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# FARMER

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YESTERDAY AND TODAY

*Edited by Zeb R. Denny*



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# FARMER

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# FARMER

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## YESTERDAY AND TODAY

*Families. . .Individuals. . .Churches. . .Schools*

Researched and Compiled by  
Leah Hammond and Charles Lester Cranford;  
Current photography by Ralph L. Bulla;  
Edited by Zeb R. Denny

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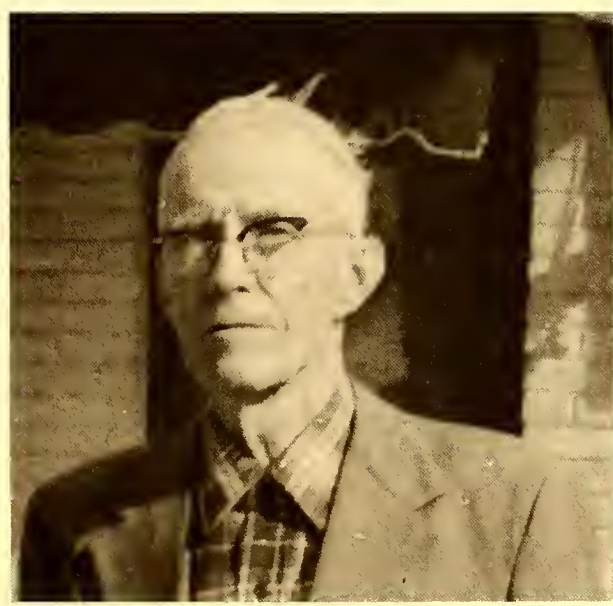
THIS BOOK IS HUMBL Y DEDICATED TO:

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HOPE HUBBARD

who, like Dorcas, "went about doing good," as one who, for about 70 years, served Farmer as one dedicated to its welfare, and whose kindly personality enriched the lives of those who came to know her



PERCY MORGAN

who has been called the "Farmer Missionary" because of his concerned efforts to help everyone in need, and to make the Farmer Community a place for better living

121348





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# FOREWORD

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Some have referred, with justification surely, to Farmer and its environs as the “Garden Spot of the County.” Its setting among the Uwharrie Hills—dark nearby, blue across the distances; its never-too-hot, never-too-cold climate; its ample rainfall; and its fertile soil—all combine to make it a good place to live. But Farmer has not been limited to the production of corn, wheat, and soybeans; it has also grown a goodly crop of *Homo sapiens*.

While we who put this book together recognize the importance of farm commodities, we have been primarily interested in the people who have lived and died here, or who have made it their home for a period and moved on.

It has been in the hope that the people’s story could be told in the annals of their churches, schools, families, and a limited number of individuals—that it could be presented in the spirit of those who have been the warp and woof of its existence, manifesting the industry, honesty, and charity that have been woven into their lives and characters.

In gathering materials from many sources—sources which did not always agree on some items—the correct names, places, and dates were sometimes difficult to determine. Therefore, tolerance is begged of readers when they find their own knowledge and memory at variance with statements in the book. The readers may rest assured that the mistakes, if present, were not intended.

And apologies are humbly offered to those hundreds of unrecognized citizens who have, in their own way, contributed materially to the Farmer Story.

The purpose in compiling the Farmer Story has been (1) to preserve, in written form, its people’s heritage, and (2) to give those who continue the tradition an insight into their past, and, perhaps, a hope for the future.





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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**M**any sources have been used in the preparation of this book. Many people deserve a note of thanks. Since some of this material was secured through complicated and involved channels, it is difficult to single out every contributor, but to those unmentioned, the compilers of this history are also grateful.

The following families, whose descendants furnished the family data, have been most helpful: **Binghams, Cranfords, Dunbars, Horneys, Johnsons, Kearns, Lassiters, Lowes, Lyndons, McMasters, and Morgans.** Some individuals should be singled out for their enthusiastic support and help: **Reid Kearns, Esta Horney Morgan, and Percy and Ocia Morgan.**

Several newspapers have supplied articles dealing with the history and personalities of the Farmer area over the years: the *Asheboro Courier-Tribune*, the *High Point Enterprise*, and the *Greensboro Daily*.

The compilers of this book are indebted to the Randolph County Historical Society and its book, *Randolph County 1779-1979*, as well as its editors, **Charlesanna L. Fox, Dwight M. Holland and Mrs. Carolyn Neely Hager**, the latter for her personal aid; and to **Ralph L. Bulla** for his photographic contributions.

A note of thanks to the **Carl Nance** family for the abstracts to the old deeds. And to the Farmer High School and the Southwestern Randolph County School for their publications over the years.

To **Zeb Denny**, who edited the material, typed it, and helped generally in putting the book together, a vote of thanks (**Zeb**, who lives in Roanoke Rapids, N.C., became interested in the Farmer Story through his wife, the former **Sue Morgan**, one of Farmer's many children that have gone out to take the spirit of Farmer into the four corners of the state and beyond).

Our thanks also to The Wooten Printing Company, Inc., and its staff; especially to **Wilma Kearns Wooten**, who took great interest in the book and rendered such valuable aid toward its completion.

**Leah Hammond  
Charles Lester Cranford**



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# LEAH HAMMOND

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Leah Hammond

Since her retirement from teaching, Miss Leah Hammond, whose idea initiated this book and whose untiring research played an important role in its completion, has found her time filled with many activities. She has been busy with handicraft, gardening, visiting, traveling, church work, and tracing the genealogy of her family—the last activity evident in this account of the families of Farmer.

Born to a family whose roots go back to pioneering days, she grew up in the neighborhood, received her public education there, and taught in the Farmer school for almost four decades. During those years she visited England in 1938 as a representative to an International Young Friends Conference. In 1952 she went with fourteen other Tar Heels to Oxford, England, to attend the Third Friends World Conference, and toured France, Switzerland, Germany, Holland, Belgium, and Scotland. Since retirement she has traveled to Nassau and in Mexico.

Miss Hammond still finds, however, that Farmer and the Uwharrie Hills call for and get her loyalty and love.





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# ZEB R. DENNY

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Zeb R. Denny

**Z**eb R. Denny, who edited and typed a good portion of this book, is a native of Surry County, having spent his boyhood among the foothills around the Pilot Mountain, and finished high school at the town of Pilot Mountain. He met his wife, **Sue Morgan Denny**, while both attended High Point College.

During his vocational years, he taught school (32 years), coached athletics for many years, served as a school administrator, as a reporter and city editor of a newspaper, and as a bank teller and assistant cashier. Meanwhile he and **Sue** were rearing three children: **Flo Denny Durway** and **Sue Morgan Denny**, both teachers in High Point, and **Stephen**

**Joel Denny**, who is affiliated with livestock production in Wisconsin.

Since his retirement in 1973, **Zeb** has been engaged in freelance writing and working on a number of books, in addition to his gardening, golf, and church (Presbyterian) work.

“I enjoy writing,” he says when asked about his motive in writing the Farmer story. “When **Miss Hammond**, along with my sister-in-law **Ocia Morgan**, asked me to give them a hand with the project, I was ready. Creating a story for people to read, as well as trying to capture and preserve for posterity the culture of a people, has long held a fascination for me.”



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## RALPH L. BULLA

---

**R**alph L. Bulla is a native and lifelong resident of Randolph County. He was born in Back Creek Township. He is a retired supervisor of Acme-McCrary Corp. in Asheboro. He has served as a news correspondent and feature writer for *The Courier-Tribune* for more than 40 years. He has been active in the reunion organization of the Bulla, Farlow, and Millikan families for the same period of time. He has also identified himself with the political scene in Randolph County since reaching his majority. He served for 20 years as the chairman of The National Foundation — March of Dimes in Randolph County.



Ralph L. Bulla

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## CHARLES LESTER CRANFORD

---

**L**ester Cranford is a native and lifetime resident of Randolph County. He was born in Concord Township and is a retired supervisor of Burlington Industries. He is a graduate of Farmer High School and a veteran of World War II Army Air Force Branch. He has been active in Geneology since retirement.



Charles Lester Cranford

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## WILMA KEARNS WOOTEN

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**W**ilma Kearns Wooten is a resident of Winston-Salem. She was born in High Point, the daughter of Earl and Velon Kearns Kearns. She graduated from High Point High School and was active in the band and orchestra. She is married to Robert A. Wooten and has three children, Bobby Joe Lain, Robbie and Melanie. She is associated with her husband as Sales Manager and Secretary of Wooten Printing Company.



Wilma Kearns Wooten





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# UWHARRIE HILLS

*Those majestic Uwharrie Hills,  
clothed in spired pines and massive oaks  
with music piped by rocky rills,  
became a haven for the Farmer Folk.*

*They saw their ancient parent peaks  
erode and shrink with wind and rain,  
and the valleys, sharp and deep,  
soften and widen into wooded plain.*

*They heard the Indian's padded feet  
tramping guardedly to and fro,  
heard the settlers, in cold and heat,  
cautiously coming, milk cow in tow.*

*They heard the ring of the chopping ax,  
felt the gouge of the colter's tongue,  
smelled the fumes of candle wax —  
saw the white man's era begun,*

*Saw the houses and barns arise,  
the church with pointing steeple,  
watched the new's birth, the old's demise,  
hallowed the closely knitted family ties,  
and gave a grace to a sturdy people.*

— Zeb Denny





Aerial view of Farmer, showing school complex, the United Methodist Church at right, the crossroads and post office and store in left foreground, the Dunbar Bridge Road left center, the dwellings and Farmer Baptist Church on the left.

*Photograph by Eddie Hough*





Parker's Mill on the Uwharrie in recent years. Abandoned in 1943, the dam is now being replaced by another, which will store water for the City of Asheboro.

*Photograph by Eddie Hough*





# I — BACKGROUND

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

FARMER IS BORN

THE VILLAGE GROWS

ONCE AN INDIAN'S PARADISE

EARLY ACTIVITIES

DEED ABSTRACTS



# I

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## HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

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**F**armer, North Carolina, is a western Randolph County community featured by rolling terrain, a dozen or so well-spaced, comfortable-looking dwellings, a couple of modern church buildings, a burial ground, a general store, a Grange hall, an elementary school, a seed-cleaning mill, and a “station” post office — all surrounded by red-land grain farms, well-kept and prosperous appearing.

The center of the community — at a crossroads where the post office and general store are located — rests on a knoll that is a part of a high ridge overlooking the valley of the Uwharrie River to the northeast, and the bottomlands of Tom’s Creek to the south, beyond which low, wooded hills, usually blanketed by a light blue haze, stretch all the way to the Yadkin River Valley, fifteen miles away. To the north and east and west the low, rounded promontories of the Uwharrie Mountains rise up to break the horizon, which consists of an uneven line of distance-dimmed treetops, almost all of which are of the hardwood variety.

The heavily-forested Uwharries are formed by monadnocks — mountainous hills undergirded by erosion-resistant rock — left in the Piedmont plain as the plain wore down over the millenniums. They are related, geologically, to the Saura mountains in Stokes County, the Brushies in Wilkes, and the Kings Mountain Range in Gaston County.

