

Olde Dobbs Trail

Newsletter of the OLD DOBBS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P. B. Box 617, Goldsboro, NC 27530

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1991

VOL. 7, Nos. 4,5,6

NEXT MEETING
28 DECEMBER 1991
WESTERN SIZZLIN STEAK HOUSE
100 N. BERKLEY BLVD
GOLDSBORO, N.C.
11:30 A.M.

* * * * *

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members;

It is with great pleasure and much pride that I announce that on November 2, 1991, the North Carolina Society of Historians presented The Newsletter Award of Merit to OLDE DOBBS TRAIL, our newsletter!!!

We thank our Editors, Doris Smith and Kathleen Wilson, for their devotion, enthusiasm, and consistent high quality performance.

Congratulations also go to Margaret Kornegay Tolson for her KORNEGAY FAMILY HISTORY which was selected for an Award of Merit in the History Book Category.

Congratulations also for T.J. Tolson's History Book Award of Merit given for his indepth history of the Neuse Lodge of the Odd Fellows.

Congratulations are also in order for our own Ethel W. Twiford who was selected by the North Carolina Society of Historians as the HISTORIAN OF THE YEAR -EAST.

The Wayne County Historical Association was presented with the MALCOLM FOWLER AWARD; the Goldsboro News Argus received the PUBLISHER'S AWARD; Bob Johnson received the NEWS ARTICLE AWARD for his article on the Pikeville Centennial; Mozelle Gurley was given a HISTORY AWARD OF MERIT for her HISTORY OF NAHUNTA COMMUNITY; and the Seven Springs Baptist Church was give an award for their HISTORY OF THE SEVEN SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH.

All in all, our good Wayne County people came home with awards in eight out of nine categories for a total of nine awards!!!!!! If your letters haven't been answered lately, you can see that we we have been busy. We are very proud of everyone of you. I feel that we have come near the end of 1991 with great and grateful rewards.

May your Holidays be filled with Blessings and Joy.

Elizabeth Gordon Ellis
President

OLD DOBBS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER AWARD COMPETITION

PRESENTS THIS
AWARD OF SPECIAL MERIT
NEWSLETTER AWARD COMPETITION

TO
OLD DOBBS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
FOR:
OLDE DOBBS TRAILS

IN RECOGNITION OF A SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE PRESERVATION OF
NORTH CAROLINA HISTORY

DATE: November 2, 1991

Joe McQueen
PRESIDENT

QUERIES ARE STILL COMING IN!!!! What we need to do is for each of us to attempt to research and answer at least one query. We have a great resource here in the Wayne County-Lenoir County-Green County-Johnston County-and part of Wilson County(and parts of others) that made DOBBS COUNTY WHAT IT WAS. So let's help our friends find that missing link. Ed.

MINCHEW-MINSHEW - Need info on this family especially Isaac, Jacob, Jon, Kiziah and Nathan-were listed on 1790 Census of Wayne Co. -

{address removed for privacy}

JONES-JOHNSON - Researching any info on Sylvester J. Jones, b. 4 Apr 1848 Lenoir Co, d. 14 July 1918 Galveston, TX mar. 26 Sept 1873 Lenoir Co, NC to Harriet Johnson, b. 18 Mar 1850 Lenoir Co, NC d. 18 Feb 1893 Sealy, TX (she m. 1st Joseph W. Barrow ca. 1872). The grandfather of Sylvester was Richard Jones, Jr. b. ? Lenoir Co, NC, d. ? Lenoir Co.,NC, mar. Nancy Penelope _____ b. 1801 Lenoir Co.NC,d. ? Lenoir Co.NC. Contact _____

{address removed for privacy}

(Incidentally, is a new member who had great difficulty getting started with us. Ed.)

