

Olde Dobbs Trail

Newsletter of the OLD DOBBS
COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

9 August 1986

P.O. Box 617, Goldsboro, NC 27530

Vol.2, No.2

MINUTES OF JULY MEETING

A regular monthly meeting of the Old Dobbs County Genealogical Society was called to order at 3:00 pm July 13, 1986 in the Seymour Funeral Home Chapel by Elliott Futrell, President. The change of location was necessitated by a lack of air conditioning at the Town Meeting Hall.

The minutes of the June meeting were read and approved. Yvonne Hatch gave the Treasurer's report.

Balance on hand	\$309.85
Receipts	<u>851.79</u>
	1,161.64
Disbursements	<u>661.64</u>
Balance 13 July 1986	\$500.00

It was announced that our next meeting will be August 10, 1986 at the Town Meeting Hall. Our speaker will be Dick Lankford, Iconographic Archivist with the N. C. Division of Archives and History. His topic will be photographic sources, types and preservation.

A motion was made by Ethel Twiford to have Mary Spiron become Coordinator of the newsletter and Frances Andrews become Second Vice-President (switching positions). This motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

After a discussion concerning a change in time for our meetings Frances Andrews made a motion to meet Saturday, Sept. 13, 1986 at 12:00 noon at MGN Regency West. This change would be just for September. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mary Lou Phillips made a motion for the society to buy a file for the treasurer. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Our speaker was Mrs. Helen F. M. Leary, President of the N. C. Genealogical Society. Her topic was the history and future of that society and how our local society could benefit by cooperating more closely with the state society.

Mrs. Leary noted the state organization was founded in 1974 and the present membership is 2,200 with an annual budget of \$124,000. Its annual meeting is in October of each year in Raleigh. The objectives of the society include education, research and publication of genealogical materials.

The N. C. Genealogical Society co-sponsors two workshops each year. The next one will be "Early Settlement in the Carolina Mountains" August 1 - 3, 1986 at Mars Hill College.

The National Genealogical Society will meet in Raleigh May 13-16, 1987 with an anticipated registration of 1,500 to 2,000. This is a rare opportunity for researchers in this area to hear many nationally known researchers and authors. Volunteers who would like to assist with this meeting were encouraged to write to {address removed}

Mrs. Leary holds the Certified Genealogist designation from the National Board for Certification of Genealogists and she serves that board as secretary. She is co-editor and contributing author of North Carolina Research: Genealogy and Local History.

After a question and answer period the meeting was adjourned.

Frances Andrews

Frances Andrews
Acting Secretary

DON'T FORGET Our September meeting will be held September 13 at 12:00 noon at the MGM Regency West. It will be a luncheon meeting and the cost will be \$4.25 per person.

QUERIES

- ANDERSON GRANT I would like information concerning parents of Henry ANDERSON and Anne GRANT Anderson of Wayne Co. They were the parents of 13 children and lived in the New Hope section of Wayne Co. in 1850 and 1860.
- LEE HAYES I would like information on a John LEE of Sampson Co. born early 1800s & wife Margaret HAYES.
- HINES I would like information & parents of Elmittia HINES (1861 - 1934), wife of Sam HINES. Lived near Lenoir, Duplin, Wayne County lines.

{address removed}

FROM THE EDITOR

If you have an article or query to go into the newsletter, please give it to June Beason at a regular meeting or see that it gets to Mary Spiron by the 25th of each month. All help with articles, etc. will be greatly appreciated. We would like to keep up the fine quality of the newsletter that was exhibited last year.

THE FIRST SHERIFF OF WAYNE COUNTY

Being a division of Craven County by way of Johnston and Dobbs, the area which became Wayne County had law and order from the first settlers. This was the English system. However, there is something special about being the "first" sheriff even if it is in title only.