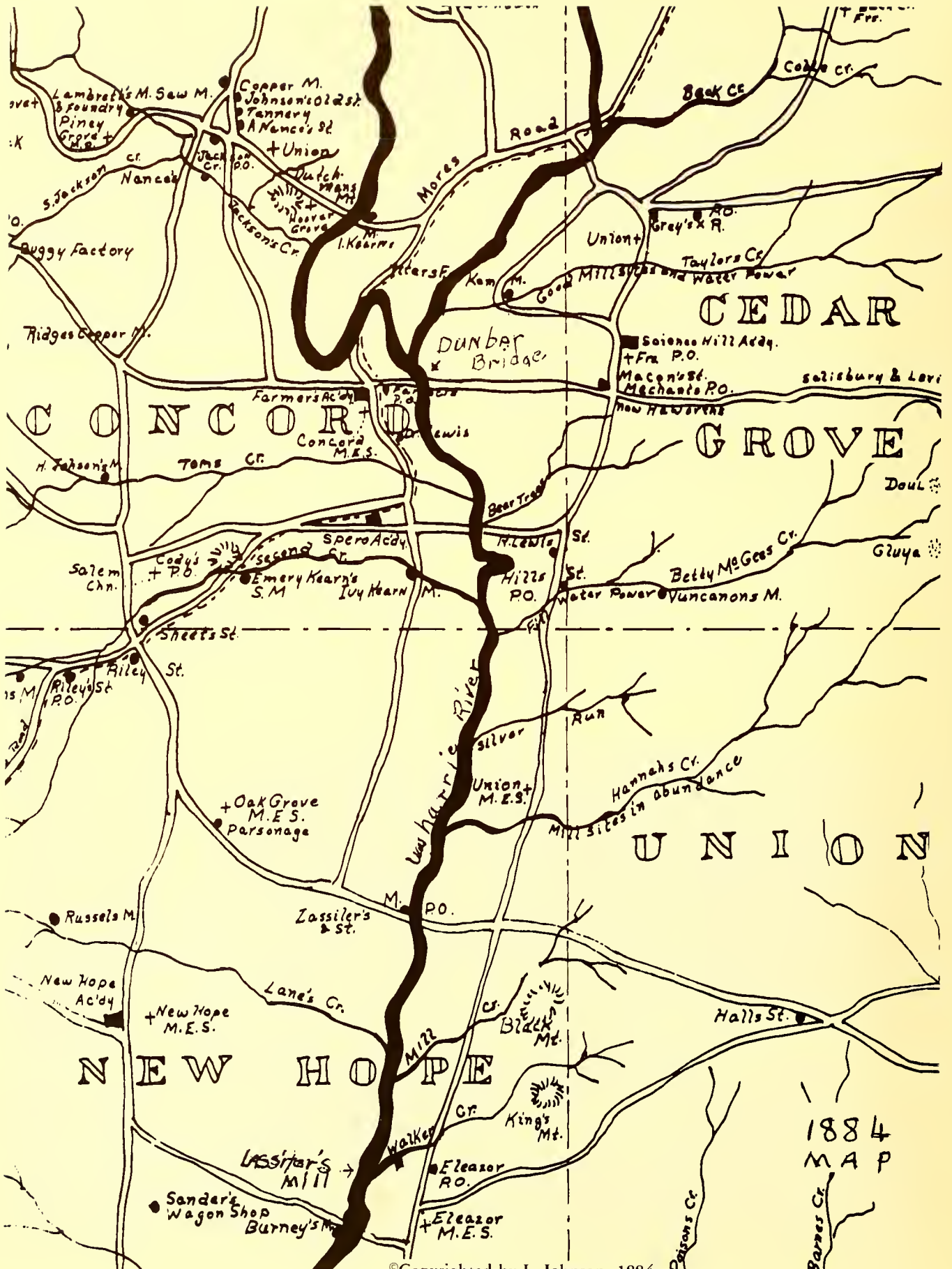
The country-side around Farmer is well watered. Ever-flowing springs and streams abound, with the Uwharrie River and Tom’s Creek, plus Jackson and Caraway creeks, well-known landmarks. Each stream has an endless number of small tributaries. Good wells, with mineral-free water, furnish ample supplies to the homes.

Except for some small areas of rugged hillsides, the Farmer environs have long been the habitat of human beings. Artifacts turned up in the plowed fields and excavated along the Uwharrie River reveal the presence of humankind as long ago as 10,000 years B.C. When the early explorers John Lederer and John Lawson crossed that section of



“Farmer” the sign that proclaims to the world a place of deep-rooted and hard-working people, with strong family ties and a continuing loyalty to their community.





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the state in 1670 and 1700 respectively, they found Indians still living in the general area, a sizable village being visited between the Uwharrie River and Caraway Creek a few miles north of Farmer. In later years, excavations have revealed that more ancient peoples lived along the rivers, especially in the locality of the Uwharrie Country Club, which is a couple of miles downriver from Farmer today. More recently, an archaeologist was "stunned at the number of village sites and density of population."

The countryside around Farmer has always been, and still is, a place that favors the breeding and propagation of wild creatures. Deer, rabbits, squirrels, raccoons, opossums, wild turkeys, and quail are still found — some in large numbers — a fact that is substantiated by the multitude of *No Hunting* posters tacked up on practically every fence post and tree trunk along the roadside. A trip into the woods will also reveal deer stands — platforms affixed high in trees for hunters to stand on and watch for the passing deer — every few hundreds of yards. In almost any field can be found a multitude of their sharply pointed hoof prints.

However, the larger area around Farmer, probably because it did not have a water course suitable for extensive canoe travel, seems never to have been occupied by the more powerful and influential tribes like the Catawbas and the Cherokees. Those who lived among the Uwharrie Mountains, at least after the white man made his first contacts with them, were probably splinter groups subject to the larger, more powerful tribes.

From the day of the first white settler in the central part of the state, the area that was to become "Farmer" has been the scene of continuous activity. One of the first roads opened in western North Carolina — the Cape Fear to Salisbury road — passed through the vicinity of Farmer. According to the Collet map of 1770, it followed the route of the present Farmer-Denton road through the community and crossed the Uwharrie River at or near the spot where the Dunbar Bridge spans the stream today. The road farther west intersected the North Carolina-Virginia Indian Trading Path. East of Farmer that first road joined the Moore Road that ran up the Voharee Creek Valley (the Uwharrie) from Anson County to Guilford County, passing by the Keyauee Indian village about six miles west of present-day Asheboro.

However, Randolph County Historian **Tom Presnell** questioned the old maps and legends regarding the Indian Trading Path. He insisted that after reaching Randleman from the east, as the highway marker on 220 indicates, the path swerved south to cross the Uwharrie at or near the old ford below the **Bob Fuller** farm, thence through Farmer and on west into present Davidson County at the site of today's Denton, placing Farmer on the mainstream of travel and activities at an earlier date than usually accepted. **Mr. Presnell** bases his contention on the own walking explorations of the trading path route through the county.

It is not known when the first settler, following the trappers and the Indian traders, led his ox-drawn cart and family into the wilderness along the Uwharrie, cleaned out his spring, threw up his log cabin, and started his home. But it is recorded that **Arthur Dobbs**, **Henry McCulloh**, **Murray Crymble**, and **James Huey** were granted 1,200,000 acres on the Eno, Yadkin, and Catawba rivers in 1737, provided they brought in substantial settlers. By 1754, they had induced 854 people into the territory, most of them taking up homesteads along the Eno and Haw rivers. By 1764 some settlers had moved west beyond the Yadkin, over-running the Uwharrie Valley.

In 1752 Moravian Bishop Spargenberg wrote that many people were moving to North Carolina from Pennsylvania. Those emigrés — who proved to be Scotch-Irish, German, and Welsh mostly — made their way, not up some navigable stream like the Cape Fear, but down the Philadelphia Wagon Road, frequently called the "Bad Road," which began at the Schuylkill River Ferry opposite Philadelphia, ran west through Lancaster, to Harris's Ferry on the Susquehanna, thence through York to Williams' Ferry on the Potomac, where it entered the "Great Valley of Virginia," passing through Winchester, Strasburg, and the Staunton, crossing the James at present-day Buchanan, and turning south to the present site of Roanoke, thence eastward through Staunton Gap to the Blue Ridge, then southward again, crossing the Blackwater, Irvine, and Dan rivers, thence to Wachovia on Muddy and Salem creeks, tributaries of the Yadkin.

Thus the two streams of settlers converged on the Randolph section of the state — one that came up the Cape Fear to spread out from Cross Creek (Fayetteville today) and one that swept down from the North. Both streams carried a mixture of





Allen Nance Store at Jackson's Creek about the turn of the century. Store was later owned by Clarence Ridge, at present by Kent Ridge. Nance is sitting in the chair center. Henry Nance leans against a post at right. Allen Nance was exempted from military service, being a tanner by trade, until the last year. He was captured at Petersburg after throwing his rifle in a brushpile.

nationalities, apparently dominated by the Scotch and Germans.

The fast filling region caused the North Carolina legislature (still a colonial body at the time) to create in rapid succession Johnson and Granville counties in 1746, Anson in 1750, Orange in 1752, and Rowan in 1753. Guilford was formed from Rowan and Orange in 1771. Then Randolph was carved from Guilford in 1779; thus the earliest records of the settlers in Concord Township will be found in the records of Rowan and Guilford counties.

Among those who first came to the new counties were the **Boones**, a Quaker family from the Schuylkill River Valley in Pennsylvania, who brought with them their eighteen year old son

**Daniel**. They settled on the Yadkin in upper Rowan County in 1752. After helping his family get situated, **Daniel** in 1769 set out to find the Warriors' Path across the mountains, thereby opening the Kentucky territory and the vast regions beyond to exploration and settlement, a country that was to lure many people from Randolph during the 1830's.

Undoubtedly, there were those who came into the Farmer section of the country during those early days, but they built their temporary cabins, and, like **Boone**, moved on to more promising lands, oftentimes leaving but a crude stone fireplace to mark the site of their abode. Their story is lost.



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## FARMER IS BORN

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**A**s historians have tried to trace the dim trail of the hamlet of Farmer back to its origin, they have found evidence to suggest that it grew up around a crossing of two roads: one going west from a ford where the Dunbar Bridge was later built, the other running south from Fuller's Ford on the north, that the road intersection was conducive to trade, that the knoll the roads crossed was a likely dwelling place. It has been further suggested that the name "Farmers" (the *s* was later dropped) came from a family whose surname was Farmer, that once lived there, because Frederick Farmer's name appears on the tax list for that area in 1820. It has been concluded that the tax supervisor, as it was his custom in those days, directed the citizens to go to *Farmers* (Frederick Farmer's home) to list their taxes when filing time came.

(Others have presumed that the name came from the fact that the area has always been a good farming section, and that the name "Farmers"



Dunbar Bridge



Dunbar Bridge over the Uwharrie River between Mechanic and Farmer, N.C.

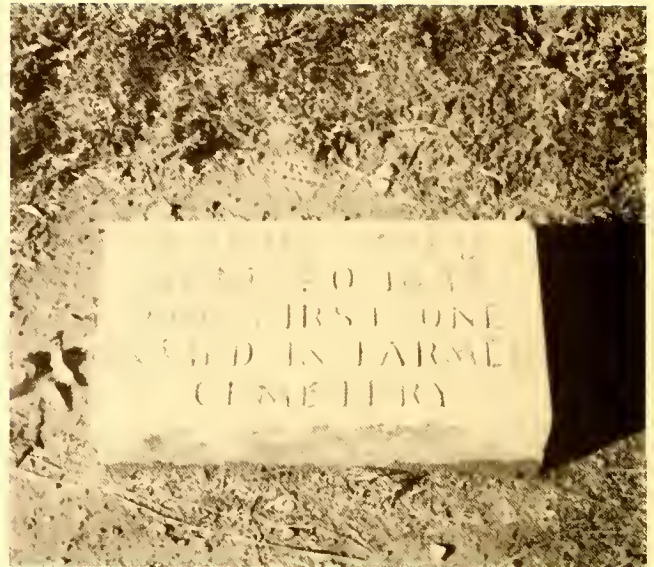


was the logical title to give to the beginning village).

Farmer's home was central to the community as well as accessible, and he must have been educated sufficiently to help those who listed their property. Thus his name has become preserved in history.

The embryonic village of Farmers evidently attracted the church people, also. The first religious act recorded there was the burial of their dead, a graveyard being started as early as June 20, 1848, when Edwin Steed was interred. Eleven years later, in 1859, the Methodists built the first church within the village. It was a small frame structure erected immediately north of the cemetery, approximately in the location of the present Grange Hall.

The church grounds became the scene of yearly camp meetings. People from long distances gathered there, bringing their families and their milk cows. They made camps around the area, at first using their covered wagons for sleeping quarters. To facilitate matters, one of the pastors, Dr. Alford, in the year 1872 or 73 had an arbor built



The grave marker of Edwin Steed, who died June 20, 1848. The marker was placed in his memory by the citizens of Farmer.

outside for a pulpit and three or four log-walled tents erected for his parishioners. The meetings opened on the Friday before the third Sunday in August and ran until the following Friday.



The Store built by Ervin Kearns. Other people that ran the store: Gideon Macon, Bob Dorsett, Bob Hammond.