CARR-PHILLIPS- Would like info on parents of Elizabeth D. Carr, b. 1790 mar William Phillips. Lived on Green County-Lenoir Co. line. A recent discovery in the Bible Record for William and Elizabeth D. Carr Phillips. Also info on HART family as William & Elizabeth used HART as a middle name for three of their children. Contact:

{address removed for privacy}

FIELDS -Does anyone know who "Cressey" Fields dau of Elijah Smith (Will - Wayne Co. 1843) married or what her "real" name was? see {address removed for privacy}

DEVER-DEEVER-DEAVER-DEVOUR - Like to contact anyone with info the DEVER, etc name. Family lived in Wayne C. in 1700's. Contact {address removed for privacy}

FULGHAM-FULGHUM - Am still searching info on any and all FULGHUMS in Wayne, Johnston, Wilson, Nash Cos. for FULGHAM/FULGHUM family history book to be published in near future. - Contact {address removed for privacy}

BARDIN - Have just seen copy of DAR record which shows that Jacob BARDIN, b. 1705 Elizabeth City Co, VA(not Northampton, Co., NC) d. 1786 Wayne Co, NC mar 1729 Sarah (Sally)_____, B.1708 probably VA, d. 1783 Wayne Co. Their daughter, Sarah Bardin married John Fulghum of NW Wahne Co,NC. Jacob's father, Arnold Bardin was b. in Falls River, Mass.

{address removed for privacy}

WOOTEN—WOTTON.

In "Facts and Figures vs. Myths and Misrepresentations—The True History of the Jamestown Colony", by Mildred Lewis Rutherford, on pages 4 and 5, we find: "The London Company chose their own settlers, able men, picked men, who would enforce their ideas of government. . . . Men . . . who pledged themselves to introduce popular reform in the new government from the very beginning of the settlement were chosen. They took with them Rev. Robert Hunt for their religious instructor, and Dr. Thomas Wotton for their Surgeon, and Alexander Whitaker came later for a missionary to the Indians, which shows that they were religious and cared for the welfare of their bodies as well as for the salvation of their souls". On page 22: "The descendants of Dr. Thomas Wotton, the Surgeon of the Jamestown Colony in 1607, have descendants living in Georgia today and still making history". I think it possible that this accurate and distinguished historian is for once in error, judging from the following:

"Thomas Wotton of London, Barber Chirurgeon, Will 15, March, 1635: pr. 29 April, 1638. Being now bound forth in Sir Wm. Courtiame's Voyage in the good ship called the Planter of London,—Hill, Master, I have constituted John Cartwright, Citizen and Sailer of London my attorney. If it shall please God to call me out of this life in or during my intended voyage I doe then give all my goods, wages, adventures, substance and estate whatsoever, to my said loving friend John Cartwright this to stand for my last will and testament whereof I make said John Cartwright sole executor. Witnesses: Thus Symonds, John James, Humphrey Tompkins, Ralph Fryth. Ser. 36."

(Note by the Editor: Possibly the Testator was "Master Thomas Wotton", who came with the first settlers to Virginia in 1607 as Surgeon General and who was one of the expedition in May-June of that year, which ascended James River to the site of Richmond. Sir William Curtien's voyage was to the East Indies"). (Va. Mag. of H. & B., p. 25).

If the above surmise as to the identity of this Thomas Wotton be correct, and it seems highly probable, then this Pioneer Adventurer died leaving neither wife nor children, and so no descendants. It is quite likely, however, that our present day Wootens in America are from the same English stirp as he.

State of North Carolina,

Wayne COUNTY.

Office of the Register of Deeds,

1878

To any Ordained Ministers of any Religious Denomination or any Justices of the Peace of said County:

I, *George David*, having applied to me for a License for the marriage of *Thomas Davis*, of *Wayne Co.*, aged *43* years color *white*, the son of *Jacoby Davis* and *Clarissa* the father of *J. A.*, the mother of *J. A.*, resident of *Wayne Co.* and *Elizabeth*, daughter of *J. A.* and *Elizabeth*, colored, aged *21* years the father of *J. A.*, the mother of *J. A.*, resident of *Wayne Co.*

And the written consent of *J. A.* the *NO* *OFFICE* to the proposed marriage having been filed with me.

And there being no legal impediment to such marriage known to me, you are hereby authorized, at any time within one year from the date hereof, to celebrate the proposed Marriage at any place within the said county.

