a commercial and manufacturing center. White Sulphur Springs appealed to many groups of people. It was known for its spring water with medicinal qualities. White Sulphur Springs was an outstanding resort of its day with an enormous, first class hotel surrounded by a spacious eight acre yard, shaded by stately trees; there were hammocks, tennis courts, and croquet grounds for recreation. The hotel served delicious meals prepared and served in the old fashioned Southern style. The overall revitalizing atmosphere made the resort a haven for the work weary visitor, as well as those in poor health. The resort remained a center of activity for more than half a century losing its patrons to the lure of automobile travel and the newly paved roads of the twentieth century, and also to the discovery of more sophisticated medical practices.



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Rockford - Town of. County seat of Surry County from 1789 to 1850.
Andrew Jackson practiced law here. James K. Polk visited kinsman
W. P. Dobson; both Aaron Burr and Andrew Johnson said to have been
visitors.

Hamlin - Burrus Holyfield House - Antebellum house built by John
Hamlin about 1840. $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west side above courthouse.

Burrus House - Antebellum 1856.

York Tavern - Old Tavern probably built in 1830's or before by Mark
York. Many notables of the day entertained here.

Masonic Hall - Oldest Masonic Lodge in northwest North Carolina.
Organized in 1795 in Huntsville and moved to Rockford and chartered
in 1797. Two storied part original part.

Rockford Courthouse - Built 1825. Replaced earlier wooden structure.
Badly damaged by fire in 1925. Now used as private dwelling. Used
as courthouse until 1853 when courthouse was built at Dobson.

Grant - Burrus Hotel - Rueben Grant received license in 1796 to operate
a tavern at his home. Had heyday in late 1800's and early 1900's
at height of railroad activity. Then operated by Burrus. Back part
added later. Andrew Jackson reputedly stayed here. Damaged by fire
Nov. 18, 1974.

Old Building - Said to have been a tobacco factory. Long one storied
building of southeast side toward bridge probably oldest building
in Rockford.

John Dobson Home. One mile east of Rockford on #2230, west side.
Just across from Dobson Hill. Antebellum home built 1856. Old law
office in yard.



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Dobson Hill One mile east of Rockford on #2230. Remains of home of William Polk Dobson, for whom county seat of Dobson was named. On hill overlooking river formerly Richard Horn Plantation where court was held in out building around 1789-1791. Dobson graveyard surrounded by slave-built wall to north. Just back of house on north long log building said to have been originally used as law offices and then as dormitories for students of Richmond Hill Law School across river.

Rocky Ford Just below "White Bridge" between picnic site and town. Vehicles forded the river just about the ripple in water which inspired famous newspaper name, "Yadkin Ripple". Gave Rockford its name.

Ferry Site 1795 permission given to Moses Ayers for ferry. Just east on river side of picnic site.



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Yes I am for the supplement.

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Yes I am for the supplement.

No. I am against the supplement.



SURRY COUNTY AMERICAN REVOLUTION
BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION, INCORPORATED
POST OFFICE BOX 1776
DOBSON, NORTH CAROLINA 27017



TELEPHONE: 386-8623

May 25, 1976

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No. I am against the supplement.

Edwards



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Edmond



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Post 5/26
7000



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No. I am against the supplement.

Kathleen Gilleland



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No. I am against the supplement.

Jack Palmer

Sketch of history of the county continued

In 1729, the king of England ~~had~~ reclaimed all the grants to the Lord Proprietators ~~except~~ ~~as~~ except that of the Granville grant of which eventually Surry County was formed. The Granville heirs held the land until 1777 when it was taken from them by the ^{first} North Carolina ~~assembly~~, general assembly under the new constitution enacted by the Fifth Provincial Congress in 1776.

The name of the county, Surry, was either named after the Earl of Surrey (Surrey is the original spelling), a sympathizer of the colonists on taxation without representation, or ~~it~~ it could have been named for Lord Tyron's (colonial governor) who was born in Surrey, England. The county itself was created in December of ~~1776~~ 1770 and officially approved by the legislature in ~~the~~ January of 1771. At that time, Surry contained ~~all~~ all of what is now Forsyth, Stokes, ~~and~~ and Yadkin counties. The first county seat was at the home of ~~the~~ Gideon ~~Wright~~ Wright in what is now Forsyth county; the second was at Old Richmond; and the ~~third~~ third was the town of Rockford in 1789 formed when Stokes (containing also Forsyth) was separated from Surry. The fourth and present county seat is Dobson formed ~~from~~ from the land of William Polk Dobson after whom the county seat is named. (Note: most county seats ~~created~~ created in the 18th and 19th century were generally chosen because they were in the geographical center of the county.

The life style of the early ~~settler~~ settler was determined by their need to be self sufficient. One of the principal occupations was farming especially the raising ~~of~~ of corn, wheat, oats, and rye. There were ~~many~~ numerous grist mills along streams. There were also Tanneries, sawmills, Forges which used ~~locally~~ locally mined ore.

The religion of the early settlers ~~was~~ was mainly Protestant. Baptist were ~~teaching~~ teaching in 1760's. The first formally organized Church was by ~~the~~ the Moravians at Westfield in 1772. The Methodist came later in the early 1800's. The first permanent settlers came in the 1740's and by the 1750's there appeared substantial settlements especially in the Hollows. Most of the settlers were of ~~the~~ English, ~~Scotch-Irish~~ Scotch-Irish and German stock.