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## THE VILLAGE GROWS

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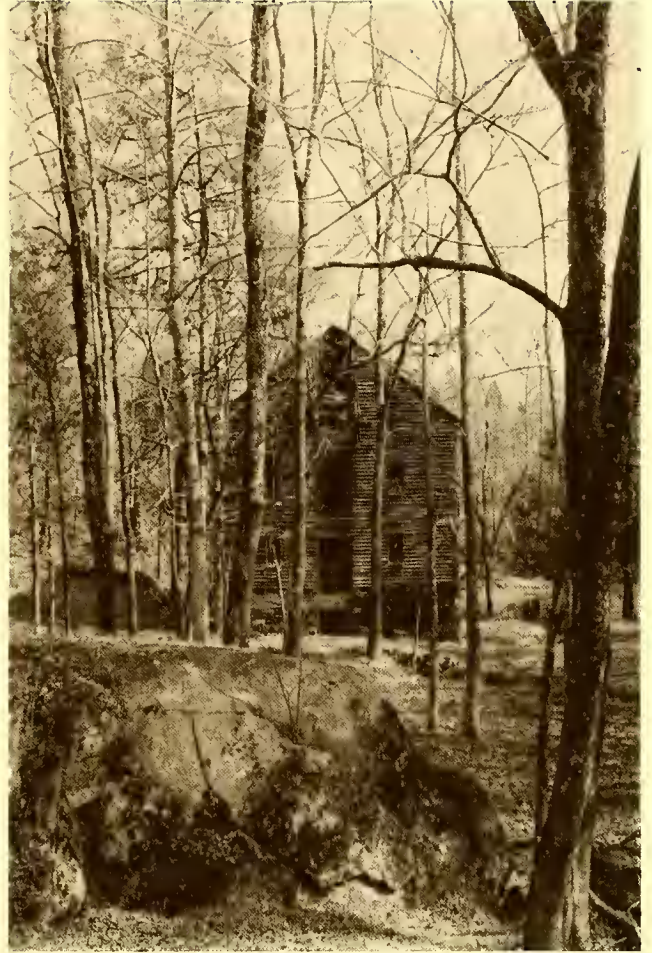
**P**eople flocked in during the ensuing years until a dozen more log tents were needed and erected. In fact, the village, during the annual camp meeting, became almost a city.

In conjunction with the church growth, the village itself grew, and in 1894 the bonafide residents had increased to 38, according to The Randolph County Business Directory published that year by Levi Branson. Kerney Plummer and Orpheus Kearns, with financial help from Marvin Kearns, had built a roller mill, Herbert Kearns (son of Orpheus Kearns) remembers. Some of the millers and operators of the mill were Adderton Nance, W.T. Birkhead, Lineberry Hill, Claude Elliott, Carl Garner, A.M. Blaylock, Bob Hammond, and Reece Loffin (the son of Colonel Loffin who ran the Lassiter Mill at one time). A steam-powered sawmill operated by John Plummer was turning out lumber across the road from the roller mill. At one time Ed Kearns, as is remembered, made shingles there from forest pine brought in from the forests in the Farmer vicinity.

N.W. Newby and Lineberry Hill also had opened a retail store. Among the residents, the directory listed Mada Johnson and Annie Johnson, teachers; C.H. Lewis, physician; D.G. McMasters, magistrate (term expired 1893); Lillian Plummer, teacher; John Plummer, Sawmill; W.A. Prevost, magistrate (term expired 1895); C.E. Ridge, teacher; B.A. Steed, county commissioner; W.B. Yarborough, magistrate (term expired 1893).

Family names in the community after the turn of the century were Kearns, Fuller, Macon, Skeen, Hammond, Nance, Thornburg, Morgan, Bingham, Yates, Plummer, Horney, Johnson, Loffin, Ingram, Spencer, Ridge, Lowe.

At the end of the Nineteenth Century, there is evidence of optimism among the citizens about Farmers' future, for in that year, according to the *North Carolina Gazetteer* by William S. Powell, it was incorporated. The *Gazetteer* makes this terse statement: "Farmer, town in w. Randolph



The weathered shell of the old Wyatt Nance-Jesse Vuncannon Mill stands today as a poignant reminder of activities of the past.

County. Inc. 1897, but long inactive in municipal affairs. In center of rich farming community."

But in spite of its lack of municipal activities, the village continued to grow slowly, with a normal amount of growing pains. The subscription school in the church became an academy in 1882(?), then an institute in 1893. That gave way to a public school in 1907. The old church was enlarged in 1916, then burned May 14, 1933. It was rebuilt, but at a new location near the new Highway 62 (Later 49).



Farmer Roller Mill, built in 1908.

The Independent Baptists built a brick church on the Dunbar Bridge Road east of the village in 1950. Grady Lee Blakely was the pastor of the new church, called the Farmer Baptist.

Through the years, the post office shifted from store to store until it finally settled in a building of its own at the highway intersection. It lost its status as a fourth Class Post Office in 1956 and became "Farmer Station," a substation of Asheboro.

Gradually the mills ceased to run, the roller mill burning, according to **Reece Loffin**, the last miller, in 1938. The general store was moved to the highway intersection in 1930, but was dismantled when the new Farmer Church was built. A new store building was erected at the crossroads by **Bob Hammond**, who operated it for a period. In succession it has been under the management of **Guy Ridge**, **Wallace Garner**, **Mary and Farris Pierce**, and **Devereau Russell**.

Telephone service was a luxury Farmer citizens enjoyed early in the development of that mode of communication. The date of its establishment in Farmer was probably in 1910 when the Asheboro Telephone Company is recorded as having run lines to Seagrove.

It was about 1910 when a frightened **Mrs. Moses Morgan**, who then lived near Jackson's

Creek, used the telephone to call a neighbor, **Harris Hill**, about two miles away for help and advice. Some neighbor had told her that a man had gone crazy and was rambling uncontrolled about the community. Since her husband was away teaching school and she was alone with her small children, she wanted the assurance of help if some were needed. **Mr. Hill** promised her that he would be on the lookout for the man and would come on his galloping horse if the man molested her or the children.

She and the children chocked the doors that night, but the next day she made the older boys drill slanting holes in the doorfacing so that they could "peg" the doors shut against all intruders.

Those early telephone lines in Jackson's Creek and Farmer served the folk well for many years. The **Dr. Hubbard** home in Farmer served the community as a communication post as well as a health center. But that first system, its upkeep left almost entirely to the customers, deteriorated in the rural areas until it became practically useless.

Then in 1957, The Randolph Telephone Membership Corporation was formed for the purpose of supplying service to the outlying communities. The first exchange was readied in Farmer by June of that year with 97 telephones. By 1976 all lines provided one-party service.

The Farmer citizens, like people everywhere, passed through the evolution of artificial lighting. They suffered with their smelly, flickering candles, most of them making their own from tallow they had rendered and from wicks they had spun. They went through the smoky oil lamp age when they burned coal oil or kerosene. After the turn of the century, some of the more affluent citizens of



The Parker's Mill Bridge and Victor Parker's home. Parker ran the mill for 33 years before it closed in 1943.



Farmer began to light their homes with electric lights, made possible by small power plants along with a dozen or so batteries, which were always "running down." But those plants, too, served their time, and gave way to the franchised utilities.

In 1937, the Carolina Light and Power Company ran lines from Asheboro to Farmer and began to supply power for lights and utilities in the homes and for industrial machinery — a move that improved the style of living, especially in the area of refrigeration, as much as any innovation that the human race has adopted. Some of the outlying districts of Farmer, in the south and west, are served by the Davidson Electrical Membership Corporation and the Randolph Electrical Membership Corporation.

In the meantime, the middle of the century saw many changes. Old houses were replaced by modern homes. The **Gid Macon** house in the grove opposite the post office is the oldest dwelling left in the village. **W.A. Hammond** owns it and lives there today (1981).

The small back houses with the crescent moon design on the doors began to disappear as pipe vents from indoor bath rooms sprouted from the roofs of dwellings.

New businesses sprang up: Henson's nursery and dairy, Polly's Flower Shop, Farmer Beauty Shop, Garner Seed Company (The Garner Seed Company, which began operations in 1952,



The old Tony Johnson house. Earl Kearns is holding Harry Kearns in foreground.

burned in 1960, but, after working a couple of years in Denton, the owner, **Wallace Garner**, returned to Farmer, rebuilt and enlarged his plant. He and his son **Andy** continue the business today).



People gather in their T-Models and buggies for the sale of the S.W. Kearns property a half century ago.

## ONCE AN INDIAN'S PARADISE

**F**armer sits on a ridge between Tom's Creek and the junction of Caraway Creek and the Uwharrie River.

In a setting like that it could only be expected that it was a favorite hunting ground of the American Indian.

An historical sign at the crossroads testifies to some of that history, for the late **Tom Presnell** erected an engraved signboard here proclaiming it was where an Indian battle took place in the 1750's.

From that time on, the white man found it an intriguing place too, and armies marched through, stage coaches stopped at its inns, and finally it became a seat of learning and a cultural and religious center for Concord Township.

In what is still a seemingly remote area of Randolph County, Farmer actually has what is known as accessible isolation. It is a mere nine miles from the county seat and all the conveniences, and yet in reverse, that nine miles puts it in the center of the Uwharrie hills and a peaceful countryside.

**Ocia Morgan**, who came here as a six-year-old child in 1912, and who currently operates the postal contract station here, says of the place: "I wouldn't be anywhere else, if I could help it. Not to live, anyway. This is home to me. . ."

Farmer works that magic on its born and reared citizens.

Farmer seems to be a quieter community now (1960) than it was a few years ago, and that is because Highway 49 which crossed SR 1001 and SR 1170 here, was relocated to the east, "by-passing" the community but not taking a whit from the hustle and bustle of community activities here.

Smack dab at the crossroads is Farmer Station grocery store and Farmer Rural Station postal station.

The "station" part of Farmer's designation comes from a change in postal operations that saw the community lose post office status a few years ago and become a contract station.

**P.C. Morgan**, **Ocia's** brother, was postmaster from 1928 through 1963, when she took it over



Tom's Creek Bridge near Farmer

and has operated it since.

**P.C.** gives haircuts now in what is the "lobby" of the postal facility.

"He cuts hair on Monday through Thursday, in the mornings only," she said, adding haircuts can still be had for 75 cents, depending upon the cut.

Names upon the land here in addition to the **Hammonds** and **Morgans** are **Hensens**, **Davis's**, **Hubbards**, **Spencers**, **Harris's**, **Fullers**, **Kearnses**, **Loflins**, **Cranfords**, **Horneys**, **Johnsons**, **Ingrams**, **Ridges**, and **Adams**, too.

**Devereaux Russell** is kind of a newcomer, he says. He lives a few miles away but commutes to run the sole grocery store here. "I took it over two months ago, but I don't know if I'll last another two months, he says laughing.

Farmer is an old community, going back to those Indian Wars, and at one time it was even active as a bonafide town. Farmer was incorporated as a town in March, 1897, and **Dr. C.H. Lewis** was its first mayor. The town board consisted of **N.W. Newby**, **L. Fuller**, **G.H. Macon**, **W.H. Boone** and **Turner Voncannon**.

Through the years, less and less interest was shown in political action on a local level and the town government became defunct.

It has been a "community" for many years, now, and its affairs are so well taken care of that a town board is not needed.

Farmer has a school, several churches, a volun-





Indian arrowheads found by Earl Kearns on the Virden Kearns farm, early 1900's.

teer fire department, a Grange, a Lions Club, a nursery, a florist shop, a seed company, and many another enterprise tucked away along its lanes.

Often it has been asked how Farmer got its name and speculation has been that agriculture was prominent here, but farming apparently was not the origin of the name.

Records recently noted at the Randolph Room of the library show the court records, August

term, 1810, refer to elections to take place in various parts of the county and mention the election to be held at Farmer's. . .

Historians now think it was in reference to the **Frederick Farmer** family and the use of their home as a polling place.

*From a newspaper article by Henry King, November 2, 1977. Used by permission.*



Walter Snider threshing wheat at Carl Nance's farm in 1930's.



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## EARLY ACTIVITIES

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Lassiter's Mill. Long the center of a bustling community, it stands neglected today, its once rumbling machinery silent for many years. It is down the river from Farmer about three miles southeast.