You are required within two months after you shall have celebrated such marriage to return this License to me, at my office, with your signature subscribed to the certificate under this License, and with the blanks therein filled according to the facts, under penalty of forfeiting two hundred dollars to the use of *W. W. C. Register of Deeds.*

State of North Carolina,

Wayne COUNTY.

I, *M. P. Davis*, at *Wayne*

united in matrimony *Mat. P. Davis* and *Clarissa*, the parties licensed above, on the *19* day of *December*, 1878 at *Wayne* in *Wayne* Co. *Wayne* County, N. C.

Township, in said County, according to law.

*WITNESSES PRESENT AT MARRIAGE:

W. W. C. Register of Deeds
J. A. Davis
J. A. Davis



{address removed for privacy}

WOOTEN

24 April 1982

Wooten Reunion

Lewes Wotton came to America "1587 Anno Regni Reginae Elizabethae 29."

'Lost'

This was the Colony in North Carolina on Roanoke Island. (1st. Wotton in America ?)

Thomas Wotton - Surgeon - came to Jamestown in 1607.

This was on the James River in Virginia. (2nd. Wotton in America ?)

I. Thomas Wotton (Watton) Northamptonshire, England. (buried 23 Feb 1648)

m. Jane (buried 3rd. March, 1641, Northamptonshire, England.)

Children: Thomas Jr. (died young), John, Agnes, Thomas Jr. (II), Richard, Henry, Dove, Jane, & Maria? (Castor Church Parish Records, Northamptonshire, England.)

II. Thomas Wotton Jr. (II) Baptised 27 September 1612, Northamptonshire, England.

Came to America, settled in Isle of Wight County, Va.

m. Sarah Wood (m.1646) widow of Arthur Wood.

Children: Thomas Wood (stepson), and Richard Wotton.

(Thomas Wotton's will dated 3-15-1669, is found in Isle of Wight County, Virginia.) Kin in England - mentioned in this will.

III. Richard Wotton (Sr.) b.1647 d.1687 (Isle of Wight County, Virginia.)

m. Joyce (name found in Royal approval of probate dated 21 October 1687.) She is not named in the will but she is mentioned.

Children: Thomas, Richard Jr., & Daughter - name unknown.

(Will dated 9-28-1686, Isle of Wight County, Virginia.)



{address removed for privacy}

IV. Richard Wotton Jr. b. after 1675 d. by 1735 (no will found for Richard Jr.)

m. Lucy Council b. circa 1676 d. by 1735 (dau. of Hodges Council & Lucy Hardy)
(dau. of John Hardy & Olive (Council?) (1))

Known Children: William, Richard III, & John (there were perhaps others) James? ✓

(When the heir of Richard III, Hardy Wotton, died, there was a deed dated 30 December 1779, in Isle of Wight County, Va., deeding the land to the eldest brother, William Wooten, of Edgecombe County, North Carolina.) James is a possible son.

b. 1724

V. John Wooten (was a minor in 1730, I. of W. Co., Va., d. 1799 in Pitt Co., N. C.)

m. Williams (1st.) (dau. of Shadrach Williams)

m. Mary Johnston (2nd.) (dau. of James Johnston Sr. & Priscilla Allen (2) (?) widow & name; Sarah (unknown) (1)
(daughter of 1st. wife) Nee: Priscilla Sugg/Maund/Caton/

Children: Shadrach (by 1st. wife), John Jr., William, Richard, Council, Josiah, 'Ensign' (R.W.) (R.W.)

Levi, & two daughters (names unknown). (John Wooten Sr. received a - Mary & Rachel -

Land Grant from The Earl of Granville dated 6 August 1761 for land

in Beaufort County, now Pitt County, N. C. This land was within 3

miles of his brother, William Wooten's land in the edge of Edgecombe

County, N. C.) John Wooten, Shadrach Williams, & James Johnston were

all three in Captain Lanier's Militia, for Pitt Co N C. '1775'

Notice: Shadrach is not listed in 1775 Militia - not of age.