The order setting apart Wayne County was made October 1779, but the county court minutes in which the sheriff would appear most prominetly did not survive until 1787. We know from other records that the first, if obscure, sheriff was Robert Simms, whose term was from 1781 to 1787. Those early years must have been turmoil for our county citizens. In some instances the Revolution pitted neighbor against neighbor. Regiments of Militia and Continental volunteers were constantly being raised and sent away for six, then nine, then twelve months. In 1781 both Cornwallis and his lieutenant, Tarleton, marched British units through the county and brought terror. There wasn't a town or a market in the county. County court met at various citizen's homes and produce to sell was poled on rafts down river to New Bern. Inflation was such a problem that taxes were collected in corn or wheat or peas.

In the beginning Wayne County was larger than it is now. A big chunk was taken away when Wilson County was formed in 1855. Previous to that the northern county line was the Contentnea Creek, which separated Wayne from Edgecombe County. The Contentnea Creek now runs just south of the city limits of Wilson and twists and laps along the junction with Black Creek, the edge of Stantonsburg, and into Greene County past the intersections with Watery Branch and the Nahunta Swamp. Robert Simms lived on the south bank of the Contentnea Creek in what is now that part of Wilson County, and then just about as far north and west as you could go and still be in Wayne County. There are Granville grants to him amounting to more than 2300 acres between Contentnea Creek and Black Creek and along both sides of the Black Creek in the years 1756 to 1762.

A county sheriff was an important man. The state charter under which Wayne County was set up left the county government pretty

much as it had been during Colonial times. The sheriff was the chief county administrative officer and the keeper of the peace. He summoned the jurors and carried out the orders of the court. He was in a good position to influence the elections if he so desired. In addition to being a member of the ruling class and the most important county official, the rich often got richer. A sheriff was paid a regular salary plus he got fees for processing attachments and performing court orders, and commissions on the sales of estates and collecting taxes. Sometimes there were various fees for other services such as militia offices and orphan's estates. When discussing the power of the sheriff the question is often asked, "Who could arrest the sheriff?" The answer is, "Only the coroner."

Still, being responsible for the citizenry of Wayne County from Robert Simms' home on the Contentnea must have been a formidable task. The roads in most places were cart paths or less zigzagging from farm to farm and branch to swamp. Urgent business in the southern end of the county could easily have taken two days on horseback. Non-urgent matters would have to depend on the justices in each district, or wait for the county court to convene each three months. Six years of that kind of service would have been plenty for even a man half his age.

Robert Simms was probably born in what became Northampton County of Bertie Precinct cir 1722/1725, and he would have become sheriff about the age of 58. He was the youngest son of Robert Simms (Sr.) and his second wife, Phyllis Fort Fiveash (Fybash). Our eventual first sheriff had moved to Johnston County by 1753. He married Mary, daughter of Edward Barnes of Edgecombe County, and they produced ten children: Benjamin Simms m. Tabitha Thomas, Britan Simms, James Simms, Keziah m. Shadrack Dickinson, Mary m. a Newsom, Pennelaphy m. William Dickinson, Robert Simms m. Sarah Dickinson, Susanna Simms, Barnes Simms m. Martha Dew, and Abraham Simms m. Elizabeth Minshew Woodard. Some have speculated that our first sheriff was also a Quaker leader, however, the ten slaves given as bequests in his will makes this doubtful. His will was probated in 1791.

There are very few recorded complaints or allegations charged against Robert Simms as there were against sheriffs of many other counties, leading us to believe that he served with honor if not distinction.

Sources:

Wayne County Deeds
 Will of Robert Simms 1729 Bertie Precinct
 Will of Edward Barnes 1762 Edgecombe Co.
 Will of Robert Simms 1791 Wayne Co.
 The Sheriff in Colonial NC by Boyd. NC Historical Review 1928
A Family Called Fort by Fort and Jones 1970
North Carolina Research by Leary and Stirewalt

March 1986
 Nancy E. Taylor

SKETCHES FROM FAMILY RECORDS AND MEMORY by Robert W. Perkins
 (continued from 8 June 1986 issue)

Mary Pike
 b. 11-17-1790 d. 11-11-1869
 b. Wayne County, North Carolina
 bur.
 dt. Nathan Pike
 b. 8-22-1760 d. 6-13-1844
 m. 8-15-1781 Contentnea M H, Wayne County, North Carolina
 Rachel Maudlin
 b. d. 5- -1850

m. 11-13-1806 Nahunta M H, Contentnea M M, Wayne County, North Carolina

William Edgerton
 b. 12-2-1786 d. 9-5-1857
 b. Wayne County, North Carolina
 bur.
 s. Thomas Edgerton
 b. abt. 1735 d. 4-24-1794
 m. 5-21-1778 Dobbs (Wayne) County, North Carolina in the house of
 Richard Cox on Neuse River, Contentnea M M
 Sarah Cox
 b. 8-21-1751 d.