**S**everal mills were operating in the Farmer area when the county was formed in 1779, or soon thereafter:

Miller's Mill, 1779, located two miles upriver;  
 Henly's Mill, 1784, same location as Miller's;  
 Bundy's Mill, at the mouth of Caraway Creek;  
 Henly's Mill, 1779, located between Tom's Creek and Second Creek; and Lassiter's Mill, 1779.

\*\*\*

Hackile School, established 1793, was located near Bundy's Mill. A meeting house (Episcopal perhaps) was built on Tom's Creek in 1793. Henry Lyndon's home and school, 1782; Uwharrie Meeting House, operating in 1793, located on Moore Road three miles southeast; Hill's Store, operating near Uwharrie Meeting House.

Legend says, John McGee, who lived on McGee Creek three miles east of Farmer, was killed in the battle of Guilford Courthouse in 1781; his wife Betty was wounded. In 1788 William Brookshire, who lived near Hill's Store, received 5 shillings bounty for killing a wolf. In 1802, a man named Dollarhide killed the last buffalo about six miles southeast of Farmer.

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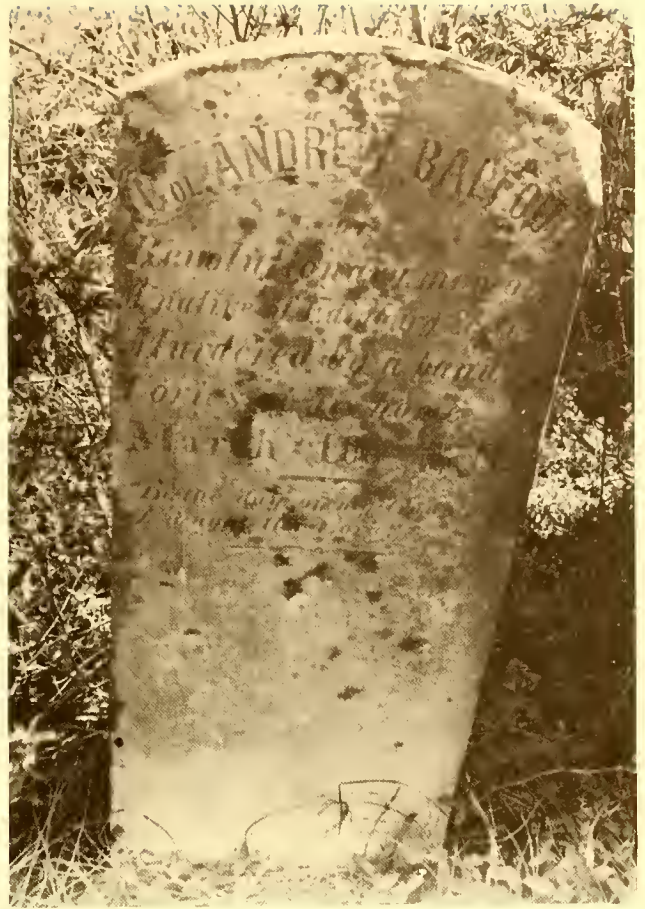
In the tax list for 1820 for Concord, New Hope, Cedar Grove, and Union townships were the following names still familiar to the Farmer area: Bingham, Cranford, Dunbar, Elliott, Farmer, Fuller, Hardister, Harris, Hoover, Ingram, Jackson, Lassiter, Loffin, Lowe, Miller, Nance, Prevo, Ridge, Skeen, Spencer, Steed, Thornburg, Vuncannon, Wade, Wood.



In 1782, **Andrew Balfour**, whose home was on the old Salisbury-to-Cape Fear road four miles east of Farmer, was murdered by **David Fanning** and a band of Tories. On that same raid against the Patriots **Fanning** and his men also murdered **Captain John Bryan** and burned the home of **Colonel Collier** and **Major Dougan**, as well as the homes of several other Patriots. **Fanning** escaped after these raids to Wilmington, thence to Nova Scotia, and was never punished for his deeds. Legend says **Andrew Balfour's** widow was appointed postmistress of the Post Office in Salisbury by George Washington, and served there for twenty-five years. **Balfour**, because of his untimely murder and his work in and for the Revolutionary Cause, has been looked upon through the years as one of the nation's all-time heroes.

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After the North Carolina General Assembly approved public schools in 1840, and local districts set up, several Farmer area men were appointed to Districts eight and nine: Dist. 8—**Jeremiah Cooper**, **Joseph Hoover**, **Thomas Pearce**, **John Ingram**, **Jones K. Wood**, and **Isaac Kearns**; Dist. 9—**Allen Kearns**, **Nixon Henly**, **Ansel Pearce**, **Robert Walker**, **Jesse Thornburg**, and **Henry Fuller**.



Grave of Col. Andrew Balfour, near Asheboro airport.



Fuller Rock Bridge, 1933, Uwharrie River. Built by Allen Fuller.



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**John Ingram**, a black resident of Farmer, had only one hand (he lost the other one in a sawmill accident), but was nevertheless a skilled workman. He was especially proud of his ability to kill squirrels, nearly always getting two with one shot. **Ingram** and his wife **Mary** were slaves before the Emancipation. **John** belonged to the **Ingram** family and **Mary**, to the **Fullers**.

Other black people who live or have lived in the vicinity are **Jesse Cross**, whose father **Birch Cross** lived below **Madison Hammond's** farm, and **Lum Burkhead**, who lived near **Elmer Byrd's** home. **Burkhead** farmed for **Allen J. Macon** and later for **Frank Kearns**.

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In 1840, **Isaac Kearns**, one of the county's magistrates, voted "aye" to a question of whether or not the county should spend \$65.65 for a county survey.

\*\*\*

**L.G. Barnum Bingham** was one of the men from the county who supported the Civil War

effort by working in the salt mines either at **Wilmington** or **Morehead**. Some of the workers were exempt from combat service because they were Quakers and conscientious objectors, or had to remain close to home to take care of their family—an aged mother and a blind younger brother, **Julian**, as in the case of **Bingham**.

After the war, **Bingham** turned his efforts toward buggy making, turning out one-horse carts, two-horse phaetons, and fringed-topped surreys. He had a buggy factory in the yard of his home in the **Caanan Community**. He and his three boys (**Webb**, **Greenbury**, and **Tom**) and a professional painter made up the work force. His daughters—especially **Flora**—helped with the upholstery. The "Bingham Buggy" was known in **Randolph**, **Davidson**, and **Montgomery** counties. To sell his product, **Bingham** took his buggies—pulling two or three at a time—to the various county seats during court week. **Tom Bingham** married **Effie Johnson** and made his home in **Farmer**.



Originally Carl Nance wagon bought circa 1893. The rig is now owned by Howard Bell who is driving the team at the Thresher's Fly near Denton, N.C.



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## EARLY INDUSTRIES

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**A**s the Twentieth Century began, Farmer could boast of at least two industries: a saw mill and a grist mill, the saw mill dating back as far as 1894.

At least by 1912, Orpheus (“Orph”) Kearns was grinding grain for his customers in a mill standing in the vicinity of the old Fred Bingham house. Along with it was the saw mill, evidently older in use, but run in 1912 by Ed Kearns. It is remembered by some of the older citizens that the two mills were powered by the same big steam engine.

Lineberry Hill later bought the grist mill, selling it in turn to Bob Hammond and Madison Hammond. Reese Loflin later purchased the grist mill and operated it until it burned down.

The fate of the saw mill has been lost in time.

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A tannery was once operated near Lassiter’s mill.



Lassiter’s Mill Bridge



Trotter’s Saw Mill – members of the Trotter family picture by Northern Trogdon – circa 1918 – 20?



# DEED ABSTRACTS\*

(FOUND IN THE HOME OF CARL G. NANCE, WHO DIED OCT. 11, 1980)

1. **Thomas Carnes**. Entered 200 acres, 20 June 1800 on waters of Tom's Creek. No lines given except those of Marshall's.
2. **Jesse Harris** to **William K. Wood** 11 June 1815. Lines—**Ezekiel Fuller** and **Taylor's** on **Lassiter Road**. Witnesses: **Benjamin Steed** and **Wood Arnold**. \$150.00—100 acres
3. 1834. **Allen Kearns** to **Burrell Wood** (Brother-in-law) **Thompson's** corner and **William Thompson's** lines at foot of **Cody's Mountain**. Witnesses: **Penuel Wood** and **Jones K. Wood**. (**Allen Kearns** married **Nancy Wood**. He was the son of **Isaac Kearns, Sr.**, and **Rebecca Webb**.) Book 19, page 475 **Randolph Co. Register of Deeds Office**. \$400.00—175 acres
4. **Thomas Kearns** of **Rowan County** to **Ezekel Lassiter** of **Randolph County** 18 Oct. 1822 on the waters of **Tom's Creek**. Wit: **P. Wood** and **Willie Hix**. \$200.00—200 acres
5. **Emsley Lassiter** to **Frederick Garner** 24 May 1839. Lines: **Steed**, **Lewis**, and **William Wood**. **Lassiter Road** referred to. Wit: **Clayton Lewis**. \$800.00—60 acres
6. Tract of land surveyed. 75 acres and plotted for **Spencer Wood** 29 Nov. 1842. Lines—**William Wood** and **Steed**, **Cape Fear Road**.
7. **William K. Wood** to **Spencer Wood** 7 Nov. 1842, Lines—**Ezekiel Fuller** and **Taylor**. Book 25, page 26 **Register of Deeds Randolph County Courthouse**. Wit: **Jones K. Wood** and **Elizabeth Wood**. \$150.00—100 acres
8. **Spencer Wood** of **Davidson County** to **James F. Kearns** 24 Dec. 1845. Lines—**William Wood**, **Steed**, and **Gardner**. Stake at **Forks of Lassiter and Cape Fear Road**. Wit: **Jones K. Wood** and **Henry Jackson**. \$125.00—75 acres
9. **F. Gardner** to **E. Beckerdite** 27 Sept. 1847. Lines—**William Wood**, **Steed**, and **Lewis**. Wit: **A. Skeen**. \$600.00—60 acres
10. **James K. Kearns** to **Emsley Beckerdite** 11 Feb. 1848, Lines—**William Wood**, **Harrison Kearns** at the fork of the **Cape Fear** and **Lassiter Road**. Wit: **Harmon Kearns** and **Newton Carter**. \$125.00—75 acres
11. 26 Mar. 1867 **Emsley Beckerdite** to **William T. Kearns** of **Davidson County**. Lines—**H.H. Kearns** and **Harris Jackson** on **Second Creek**, **Cape Fear Road**. Wit: **E.B. Steed** and **Hubbard Kearns**. \$100.00—75 acres
12. 5 Nov. 1868. Between **William T. Kearns** and wife **Mary** on the first part and **John L. Riley** of **Davidson County** aforesaid the second part. On the waters of **Second Creek** and adjoining the lands of **H.H. Kearns** and **Rosity Kearns** and running west to the lands of the estate of **William F. Steed**, dec'd, also another lot of land bought originally of **Clayton Lewis** by **Emsley Lassiter**.  
Signed: **W.T. Kearns**  
**Mary Kearns**  
Wit: **Henry Sheets** and **Elizabeth Sheets**.  
\$550.00—60 acres
13. **Emsley Beckerdite** and wife **Elizabeth Beckerdite** of **Schuyler County, Illinois** (quick claim deed) to **William T. Kearns** (Apr. 13, 1868) \$500 on the waters of **Second Creek**. Lines—**William P. Steed** and **Lewis**. **Lassiter Road**.
14. 1 Feb. 1870. **John F. Riley** and wife **Rebecca** to **Pinkney Johnson** and wife **Clarinda Coggin Johnson**. \$400.00—60 acres
15. 4 Sept. 1872. **Allen Harris Johnson** to **O.P. Johnson** and wife **Clarinda Coggin Johnson** \$550.00—135 acres
16. 27 Nov. 1876 **Branson Sheets** and wife **Cornelia Jane Sheets** to **Allen H. Johnson** on **Second Creek**, **Thompson's line**. \$40.00—100 acres

17. 22 Sept. 1883 **E.B. Nance** and wife **Gracy** to **William T. Kearns** (Mortgage deed) joining the lands of **T.W. Johnson** on Tom's Creek and **Samuel Arnold** corner. If one year after the note is not paid off and 20 days notice given to **E.B. Nance** and wife **Gracy**, **Wm. T. Kearns** may make sale of the land. Book 51, page 345 Randolph Co. Register of Deeds office. \$300.00 — 58½ acres