VI. John Wooten Jr. 1762/3-1835 (son of John Wooten Sr. of Pitt, and/brother of 'Baptist' (& Mary Johnston - 2nd. wife) 'Mason' Shadrach Wooten (Ensign) who married Elizabeth

(m. 2 July 1785) 'Quaker Records'

Allen (1st.), and Mary Treadwell (2nd.)

m. Sarah Hewes 1765-1836 - a Quaker. (The graves of this couple are near LaGrange.) (dau. of Thomas Hewes & Bond) 'Quaker'

Children: John Hewes, Peter Bond, Thomas, Shadrach, William, Mary, Nancy, Charity, 'War of 1812'

& Council. (John Wooten Jr.'s will is dated 16 September 1835 and is

found in Wayne County, N. C.) John Wooten Jr. was in the Revolutionary

War and served with the Pitt Volunteers of the N. C. Regiment of Militia.

[address removed for privacy]

VII. Thomas Wooten b.1795 d.4 Sept.1844 m. prior to 1815

(son of John Wooten Jr. & Sarah Hewes)

m. Nancy Best b.22 Sept. 1792 d.4 July 1871

(dau. of Benjamin Best Jr. & Mary Hardy)

Children: Louisa, John Hewes, Josiah, Sarah (Sally), Thomas Jr.,

Benjamin, Elizabeth (Betsy), Robert, Clement, Winifred,

Mary, & Nancy Jane. Benjamin - died young, Mary - died young.

There is a marker in memory of Thomas Wooten and his wife,

Nancy Best Wooten, in the old Mewborn Church yard. Thomas

Wooten donated the land for the church and/Ras-

donated the land for the parking lot. /Berry Parks wife: Nancy Edwards.

VIII. Winifred Wooten b.17 April 1831 d.25 January 1903 m.11 October 1853

(dau. of Thomas Wooten & Nancy Best)

m. Joshua Mewborn b.18 April 1827 d.27 January 1907 (CSA)

(son of Parrott Mewborn Jr. (II) & Mary (Polly)

Aldridge)

Children: John Moses, Mary 'Ann' Temesia, Nancy Jane, Edith Elizabeth,

Joshua Parrott, George Thomas, Joanna Winifred, Ebbie Eugene.

Joshua Mewborn was a Civil War Veteran. He served in the 40th.

Regiment, Artillery. He was a Deacon of Mewborn Church for 40

years - this is on his gravestone. He was called, "The Fire-

side Preacher." He had three brothers who were preachers:

George, Parrott III, Drewry Aldridge - all these brothers

served in the Civil War, except George, who died in 1859.

The youngest brother, Levi Jesse Hardy, also served in the

war and in the Legislature in Raleigh, N. C.

IX. John Moses Mewborn b.25 July 1854 m.21 January 1874 d.28 August 1900

(son of Joshua Mewborn (CSA) & Winifred Wooten)

m. Barbara Ann Fields b.8 May 1854 d.24 July 1938

(dau. of Alexander Fields & Mariah Mooring)

Children: Noah Ulyssis, Ada Elizabeth, Mary Temesia, John Moses,
Ora Winifred, Eula Virginia, Joshua Eugene, Nancy Jane,
Nina Deborah, Royal Alexander.

'WWI'

John Moses Mewborn made his home on the plantation he
inherited from his parents - joining his father's home
place and the old Mewborn Mill pond - which can still be
seen , 1982 - in the vicinity of The Mewborn Church and
Mewborn Cemetery, and near the site of the old Mewborn
School, in Jason Township, Greene County, North Carolina.

X. George Lemuel Mewborn b.10 August 1880 m.4 October 1905 d.20 June 1959

(son of Drewry Aldridge Mewborn & Peninah Adeline

Dixon.)

m. Eula Virginia Mewborn b.11 SEPTEMBER 1887 d.11 October 1966

(dau. of John Moses Mewborn & Barbara Ann Fields)

Children: John Moses, Ima Eula, Beulah Barbara, Nina Lee, George Lemuel,
Henry Drew, Quentin Alexander, Marvin Bruce, Ailine Eloise, Manora.