Children:

1. Sally Edgerton
 b. 2-22-1808 d. 1-29-1906
 m. 1-10-1829 Contentnea M H, Wayne County, North Carolina
 John Perkins
 b. 9-16-1796 d. 12-20-1868

2. Rachel Edgerton
 b. 9-4-1809 d. 2-17-1867

3. Rebecca Edgerton
 b. 5-7-1811 d. 5-21-1893
 m. 10-11-1834 dis mou Contentnea M M, Wayne County, North Carolina
 Matthew Pike

Mary Pike & William Edgerton (Continued)

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|-----------|--|--------------|---------------|
| 4. | Christian Edgerton | b. 4-19-1813 | d. 10-16-1882 |
| | m. 12-12-1835 dis mou Contentnea M M, Wayne County, North Carolina | | |
| | Micajah Pike | b. 2-10-1816 | d. |
| 5. | Lottie Edgerton | b. 7-12-1815 | d. 6-9-1847 |
| | m. Wayne County, North Carolina | | |
| | Mitchell | b. | d. |
| 6. | Silas Edgerton | b. 4-29-1817 | d. 8-27-1838 |
| 7. | Piety Jane Edgerton | b. 6-13-1819 | d. 6-21-1873 |
| | m. 3-12-1836 dis mou Contentnea M M, Wayne County, North Carolina | | |
| | Namon Colyer (Collier) | b. 8-29-1810 | d. 10-13-1855 |
| 8. | Michael Edgerton | b. 4-30-1821 | d. 3-6-1894 |
| | m. 5-8-1841 con mou Contentnea M M, Wayne County, North Carolina | | |
| | Chelly Sylavent (Sullivan) | b. 3-21-1822 | d. 6-12-1886 |
| 9. | Mary Edgerton | b. 4-18-1823 | d. 8-6-1867 |
| | m. Wayne County, North Carolina | | |
| | Larry Sylavent (Sullivan) | b. | d. |
| 10. | William R. Edgerton | b. 9-15-1826 | d. |
| | m. 10-9-1847 con mou Contentnea M M, Wayne County, North Carolina | | |
| | Edna Pike | b. 4-17-1827 | d. |
| 11. | Charity Edgerton | b. 9-4-1828 | d. 10-15-1865 |
| | m. 8-9-1860 con mou Contentnea M M, Wayne County, North Carolina | | |
| | John Stephen Purvis | b. | d. |
| 12. | Edna Edgerton | b. 7-24-1830 | d. 12-3-1893 |
| | m. 1-13-1866 con mou Contentnea M M, Wayne County, North Carolina | | |
| | David Peele | b. 6-15-1825 | d. 8-1-1898 |
| 13. | Nathan T. Edgerton | b. 6-25-1832 | d. 3-27-1911 |
| | m. Wayne County, North Carolina | | |
| | Mary Jane Spell | b. 12-4-1834 | d. 11-6-1901 |
| Mark Pike | | b. 8-1-1792 | d. 2-4-1850 |
| | b. Wayne County, North Carolina | | |
| | bur. | | |
| | s. Nathan Pike | b. 8-22-1760 | d. 6-13-1844 |
| | m. 8-15-1781 Contentnea M H, Wayne County, North Carolina | | |
| | Rachel Maudlin | b. | d. 5- -1850 |

m. 4-12-1812 Contentnea M H, Wayne County, North Carolina

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|--|--------------|--------------|
| Christian Peele | b. 9-2-1789 | d. 2-22-1850 |
| b. Wayne County, North Carolina | | |
| bur. | | |
| dt. Willis Peele | b. 4-17-1763 | d. 9-26-1833 |
| m. 12-14-1785 Contentnea M H, Wayne County, North Carolina | | |
| Betsey Fletcher | b. 8-22-1765 | d. 6-21-1817 |

The Society recieved the following letter and instead of trying to condense it into a query, I thought it would be more interesting to people printed in its entirety.