(The document stamped, "This mortgage was satisfied 8 Dec. 1891)

18. 11 Aug. 1888 **Allen Harris Johnson** and wife **Elizabeth Johnson** to **Leach Russell** of Montgomery Co. adjoining the lines of **Steed**, **Lewis**, and **Isaac Thompson** to a stake in the line of the Meeting House and above the Meeting House *spring corner* (No doubt Salem) **H.H. Kearns** line and north side of a branch **Martin Skeen** line and **Harve Lathrum's** line. \$1050.00 — 135 acres

Attest. **D.G. McMasters**

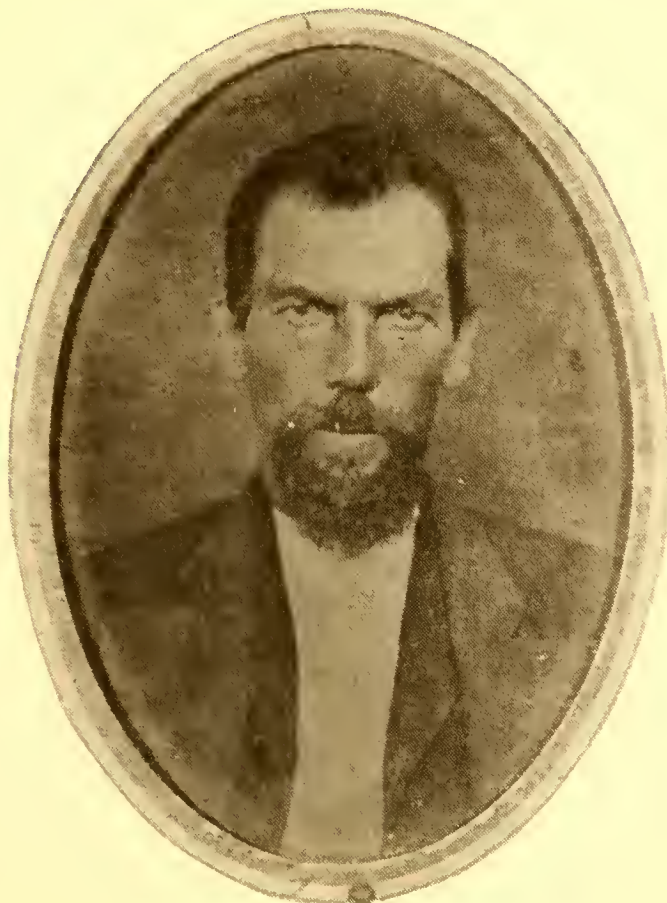
Signed: **A.H. Johnson**  
**Elizabeth Johnson**

19. 5 July 1893 **J. Frank Cameron** and wife **Lizzie Russells** Corner and Church line mentioned (Information on a form deed not signed by anyone.) \$1200.00 — 135 acres

*\*(Abstracts used by permission of the Carl G. Nance family.)*

Regarding the above deeds, **C.L. Cranford** says: "The **William T. Kearns** (mentioned in a number of the abstracts) is my great grandfather. He was what is known today as a real estate man. He bought up old places, repaired and built them up, sold them, and moved on to another place. My grandmother **Priscilla Kearns Cranford** used to say when she saw people pass their house when they moved, 'I wish I were moving.'"

"Another story that my grandmother told was this: When they were living at the **Carl Nance** place, she, while a small girl, would sometimes slip into the Salem church to look into the Bible left on the pulpit. But she was very careful not to disturb anything, to leave everything just as she found it. She knew that her step-mother would whip her if her acts were discovered."



**William T. Kearns**  
1835 — 1895

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, )  
Randolph COUNTY, )

THIS DEED, Made this *Fourth* day of *December*, 189*7*, by  
*Wm Kearns*  
of *Randolph* County and State of *North Carolina*, of the first part, to  
*Emory C Lassiter*  
of *Randolph* County and State of *North Carolina*, of the second part:

Witnesseth, That said *Wm Kearns*  
in consideration of *Two Thousand & Eighty five* Dollars, to  
him paid by *Emory C Lassiter*, the receipt  
of which is hereby acknowledged, has bargained and sold, and by these presents doth

bargain, sell and convey to said *Emory C. Lassiter &*  
*his* heirs, a certain tract or parcel of land in *Randolph*  
County, State of *North Carolina* adjoining the lands of  
*Greg Robinson, W. B. Lassiter & Wm Kirkhead*  
*Samuel Carter and others*

and others, bounded as follows, viz: *Beginning at a rock in*  
*the middle of Lumber Run at the mouth of a deep hollow*  
*just below the fork, running North Twenty poles to a pine,*  
*thence west, Two hundred and eleven poles to a stake, W. B.*  
*Lassiter's corner, thence North one hundred eighty four poles*  
*to post Oak, thence West Twenty three poles twenty links to a Red*  
*Oak, thence South one hundred eighty four poles to a Spanish Oak,*  
*thence East six poles to White Oak stump, Wm Kirkhead's corner, thence*  
*South one hundred twenty eight poles to a beach near this Creek,*  
*thence East one hundred thirty four poles to a rock on the middle of River,*  
*thence up the river <sup>of the river</sup> to the beginning, containing 200 acres*  
*more or less.*

To Have and to Hold the aforesaid tract or parcel of land, and all privileges and appur-  
tenances thereto belonging to the said *Emory C Lassiter*  
*his* heirs and assigns, to *their* only use and behoof forever.

And the said *Wm Kearns* covenants  
with said *Emory C Lassiter* his heirs and assigns, that  
*he* is seized of said premises in fee, and has right to convey the same in fee-  
simple; that the same are free and clear from all incumbrances, and that *he* will  
warrant and defend the said title to the same against the claims of all persons whomsoever

In Testimony Whereof, The said *Wm Kearns*  
has hereunto set, his hand and seal, the day and year above written.

*Wm Kearns* (SEAL)  
Attest: *D. T. ...* (SEAL)



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA *Randolph* County.

I, *B. F. Newby a J. P.* of said County, hereby certify that *Joy Kearns* ~~and~~ *The Granton* ~~his wife~~, appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the annexed deed of conveyance; ~~and the said~~ ~~being~~ ~~by~~ ~~me~~ ~~privately~~ ~~examined~~, ~~separately~~ ~~and~~ ~~apart~~ ~~from~~ ~~her~~ ~~said~~ ~~husband~~, touching her voluntary execution of the same, doth say that she signed the same freely and voluntarily, without fear or compulsion of her said husband, or any other person, and that she doth still voluntarily assent thereto.

Witness my hand and ~~official~~ <sup>private</sup> seal, this *7* day of *Dec*, A. D. 189*7*

*B. F. Newby*  
Justice of the Peace

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, *Randolph* County.

The foregoing certificate of *B. F. Newby*, a Justice of the Peace of *Randolph* County, is adjudged to be in due form and according to law. Therefore let the same, with this certificate, be registered.

Witness my hand and official seal, this *9<sup>th</sup>* day of *Dec*, 189*7*

Clerk *superior* Court.

DEED.

*Joy Kearns*  
To

*E. C. Lassiter*

Deed, Consideration, \$*2000<sup>00</sup>*

Dated *7* day of *Dec* 189*7*

Filed for Registration on the *7* day of *Dec*, 189*7*,

at *8* o'clock *A.M.*, and regis-  
tered in the office of the Register

of Deeds for *Randolph*  
County, N. C., this *9* day of

*Dec*, 189*7*, at  
*2* o'clock *P.M.*, in Book

*70* of Deeds, on page *07* &c.

*J. B. Winslow*  
Register of Deeds.

Kearns - Lassiter Deed, 1897





## II — CHURCHES

SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NEW HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MT. TABOR MEMORIAL CHAPEL

FARMER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PINEY GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PLEASANT UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MARY MOON AND SCIENCE HILL FRIENDS MEETING

HOOVER'S GROVE WESLEYAN CHURCH

GRAVEL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

OAK GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FARMER BAPTIST CHURCH

UNION METHODIST CHURCH

CALVARY GOSPEL CHURCH

ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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# SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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**T**he first Methodist Society in the community of Farmer was formed in about the year 1818 one-quarter mile west of where Salem United Methodist Church now stands.

The place was called Russell's Schoolhouse and in the year 1822 **Bishop McKindre** preached there.

These early beginnings of what is now Salem United Methodist Church are contained in an old Records book which was written in September, 1883 by **Bethul Kearns**, an uncle of **Mrs. Carson Cranford**, now 80 years old and a member of Salem Church since infancy. The records are carefully preserved at her home on Route 2, Denton.

**Bethul Kearns** wrote that the present church building was constructed in 1822 by **William Thompson, Thomas Nance, Silas Kearns, William Wood, Isaac Jackson** and others and he concludes ". . . it was a good house in its time." The record states that camp meetings were held at Salem almost every year until 1852.

"We distinctly remember the time when the whole hill and hills on each side were covered with tents and a vast number of people assembled from day to day to worship," **Bethul Kearns** wrote. Many souls (were) converted. . . the unworthy writer of this sketch was converted at a camp meeting in 1850 held by **S.H. Helsabeck**."

Other faithful members of the church when the new church was constructed in the winter and spring of 1881 were **Ivy Kearns, H.H. Kearns, John Thompson, Emory B. Kearns, D.G. McMasters, Samuel G. Kearns, Samuel W. Kearns** and **C.S. Kearns**.

The new church building was dedicated on July 1, 1883 by the **Rev. W.S. Black** and is located about 1½ miles west of Highway 49 on Road #1304.

The record of the church conference of November, 1883 lists the contributions to the church, ranging from \$6.95 given by **Ivy Kearns** to 25 cents from **M.E. Skeen**. Total contributions were \$39.35 with \$5.75 of this amount from "outsiders."

In 1883 Salem Church was in Uwharrie Circuit, Salisbury District, Trinity Charge.

**Charles H. Phillips** was assigned as pastor in 1885 but the records show that "his health was bad" and he died on May 18, 1885 and was replaced for the rest of the year by **B.C. Durant**. The preacher was paid \$25 that year.

In July 1, 1888 **E.B. Kearns** was chairman of the church board and **D.G. McMasters** was secretary and treasurer. The **Rev. G.B. Perry** was assigned in 1889 and on March 1890 there were 44 members on the church roll.

On April 23, 1893 Salem Church was a member of Greensboro District of the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

In 1911 the Circuit and District Boards fixed the salary for the charge at \$725 for the Presiding Clerk (minister) and \$100 for the Presiding Elder and assessed Salem Church \$49 to raise. Records show that the church paid in \$7.50 per quarter.

The old deed of the church shows that **John Lewis** deeded to Trustees **John Lewis, William Thompson, Silas Kearns, John Thompson, John Ingram, Thomas Nance, and Harrison Nance**, some two acres of land for \$2.

The sanctuary of the present Salem Church is the original building which was constructed in 1881. Shortly after World War II, three Sunday School rooms were added. More recently two bathrooms were added and central heating and air-conditioning were installed as well as new carpets.

**Dwight Nance** is the chairman of the official board. **C.V. Johnson** is superintendent of the Sunday School. The minister of Farmer Charge, of which Salem Church is a member, is **Leonard Voncannon**.

At the most recent Memorial Service in April the **Kearns** family gave a new sign to the church in memory of **Lee and Alice Kearns**.