'WWII'

'WWII'

'WWII'

George Lemuel Mewborn made his home on Hwy 58 North, where Fort

'Great'

Run enters Contentnea Creek, southside, in Greene County, N. C.

This place has been called "Nehucke" since the Indians left this

area in 1713 and joined the tribes in New York State. (I.E.Mewborn)

See "Nooherooka" on the Edward Moseley map dated 1733. & State Marker.

CROSS-INDEX TO DEEDS: JOHNSTON CO., 1746-1759;
DOBBS CO., 1759-1791; LENOIR CO., 1791-1880

By Charles R. Holloman, B.S., LL.B.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following account of how a local historian made a priceless discovery is proof that perseverance can produce worthwhile results in a county where the public records have been burned. Mr. Holloman is to be highly commended for his persistence in locating the Grantee Index for Lenoir County, reportedly saved from the 1880 fire by his great-grandfather, Nathan William Potter, especially so, since this one volume is practically all that remains of the once voluminous records of the landholders of Johnston Co., 1746-1759, Dobbs Co., 1759-1791, and Lenoir Co., 1791-1880. This entire volume, covering the forty-nine deed books that were destroyed in the 1880 fire, will appear in The North Carolinian, one book at a time. A Grantor Index has been prepared from, and combined with, the Grantee Index to form one completely alphabetized list.

On October 21, 1878, the courthouse of Lenoir County at Kinston, North Carolina, was set on fire by an incendiary. The fire was discovered at about three o'clock in the morning and had made so much headway that it was not possible to save all of the records. The only records saved were those in the office of the Register of Deeds, of which only one book - Deed Book 47 - was destroyed. The deed books were then placed in a nearby building which was used temporarily as a courthouse pending the building of a new courthouse. About February 20, 1880, this building, too, burned and all of the deed records were consumed - all except one volume, the Grantee Index. There are conflicting accounts of how this volume happened to be saved from the flames. Whatever may be the true account, the report which led this writer to make a search for the old Index was told to him several years ago by an uncle, John F. Potter of Kinston, who, in talking about the Kinston fires, stated that his father, Charles William Potter (1851-1921), and his grandfather, Nathan William Potter (1812-1899), were in Kinston when the temporary courthouse burned in February 1880, and that the elder man reached through a window of the burning building and pulled the volume from a table.

The writer had, prior to the time he heard this account, been engaged in collecting bits of historical information concerning the Kinston area. Tracing the factual basis of the story, he made a visit to the Lenoir County Courthouse without locating the volume. Several years later another visit was made and the assistance of the late Register, Miss Camille Aldridge, and Assistant Register, Miss Doris Sutton, was requested. With their help, a search was made of a basement storeroom and the Grantee Index was found.

The volume was labeled simply "Lenoir County," and its contents were arranged in rough alphabetical order with each series of the alphabet divided into sections designated as "Book 1," "Book 2," "Book 3," and so on, through forty-nine books. Each entry showed the grantee, the grantor, and the page number of the original deed book. One of Lenoir County's Registers of Deeds evidently had, sometime shortly after 1791, painstakingly compiled this Grantee Index, transcribing into one volume the index to be found in each individual deed book, beginning with the old Johnston County records dating from 1746. This Index had no doubt been in use up until the day of the fire. Not a single date appeared in or on the volume (few deed Cross-Index books of that period in North Carolina were dated), but a casual inspection disclosed entries in the names of such prominent Revolutionary leaders in the area as Richard Caswell,

John Herriage and James Glasgow.

Realizing that the value of the Index as a historical record could be enhanced by ascertaining the dates when the original deed books indexed therein were in use, the writer searched widely for extant original deeds in Lenoir and adjoining counties. Such deeds, of course, carry upon them a notation of the county, deed book number and page number, date registered and the name of the Register. Fortunately, several of such deeds were located, notably in the following places: (1) the Lovitt Hines Collection in the State Department of Archives and History; (2) the several volumes of Land Grants in the Office of the Secretary of State (Annex), particularly Volume 76; and (3) a volume entitled "Colonial Records" in the office of the Register of Deeds of Lenoir County. A few deeds were found in the possession of private individuals.