Ed.

Knoxville, TN
June 30, 1986

Old Dobbs Co. Genealogical Soc.
PO Box 617
Goldsboro, NC 27530

Dear Sirs:

I noted that you are offering the early marriages of Johnston and Wayne Counties. While my lines are not as yet in either of these two counties I would appreciate some help. Sometime ago I aquired a powder horn carved and signed NATHANIEL DANIEL his horn 1757 and there is additionally a "No. 4" with crude carving of a ship and what may be a sea serpent. This carving is very crude and the horn is no doubt genuine.

On researching the name I found Nathaniel Daniel listed in Colonial Soldiers of the South as having been Col Simon Herring's Co of North Carolina Militia from Johnston County in 1755 and since the horn was found many years ago between Asheville and Goldsboro I felt it to be of North Carolina origin and that it was a typical militiaman's horn.

In NC Colonial records I found that the Crown appraised a lost firelock belonging to private Nathaniel Daniel at 3 pounds and stated that this for firelocks lost destroyed etc. by the Dobbs Detachment during the campaign against the insurgents. Since this was in November 1771 it is referring to the campaign against the regulators culminating in the battle at Alamance.

I found one or two deed records for Nathaniel in the 1780's and 90's in Wayne County and I found a Nathaniel Daniel Newbern District Wayne County in 1790 and also in 1800 with his age shown as over 45.

I think I have the right Nathaniel Daniel and I think I have the horn he carried during the French & Indian wars and in the battle of Alamance. I think further that the horn is earlier than 1757 and the carving may indicate an area south and east of Goldsboro and may possibly relate to the ships authorized by N.C. in 1771. I think that the No. 4 may indicate a fort or camp since they were numbered during the early period and North Carolina militiamen fought outside their home state.

I would like very much to find out all I can on Nathaniel Daniel and plan to write and article concerning him and his horn. I would like to incorporate as much biographical information as possible.

Eighteenth century powder horns are rare and signed dated and carved horns however crude of the French and Indian period are especially scarce and even more so when they are southern in orgin.

I would appreciate it if your members could perhaps help. Perhaps you have one or know one who is descended from the Daniel's family and Nathaniel. At any rate any help you can give would be most gratefully received.

Yours truly

{address removed}

CENTRAL CAROLINA GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE
Lee County Genealogical and Historical Society and
Moore County Genealogical Society, Inc.
Present

"Key to the Past"

JAMES VANN COMER and SANDRA MCKEE, Lecturers

Saturday, September 6, 1986

- 8:00 - 8:45 Sign in -- Coffee -- View Displays
- 8:45 - 9:00 Introduction to Conference
- 9:00 - 9:45 Utilizing Research Time, McKee
- 10:00 - 10:45 Community Settlement Patterns, Comer
- 11:00 - 11:45 When Trading Paths Became Roads, McKee
- 12:00 - 1:30 Luncheon - The Plank Road, Lifeline of North Carolina, Comer
- 1:30 - 2:15 Gems Found in Estate Records, McKee
- 2:30 - 3:15 How to Gather & Organize Materials for Print, Comer

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Registration 1986 Central Carolina Genealogical Conference

Sheraton Inn - Southern Pines, NC - 919-692-8585

Conference Registration including Luncheon, \$17.00 per person.
Motel Rooms (Special Conference Rate): Single \$38.00 Double \$47.00

MAIL conference REGISTRATION and CHECK payable to: Lee County Genealogical
and Historical Society, P.O. Box 547, Broadway, NC 27505

Name _____ Amount _____
Enclosed _____

Address _____

Conference registration fee \$17.00. Register early to reserve your place
Cancellation and refund made until August 25 with a \$5.00 processing fee.
MOTEL ROOM: You are responsible for room reservation, call directly or mail
to Sheraton Inn, Southern Pines, NC, mention conference for special rate.