Ministers who served Salem Church over the years were as follows:

1818-21 **James Read**; 1822 **Rev. Dunnaha**; 1823-24 **Jouem Leain**; 1825 **Rev. Wilkinson**;



1826 Christopher Thomas Edge; 1827-28 Stevenson Greyson; 1829-30 Ballew Abingdon; 1831 David Herrel; 1832-34 Steven Winburn; 1835 W.W. Albea; 1836-40 Thomas Barnum; 1841 W.W. Turner; 1842 J.W. Tinnin; 1843 Peter Doub; 1844 D.W. Doub; 1845-46 Joseph Goodman; 1847 S.D. Bumpass; 1848 L.L. Hendren; 1849 B. Rush; 1850 S.H. Helsabeck; 1851 Thomas Pastell; 1852 T.D. Lumsden; 1853 Thomas Jostell; 1854 William Baringer; 1855-57 N.A. Hooker; 1858 W.C. Gannon; 1859 Henry Gray; 1860 Z. Rush; 1861-62 T.C. Moses; 1863 W.H. Bobbitt; 1864 William Barringer; 1865 I.F. Kearns; 1866 W.H. Bobbitt; 1867 S.D. Adams; 1868-69 J.E. Thompson; 1870 J.F. Smoot; 1871 G.T. Moose; 1872 G.B. Alford; 1873 E.A. Yates; 1874 S.D. Adams; 1875-76 Gaston Farrar; 1877 B.R. Hall; 1878 B.G. Barrett; 1879-80 M.W. Boyles; 1881 Trawick Cecil; 1882 W.S. Black; 1883-84 W.T. Cutchin; 1885 Charles H. Phillips; 1885 C.O. Durant; 1886-87 G.B. Perry; 1888 D.P. Tate; 1889-90 G.B. Perry; 1891 F.H. Tatton; 1892 R.S. Abernathy; 1893-94 F.W. Stri-

der; 1895-96 J.J. Brooks; 1897-99 T.S. Ellington; 1900-03 W.S. Hales; 1904-07 B.F. Fincher; 1908-09 J.W. Ingle; 1910-11 J.A. Sharp; 1911-12 F.T. Stover; 1913 C.E. Stedman;

1914-17 J.M. Varner; 1918-22 W.B. Thompson; 1923-26 G.W. Clay; 1927 A.R. Bell; 1927-28 C.F. Womble; 1929 M.S. Kincheloe; 1930 J.A. Howell; 1931 T.G. Highfill; 1932 W.H. Groce; 1932-33 W.L. Lanier; 1935 Luther Bennett; 1937 J.W. Bennett; 1938 F.E. Howard; 1940 J.O. Ervin; 1942 Y.D. Poole; 1948 W.E. Fitzgerald; 1949 C.A. Rhinehart; 1950 Harold Waters; 1960 W.C. Anderson; 1963 James White; 1965 Bryce Smith; 1967 Elsworth Hartsfield; 1968 Bill Poole; 1972 Jasper Boyd; 1973 Leonard VonCannon.

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*(The above account of the Salem United Methodist Church appeared in a local newspaper in June, 1973 - Ed.)*

The ministers who have served the church since the above article was written in 1973 are Carl Dunker, Herbert Jamieson, and Scott Owen, the present pastor (1981).



Salem United Methodist Church, built 1881.

# Church Roll of the Pasted

## Record of Church Conference, 1888

William Thompson Hannah Thompson Thomas (Name) Susanna (Name) Silas Kearns Mary Kearns William Wood Rachel Wood Isaac Jacobson Isaac Kearns Mary Kearns John Ingram Nancy Ingram Mary Arnold + Paddy Hill James Elliott + Thomas LaPrairie Elizabeth LaPrairie Jesse Abel Selma Abel Josiah Kearns Jane Kearns Jones H Wood Ruth Wood Anderson Thompson Sally Thompson Pat B Sailor Abner Lewis Rebecca Lewis Hiram Hulin Nancy Hulin Burrell Gray	Isaac Thompson Kizzie Thompson William Wood Henrietta Wood Clarissa Arnold Sally (Name) Tabitha (Name) Juana Cody Burrell Wood Minerva Wood Lucinda (Name) Wyatt Hulin Mary Hulin Daniel Wood Callista Wood Josiah Tolbert Mary Thompson Burrell Wood Thomas W Ingram Friedrich Goff Mary Goff Leodinus Secois Mephly Wood Bernice Wood Mary Murdoch Elizabeth Arnold William B Ingram Sarah Redons Eli A Kearns Hester Draper Calvin Sailor Nancy Wood
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Parents of Isaac

Parents of Col. W. P. Wood - B. H. H. H.



V Salem in the first  
Record of Church Conference, November 1883

We learn from tradition given to us by the fathers that the first Methodist society formed in this community was at a place about one quarter of a mile west of where Salem church now stands, called Russels school house, at which place the people met to worship God, and at this house it is said Bishop McKeen once preached. Tradition further tells us that in the year one thousand eight hundred and <sup>1822</sup> twenty two a new church was built on the site where Salem now stands, which house was used as a church until the new house was built in eighteen hundred and eighty one, <sup>1881</sup> the old house was built by William Thompson, Thomas Nanev, Silas Kearns, William Wood, Isaac Jackson and others, and was a good house in its time, Camp meetings were held at Salem almost every year until the year eighteen hundred and fifty two, 1852. We distinctly remember the time when the whole hill and hills on each side were covered with tents and vast numbers of people assembled from day to day to worship God, We further remember that many souls were happily converted at these meetings, and most distinctly we remember that the unworthy wretch of this sect was converted at a camp meeting in 1850 held by S. H. Hellsabeck,



as Transcribed from old Chap Books  
Record of Church Conference, 1888

Emsley Seafarer  
Emsley Beekendite  
Elizabeth Beekendite  
Marsh Dorse  
Marriam Dorse  
Aak & Bance  
Wood & Arnold  
Marious S. Wood  
Collin Seidwell  
George Williams  
Abraham M. Diebs  
Ben. & Morgan  
Silas Thompson  
John W. Lewis  
Emily M. Kearns  
Franklin Beekendite  
Amandus Beekendite  
Evarmus S. Kearns  
Jesse Hussey  
Ebenezer Ingram  
Wm. McKen. Kearns  
Octavius W. Kearns  
John J. Beekendite  
Sarah E. Beekendite  
David B. Beekendite  
Elizabeth Kearns  
James H. Kearns  
Mary Kearns  
Virgil S. Wood  
Gage S. Kearns  
Wiley Jackson  
Whitson Russel

not written in  
conference notes

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# NEW HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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New Hope United Methodist Church.

**T**he New Hope Church dates back to December 5, 1830, when an acre of land was deeded to the trustees of the New Hope Episcopal Church by **Hampton Hopkins** for the purpose of building a house of worship thereon. A log building was erected to become the first sanctuary in the community.

November 2, 1853, **Temple Cranford** gave another two acres to the trustees: **Seth Cranford**, **Warren Lewis**, **Temple Cranford**, **Abraham Luther**, and **John Russell**. Then in 1880 a one-roomed frame building replaced the log church. That building was used until 1948 when the interior was remodeled. In 1952 a new wing was added to each side, having two rooms each, and serving as the first classrooms. Another frame and brick structure was added in 1957 with three more classrooms and two closets to be used as an educational building. The church is located 4 miles southeast of Highway 49 on New Hope Road #1181.

In September, 1962, a building fund was started and more than \$13,000 was pledged. At a meeting in March of 1963 plans were discussed for a new church building. The Charge Conference forthwith appointed a building committee. Then in 1964 **Buren** and **Mada Luther** deeded 1.46 acres of land to the trustees for the new sanctuary. Additional land was given to the church by **Mrs. A.I. (Jack) Smith** and children in memory of **Jack Smith**.

After considering several plans, the church voted July 28, 1968, to erect the new building. **J.H. Calicutt** was selected as contractor and work began in August of that year. The style chosen was a colonial-type 40 feet by 97 feet with classrooms in the basement. The sanctuary has a seating capacity of 300. The organ was given by the Women of the Church; the piano by the Youth Fellowship. The windows are of the stained glass, memorial type. The church tower was erected about where the old one stood and uses the old church bell, which was donated to the church by the **Lyndon** family as a memorial. A modern outside bulletin board was given by the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

The estimated cost of the building complex and equipment was placed at more than \$70,000.

The cornerstone was laid November 9, 1969,



Old New Hope Methodist Church.

and the first service was held in the new building on Sunday, June 15, 1969. The **Rev. Bill Poole** was the pastor and all former ministers and the District Superintendent were invited to participate in a service that afternoon.

In June, 1973, a special effort was initiated to resolve the church's remaining indebtedness of \$8,000, and it was paid off by the end of that year. In December of 1973 the church received an air-conditioner given by **Aaron Lewis Cranford** and family in memory of **Mrs. Genevieve Cranford**.

Then on March 10, 1974, a service of dedication was observed. The building with its many memorial gifts was dedicated to the Glory of God by **Bishop Earl G. Hunt, Jr.**, presiding, assisted by the **Rev. George Rudisill**, District Superintendent, and the **Rev. Leonard VonCannon**, pastor.



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MT. TABOR METHODIST  
MEMORIAL CHAPEL

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Mount Tabor Chapel.

The Mt. Tabor Methodist Church began its activities in the North Bend School House on the Jackson Creek Road about two miles south of the present site of the chapel (former church), probably prior to 1840. In 1843, a log building was erected for worship services about where the Andrews' store stands today (1981). Services were held there until the present structure was erected in 1881, on land donated by James Ragan and his wife Miranda Nance Ragan. The tradition is that the church members donated the materials, then met together and constructed the building. The church is located at Jackson Creek Road at the Intersection of Roads 1311 and 1314.

As time wore on and progress turned people's attention and interest elsewhere, the church's activities waned until the membership dropped below the sustenance level and the church as an organization had to be abandoned. In 1952 the church was dedicated as a memorial chapel, and is used as such today. Mrs. Flora Nance Prevost was the last living member. She died April 3, 1968.

One of the earliest pastors to serve Mt. Tabor was a Rev. Mr. Hoover, a Circuit Rider.

This church was built by several Nances and some others. Wyatt Nance furnished the lumber as he was in the sawmill business. The Nance reunion is held there each 4th Sunday in September. Nance is a very prominent name in the cemetery going by the markers.

An 1869 Sunday School Book Record kept by Mrs. Flora Nance Prevost and now in the posses-

sion of Hilliard Nance shows Allen Nance to be the Superintendent with the following teachers, Noah Morgan, Martha C. Nance and Nancy J. Nance. Student members of the Sunday School listed were:

Benjamin Nance	Roxane Lewis
E.B. Nance	Mary E. Nance
John W. Morgan	William C. Nance
Henry C. Nance	William E. Prevo
Joshua Morgan	Solomon Nance
Abigail H. Morgan	Mary D. Morgan
Moses Morgan	Mary Fry
Disey H. Nance	Doby Ann Fry
Thomas Snider	Mary Prevo
Norman D. Nance	Eldora Prevo
Nancy Lambeth	Gracy A. Nance

#### Class #3 Members — 1853

James W. Pearce	William C. Nance
Frederick A. Reagan	Thomas Carter
John Cody	James Carter
John Gaddis	William Lewis
Henry Cody	D.H. Hill
Levi M. Parker	John Nance

#### Washington Pearce

#### 1854 Members

Kinchen Nance	Henry Cody
Washington Pearce	Ishame Floyd
Hilliard Hill	John Cody
Robert Lewis	Norman D. Nance
John Nance	Zebedee Gaddis

*(The above information came from the notes of Hilliard Nance.)*



Mt. Tabor Chapel Cemetery.



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# FARMER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

(FORMER CONCORD CHURCH)

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**B**efore the post office and before the school, there was the church. That has been a part of the Farmer heritage: the church came first.

The organizational steps toward the founding of the Concord Methodist Church have been lost in the sands of time, but dates have been handed down, and the names of men and families instrumental in its inception and beginning have been kept through the decades in the memories and some of the files of the church's devoted and loyal members. **Mrs. Minerva Lassiter**, writing about the church's history since the fire destroyed the old building in 1933, gives the building date as 1859. However, someone writing a newspaper story in recent years says the original church was built "about 1856."

**Mrs. Lassiter** also lists the men and families involved in the beginning: **Messrs. J.C. Skeen, Noah Rush, D.E. Lewis, Jared Horney, Henry Cranford, Samuel Lewis, Micajah Lewis, the Fullers, Kearnses, and Ingrams.** Other men and families in the community also made valuable contributions.

The church was first located immediately north of the Farmer Cemetery, which was first used in 1848. The building was approximately 40 by 60 feet — too small to accommodate the worshippers who later came from a large area to participate in the camp meetings, which were popular during the 1870's. It was during that period that the pastor, the **Rev. Dr. Alford** led the congregation in the erection of an arbor and three or four log-walled tents, to which, as interest grew, a dozen or so more were added.

The church building was enlarged in 1916. The structure burned on the morning of May 14, 1933. **Mrs. Lassiter** said, "When news came on Monday morning that the church lay in ashes, I wept as one who had lost a friend."