An exhaustive study of such deeds in connection with the entries in the Index showed that the volume not only included the records for the entire period during which Dobbs County existed (1759 to 1791), and for Lenoir County from its beginning (1791) down to 1880, but dated back to the beginning of Johnston County in November of 1746. Johnston County records at Smithfield supported this conclusion, as the oldest deed records there were dated in March 1759, just prior to the date (April 10, 1759) when Dobbs County began functioning. Furthermore, many of the early deeds found in the courthouse at Smithfield frequently made references to earlier deeds - to deeds shown in Books 1 to 5 of the old Index found in Lenoir County Courthouse.

A careful study of the history surrounding the creation of Dobbs County from Johnston County in 1759, further showed that Dobbs inherited the courthouse of old Johnston County, the county seat being located at that time on Walnut Creek, about eight miles southeast of present-day Goldsboro in Wayne County. Dobbs County also fell heir at the same time to the Clerk of Court (who also served as Register of Deeds) of old Johnston County, and, undoubtedly, to all the Johnston County records for the period 1746 to 1759.

It has been possible, therefore, to approximate the dates for each of the forty-nine deed books covered by the Index. This renders the volume of even greater value to genealogists and local historians, especially when it is remembered that the very earliest settlers in the present-day counties of Durham, Johnston, Orange, Wake and Wayne entered their records in the books burned at Kinston in 1878 and 1880. With few exceptions, this Index comprises the one and only record, meagre though it is, of the landowners of the Dobbs, Greene, Lenoir area from 1746 to 1880. Among other things, it has made possible the dating of several old churches in the area, compilation of a list of the original purchasers of lots in the town of Kinston, and the tracing of titles of certain land in the Kinston vicinity back to the original land grants.

Undoubtedly the absence of any dates in the Index, plus the loss of all forty-nine of the original deed books, accounted for the fact that it had been all but forgotten. It was neither microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, during the course of its extensive work in microfilming old county records over the state, nor listed in the survey of county records conducted in Lenoir County by Mrs. Clara E. Boney, Mrs. Ella H. Morton, Mrs. Catherine Walsh, Miss Edna Mae Walters and Mr. J. R. Raper as part of the Historical Records Survey of the Works Progress Administration about 1937.

The inadequacy of this Index as a record of our forefathers should serve to remind us of the public condemnation due to those who consign our ancestors, and theirs, to oblivion by the malicious or careless destruction of courthouse and other records of the past. Ofttimes, these old records contain all that posterity would ever know of the lives and characters of their ancestors. Our priceless heritage should be, must be, preserved.

OLD DOBBS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PURPOSE

To preserve the history of Old Dobbs County and its families.
To promote friendship and exchange information.

ADVANTAGES OF MEMBERSHIP

Quarterly issues of the newsletter "Olde Dobbs Trail"
Free queries in the newsletter for members.
Guest speakers and lecturers at meetings.

MEETINGS

Meetings: Fourth Saturday of September, December, March and June

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL
(Annual Membership from 1 July to 30 June)

Date _____

\$10.00 Single Member _____

\$15.00 Joint Members (same address) _____

New Member _____

Renewal _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM
OLD DOBBS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 617
GOLDSBORO, NC 27530

OLD DOBBS COUNTY RECORDS (530 pages)

Contents: Ancestral Charts, Bible Records, Cemetery Information and inscriptions, Elections Records, Military Records, Old Waynesborough Residents, Tax Records, Will Index (1195 names).

EARLY MARRIAGE RECORDS OF WAYNE AND JOHNSTON COUNTIES, NC

MARRIAGE RECORDS, WAYNE COUNTY, NC VOLUME II, 1900-1940

OLD DOBBS COUNTY RECORDS - Cost \$50.00 postage included _____

EARLY MARRIAGE RECORDS OF WAYNE AND JOHNSTON COUNTIES, NC Cost - \$40.00
(postage included) _____

MARRIAGE RECORDS, WAYNE COUNTY, NC VOLUME II 1900-1940 Cost \$50.00
(postage included) _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