The Church site was moved to a place near the new highway and rebuilt with native, uncut

brown stone, making it one of the most attractive buildings in the county. Finished in 1934, it is located at the intersection of Roads 1170 and 1193. The rebuilding project was under the pastorate of the **Rev. Walter Lee Lanier.**

Over the one hundred and thirty odd years that the church has been an integral part of the community, it and the general populace have been blessed with many distinguished pastors. In the beginning there was **T.C. Moses**, who evidently got the church started in the right direction. He was followed by the Brethern **Wyche, Thompson, Philips, Farrar, Fincher, and Dr. Alford.** Among those who followed **Dr. Alford** were **M.W. Boyles, Frank Kearns, G.B. Perry, W.S. Hales, J.T. Stover, and T.S. Ellington.**

Pastors who have served this century have included:

**J.W. Ingle — 1906, J.A. Sharpe — 1908, J.T. Stover — 1910, Bell — 1912, Stedman — 1914, J.M. Varner — 1916, W.B. Thompson — 1920, G.W. Clay — 1924, A.D. Bell — 1927, C.F. Womble, M.S. Kincheloe — 1928, J.A. Howell — 1929, T.G. Highfill — 1930, W.H. Groce — 1931, W.L. Lanier — 1934, Luther Bennett — 1935, J.W. Bennett — 1937, Fletcher Howard — 1939, J.O. Irvin — 1941, Y.D. Poole — 1947, W. Fitzgerald — 1950, C.A. Rhinehart — 1953, Harold**



Old Farmer Methodist Church



**Waters** — 1954, **W.C. Anderson** — 1958, **James White** — 1961, **W.H. Dingus** — 1963, **Bryce Smith** — 1965, **E. Hartsfield** — 1966, **Bill Poole** — 1970, **Jasper Boyd** — 1971, **L.T. VonCannon** — 1974, **Carl Dunker** — 1976, **Herbert Jamieson** — 1977, **Scott Owen** — 1980.

During the annual camp meetings, the people came bringing their families, draft animals, dogs, and cows to be fed and cared for during the stay — the cows to be milked also to supplement the families' food. They arrived on the Friday before the third Sunday in August and stayed until the following Friday, with preaching every afternoon and evening. As the people left, a bystander might well have been reminded of the "Exodus."

A Sunday School was organized early in the church's life, **J.C. Skeen** as the first superintendent. In 1881 **W.B. Lassiter** was elected superintendent and served for the next 30 years. Others who helped in the early years were **Dr. C.H. Lewis**, **Mrs. Louisa Macon**, **Mrs. N.W. Newby**, and **Miss Annie Johnson**.

In 1934 the church's name was changed from "Concord" to "Farmer", because another Methodist Church in Concord Township was also named "Concord," causing confusion in the mails. An act of the Quarterly Conference made the new title official.

The influence of the Concord Church on the

social and political, as well as the spiritual life of the community probably reached its zenith during the camp-meeting period. It was during this time that Farmer got its post office (1875), founded its academy (1882), and established itself as a trade and industrial center (1870-1890).

The church (still called the "Concord Methodist" on the printed program at the time) held a dedication service for its new building on March 27, 1938, although the building had been finished in 1934, the year after the fire. The service consisted of a morning and an afternoon program with dinner served in the basement of the church.

With **Dr. W.W. Peele**, Presiding Elder, presiding, addresses were delivered in the morning by **J.A. Jones**, Charlotte, and **D.B. McCrary**, Asheboro. **Bishop Paul B. Kern**, Durham, preached the morning sermon. **C.E. Kearns** presented the church to the Conference. **Bishop Kern** made the dedicatory remarks.

With the **Rev. J.W. Bennett**, Pastor, presiding in the afternoon, the program consisted of an address by **C.C. Cranford**, Asheboro, and a talk on the building project by the pastor in charge when the beautiful sanctuary was erected: the **Rev. Walter Lee Lanier**. The afternoon sermon was delivered by **Dr. S.B. Turrentine**, of Greensboro.

Prayers, scriptural readings, and songs supplemented the addresses and sermons.



Farmer United Methodist Church. Built in 1934, after the old frame building burned.

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PINEY GROVE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Piney Grove United Methodist Church



The Piney Grove United Methodist Church, which is 1.5 miles west of Jackson Creek, Road #1314 in Randolph County, was organized one hundred and ten years ago — August 31, 1871, — by **Spencer Surratt**, a licensed exhorter of the Pleasant Grove Methodist Protestant Church.

The **Rev. J.A. Laughlin**, the first pastor, preached his first sermons in a pine grove a short distance northwest of the present church site.

A log building was then erected and served the congregation for several years. The first worship service held in the building was conducted by the **Rev. Henry Lewallen**, the second pastor, in April of 1875. The first services held in the “new” building, presumably at the present site, were on the second Sunday in September, 1889, by the 8th pastor, the **Rev. W.A. Bunch**. That service was said to have been the funeral for **Mary Jane Morgan**, who, along with her husband **Noah F. Morgan**, had joined the church at a class meeting almost immediately after the church was organized.

At the time of organization, there were eight charter members: **Alex Cameron, J.R. Cameron, Charity Cameron, W.J. Delk, Abasheba Delk, Julia Delk, B.A. Surratt, and Elizabeth Surratt.**

**Joe Delk**, who joined the church 75 years ago

and died in 1978, remembered that his father **John Delk** hauled logs to a water sawmill for at least some of the timbers that went into the frame building in 1889. **Delk**, who married **Adleta Trogdon** — the daughter of a former pastor, **Joel B. Trogdon**, said once “If there is any good in me, I got it here (Piney Grove).”

Another member of the church who spent her almost 100 years in the care of Piney Grove was **Mrs. J.A. Morgan**. She said, “I have always loved Piney Grove.”

**Priscilla Delk** was the first convert to join the church. It was during a protracted meeting in the year 1877, when the **Rev. R.H. Willis** was preaching, that the conversion occurred. Her father **Frank Delk** had helped build the church and her grandmother **Julia Delk** had been a charter member.

A total of 325 people have been members of the Piney Grove Church since its founding. At present it has a membership of about 70.

In more recent years a brick sanctuary and Sunday School rooms have been added. A well was bored recently.

Piney Grove, after more than a century of service, continues to have a strong spiritual impact upon the community.

## THE CHRISTIAN HARMONY.

WEBSTER. S. M.

(21)



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# PLEASANT UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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**A**lson Hoover and his wife Mary Ann, on December 14, 1878, deeded to Union Church trustees of the Methodist Protestant Church two acres of land for the purpose of worship of Almighty God, and for a cemetery for the neighborhood.

On August 23, 1890, Pleasant Union Christian Church was organized with ten members and the pastor, the Rev. E.H. Jarrell. At the organization meeting, N.L. Yates was elected secretary, K.R. Bell and N.L. Yates, deacons, R.W. Lee, sexton. Levi McDowell and Mary McDowell were made collectors.

On the 20th day of February, 1894, the trustees

for the sum of \$8 received a deed for the two acres originally deeded the Methodist Protestant Union Church.

The next purchase of land, one acre, December 22, 1937, was an acre from E.M. McDowell and his wife Mattie. Another acre was added in 1962, being purchased from Ashley Trotter and his wife Zeola. The new church is located 3 miles west of road 1193 on Jackson Creek Road on that last purchased plot. The first building was immediately west of the cemetery, the second one in the north-east side of the cemetery. The third building stood west of the present building.



Pleasant Union Congregational Christian Church.

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# SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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**B**uilt on land acquired from Samuel Cranford and Branson Sheets, the Salem Church of Christ was erected in 1885. It is located about 11 miles south of Asheboro on Highway 49. Mr. and Mrs. Birch Cross were charter members. The church has 12 members at present. Sunday School rooms have been added during the last two years.

The church building was constructed by Amos

Carter, who became the first superintendent. He held that job until World War I. John Davis and Charlie Cross assisted Carter in the building project.

Zachary Simmons is remembered as being the first pastor.

The church has for many decades held a homecoming service the third Sunday in August. Large crowds always attend those services.



Salem United Church of Christ.



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## MARY MOON AND SCIENCE HILL FRIENDS MEETING

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In the summer of 1892, Mary Moon, a Friends minister from Indiana, came to the Science Hill Academy area to hold a protracted meeting in a brush arbor near the school house. People came from miles around to hear the woman preacher, and 169 persons were converted or reclaimed during the thirty-nine services held. The spiritual awakening experienced exceeded any that had ever been known in the community.

A great need among the converted and reclaimed was felt for a meeting house, and they set themselves up to the task of constructing one — the Meeting House in use today (1981). It is located about 5 miles south of Asheboro, off Highway 49 at the intersection of Roads 1142 and 1107.

But the seeds for the spiritual revival and awakening had been sown many years before. In the locality — situated in a beautiful grove of trees seven miles south of Asheboro off Highway 49 — the Methodists had held services for many years in a school house that stood on a knoll immediately south of the present structure. The school was the Science Hill Academy, which had been operating since 1848, and continued to educate the local youth, as an academy until 1875 and as a public school until 1908.

According to records found in a minute book, the people in the vicinity of Science Hill met on January 21, 1876, in regard to forming a society for the promotion of Temperance. The minutes did not explain the motive for the pledge, but it is assumed that the drinking problem around there had gotten out of hand. The pledge each member had to take was: "We the undersigned do agree that we will not use intoxicating liquors nor traffic in them, as a beverage; that we will not provide them as an article of entertainment or for persons in our employment and that in all suitable ways we will discountenance their use throughout the community."

The record shows that the Society or its successor continued to meet until 1917. For years, the members met monthly, then quarterly. There

were about 300 names on the roll, members from miles around being listed. Whether the list consisted of the membership at a given time, or was an accumulative list was not indicated. Some members, the minutes showed, had been released or disowned, probably for breaking the pledge.

Since there were several Friends in the community who had come from the Back Creek Meeting, or who had married and come into the community with their spouses, or who had come to hold the Friends convictions, there was a feeling that a Friends organization was appropriate and should be initiated. Thus the summer meeting and the preaching of Mary Moon.

The dedication of many of the community's young people in money, time, materials, and energy made the project possible and ultimately successful. Those who gave with untiring labors were the **Lowes, VunCannons, Winslows, Bingham, Lewises, Lassiters, and Lewallens**. They built the house and paid for it.

The sanctuary was begun in 1893 and completed the next year. It stood on a lot of eight acres given by **Nereus and Sam Lowe** (sons of **Thomas Lowe** and grandsons of **John Dunbar**). Much of the expense was for labor at 50 cents a day. Hauling from Asheboro with a team, \$1.50 per day. **Henry Cranford** was paid \$1.25 a day as chief carpenter, and an extra 50 cents for making out the bill for the building — a total of \$36 for his work when the building was finished. Shingles were split out of trees on the lot by hand with a froe and wooden mallet, while some were given by **N.M., John, and William Lowe**. One workman split 21,300 shingles and received \$37.38 for his efforts.

On the 28th day of the fifth month, 1894, at the Southern Quarterly Meeting of Friends, the following request was made: "The Friends of Science Hill request through Back Creek Monthly Meeting for a Monthly Meeting to be set up at that place and to be held on the fourth seventh day in each month, except on the second, fifth,



and eleventh months, then to be held on the third seventh day, and to be known as Science Hill Monthly Meeting of Friends, which this meeting in joint session approves, and appoints **Henry H. Beeson, Levi B. Macon, Dr. Charles C. Hubbard, Levi Cox, Elma C. Macon, Lizzie Coltrane, Grace Lowe, and Isabelle Henley** to attend to setting up of said Meeting, on the fourth seventh day in seventh month next at 11 o'clock and report at next meeting."

Eighty-five persons were charter members, most of them being children and teenagers. **William Winslow** was appointed clerk, a position he held until his death in 1933. At that time the assistant, **Hope Hubbard**, was given the responsibility. She served until 1956.

For many years, **Sarah E. Wilson Winslow** and **John Shaw Tillman**, local ministers, brought messages to the meetings as they felt led, but without much financial support. The first pastor to be promised financial help was **Alvin Barrett**, who was also pastor of Asheboro Meeting. He came to Science Hill once a month beginning in 1916.

Other pastors have been **Herbert W. Reynolds, Oscar Cox, Clarence Macon, Calvin Gregory, Edward B. Harris, Victor Murchison, Charlie Lamar, Alfred Harris, Seth B. Hinshaw, Luther McPherson, Baud B. Bulla, J. Waldo Woody, J. Floyd Moore, Earl Redding, Larry Emerson, Joseph Moorefield, Charles Snow, and George McDowell, Fred Hemric and Allen Bullard** (to 1981).



Science Hill Friends Meeting.



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# HOOVER'S GROVE WESLEYAN CHURCH

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**A**ndrew Hoover, great-great-great grandfather of Herbert Hoover, 31st President of the United States, came to Randolph County and settled in the Farmers Community in 1774. He died in 1794 and is buried in a family cemetery about a mile from Hoover's Grove Wesleyan Church.

Many of the Hoover descendants have continued to live in the Farmer Community. One of them, **Adam Hoover**, gave the land on which the church stands.

**Adam Hoover** had a grandson, **Willie Ridge**, the child of his daughter **Lucinda** and her husband, **Alson Ridge**. At seventeen months the child contracted diptheria, and on September 12, 1879, died. **Adam** told his daughter that if she would bury the beloved grandson on his land near the road, he would see that a church would be erected there. She complied with his wish.

Very soon work began on the church building.

The original structure was quite rustic — built of roughly sawed timbers. Some of the framing was pegged together with wooden pegs, and the roof was constructed of handmade shingles. The sides were weather-boarded with rough planks. The pews and pulpit furniture were handmade.

In 1959 a program was launched among the Hoover's Grove members and friends for the construction of a new building for the church. The **Rev. J.E. Shaw**, **Paul McDowell**, **Willie Yother**, **Aster Gallimore**, and **Taylor Swaney** served as the building committee. Voluntary labor, gifts from people in the church and from the community, and the generosity of business men made the construction possible.

Pews were donated by families, and windows were given in memory of relatives.

Many ministers have served this rural church and community, proclaiming the message of life then and now.



Hoover's Grove Wesleyan Church.

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# GRAVEL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

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In the spring of 1900, the Rev. Lindsay G. Lewis began to conduct monthly worship services in the Gravel Hill school house. At the same time, a Sunday school was organized and carried forward with considerable success.

In November, the following fall, the minister held a protracted meeting, at which time much interest in the church and its work was manifested among the community's people. As a result of the interest, A.A. Loflin, a local land owner, deeded an acre of land to the church group for the purpose of erecting a sanctuary.

During the next spring and summer months, construction was started and sustained. By November of that second year, the building was

sufficiently completed for the church's second fall protracted meeting. The meeting began Sunday, November 17, and ran for a week.

During the week, a number of the worshipers made known their desire to be constituted in a full-fledged Baptist Church. Consequently, an examining Presbytery of Elders Jeff Lanning and Henry Sheets came to look at their credentials and decide on the request.

The church was subsequently instituted with thirteen charter members. The organization was consummated Nov. 21, 1901.

The present brick building was erected in 1932. Additions were made again in 1948 and 1973. The fellowship hall was erected in 1974-75.



Gravel Hill Baptist Church.



## II

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# OAK GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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**T**he Oak Grove United Methodist Church was organized years before the Science Hill Academy was built in 1848, as services were held in the school house after the old log church became untenable. The first sanctuary stood northeast of the cemetery, which is still in use. The first grave there is that of a **Josey Tadlock**.

The present sanctuary, erected north of the academy building, was begun in 1886, and finished the next year. The builders were **J. Watson Lassiter, Thomas P. Lassiter, and J.O. Elliott**. Serving as pastor at that time was the **Rev. G.B. Perry**. The three classrooms were added in 1953.

At first Oak Grove was a member of the Uwharrie Circuit, then the District of Salisbury. In 1884 it was changed to Trinity College District. Then in 1893 it became a part of the Greensboro

District. Since that time, it has been in the High Point District, the Thomasville, and is now back in the High Point District.

Oak Grove has served the Lassiter Mill area, and many Lassiters are buried there, the first one being **Micajah Lassiter, Sr.**, who had 21 children by two wives. His headstone states that he had 213 descendants surviving him.

**Micajah Lassiter, Sr.**, was the only child of **Joseph and Sarah Hill Lassiter**, the original Lassiters in the area.

**Mrs. Elizabeth Fuller Patton** relates a story about the maple trees in the church yard: **Mary Hill Lassiter**, wife of **Milton Birkhead** and daughter of **Micajah and Martha Winslow Lassiter**, gave a Negro man a ham to set out the trees. They stand today, giving grace and dignity to the scene.



Oak Grove United Methodist Church.

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## FARMER BAPTIST CHURCH

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**S**ixteen members of the Gravel Hill Baptist Church in New Hope Township decided to establish a church in Farmer. **Arthur Harris** gave the land, a plot of ground on the north side of the Dunbar Bridge Road at the break of the slope east of the post office, for the church site. A modern brick structure was erected there on Road 1170 in the year 1950.

The first service was held there on September

17 of that year. The Reverends **F.E. Baucom** and **Vance Edwards** filled the pulpit that first year. The following pastors have led the congregaton since then until 1978 in the order named: **Harold Carlton, Roy Mull, Harvy Davis, W.A. Wilson, Grady Blakely, Roy Mull, Claudie Harrison, and Max Walker.**

The present minister, **Lowell Brown**, has been serving the church since September 17, 1978.



Farmer Baptist Church.



# 13

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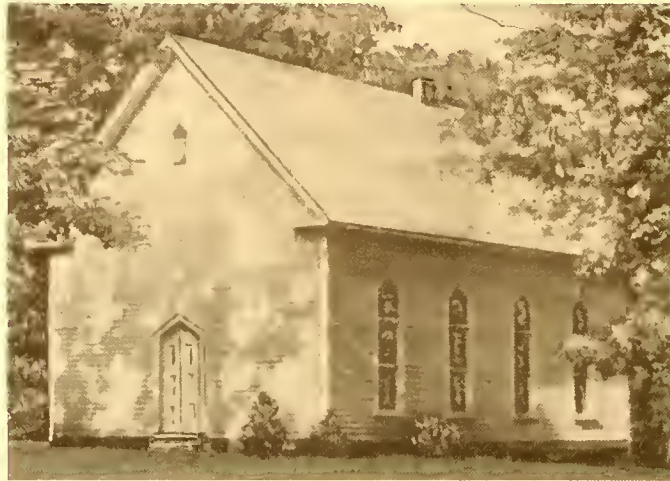
## UNION METHODIST CHURCH

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The Union Methodist Church, which was located north of Lassiter's Mill crossing on Road #1107, burned after a church service one Sunday morning in 1940. A part of the Farmer Charge, it was not rebuilt. Its members moved their memberships to the Oak Grove and

Farmer churches. Union was probably organized about 1900.

The fire is believed to have started from the flue, since there was no electrical wiring in the building. The cemetery is still maintained there, and is cared for by the **Thornburg** family.



Union Methodist Church

# 14

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## CALVARY GOSPEL CHURCH

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Calvary Gospel Church, non-denominational, founded 1970. The Rev. Frank Barrett, pastor (1981). It is located 3.2 miles southeast of Highway #49 on New Hope Road.



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# ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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**T**he first records of this church were made in 1893 and the first pastor was **Cicero Laughlin**. Originally there were around fifty to sixty members. At present there are fourteen or fifteen members (1981). Once a month on the second Sunday, Sunday School and worship are held at St. Mark which is located about 6.5 miles south of Asheboro just off Highway #49 on Road 1170. Some members also attend other churches in the community.

A community choir was organized in 1963 with several members from St. Mark. **Hazel Caviness** is the president. This group shares their musical programs in the community during worship services and funerals. They participate in activities

beyond the community. This organization is responsible for the building of the United Community Center that is near St. Mark's United Methodist Church.

The present pastor, (1981), **Rev. John Moore** serves St. Luke United Methodist Church in Asheboro as well as St. Mark.

The Red House school building was near St. Mark United Methodist Church. The school dates back at least to the beginning of the 1900's. Some teachers of this school were **Hazel Caviness, Daisy Cross, Sherman Spinks, Vella Lassiter, Hattie Crisp, Sarah Lassiter, Flossie Brewer** and **Honora Spinks**.



St. Mark's United Methodist Church (Red House), built 1893.



# III — SCHOOLS

ACADEMIES AND INSTITUTES

SCIENCE HILL ACADEMY

OAK GROVE SCHOOL

NEW HOPE SCHOOL — ACADEMY

THE SAGA OF THE FARMER SCHOOL

100TH ANNIVERSARY

BOMBAY INSTITUTE

PINEY GROVE SCHOOL

DAVIS MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

REDBERRY SCHOOL

ONE ROOM SCHOOLS

SALEM SCHOOL

FAIRMONT SCHOOL

SCHOOLS ABSORBED BY THE FARMER SCHOOL

TEXTBOOKS





# I

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## ACADEMIES AND INSTITUTES

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**W**hen the Farmers Academy was founded in 1882, three other academies were already operating in nearby communities. Another was founded during its tenure as an "Institute."

Science Hill Academy ..... 1845

Oak Grove Seminary (Academy) ..... 1858  
Near Oak Grove Methodist Episcopal Church, New Hope Township.

New Hope Academy ..... 1859  
At junction of Brinkles Ferry and Troy Roads, New Hope Township.

Farmers Academy ..... 1882  
Became Farmers Institute after 1893.  
Became Farmer High School in 1907.  
The old three story building burned in 1923.

Bombay Academy ..... 1897  
Located off Bombay Road from Highway 49 to New Hope.

# 2

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## SCIENCE HILL ACADEMY

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**O**ut of the past comes a short dissertation to extol the accomplishments of the Science Hill Academy, which was founded in 1848 to provide, except for a couple of years during the Civil War, "advanced" education for young men and women from a wide area until 1875 when the "new system of teaching came in vogue" and the academy at Science Hill gave way to other educational institutions. The dissertation was composed by one of Farmer's more enlightened citizens of the past: **D.G. (Green) McMasters**, sometimes called "Green Mack." **McMasters**, who himself taught at the academy during the last months of the Civil War, prepared, before he passed on early in this century, a written account of the academy as he obviously knew it:

### Science Hill Academy

*Educational Institution Before the War  
College Graduates for Teachers*

The academy at Science Hill was built in 1858-59 by the combined efforts of **Thos. Lowe**, **Wm. Lowe**, **John McDaniel**, **Zebedee Rush**, **John Dunbar**, **John Hammond**, **William Hammond**,

**Benjamin Brookshire**, **William Bingham**, and others.

**Christopher Gray** and **William Henley** were the carpenters. The house is fifty by twenty-four feet, but was not large enough in that "dark age," as the educators in this enlightened and progressive age call it. The academy was filled to its seating capacity, one half of whom were young men and girls, who were far advanced when they left school.

**J.H. Brooks**, a graduate of Chapel Hill, and an eminent lawyer, taught (there) from 1850 to 1852, his commencement being on the 29th day of July, 1852.

**Samuel T. Wiley** then taught one year, **L.D. Andrews** taught one year, **T.L. Troy** taught one year. **Miss Sarah Henley** taught next, and **Miss Abigail Hill** taught in 1856. **Miss Mary Coltrane** and **Z.F. Rush** taught during 1857-58. Then **J.R. Bulla** taught two years and closed his school on the 2nd day of June 1860.

**M.S. Robbins** then taught in 1860-61, and till the spring of 1862, when all the boys by volunteering (to join the Confederate armed forces) broke up the school.

I do not remember who taught then, if anyone, until the winter of 1864 and the spring of 1865 when I taught until the 14th of April, five days after General Robert E. Lee surrendered.

In the winter of 1867 and until June 1868, T.L. Cox taught.

Since that time seven other teachers taught till that time the new system of teaching came in vogue, as they call it, and the school center was at another place.

(The teachers) J.H. Brooks, S.H. Wiley, and

M.S. Robbins were graduates of the University of North Carolina. J.R. Bulla, L.D. Andrews, and T.L. Troy were graduates of Trinity College. Sarah Henley and Abigail Hill were graduates of New Garden, now Guilford College. Talton Cox and I, as we were preparing to enter college, were called to the war between the states (Civil War). Three of the above teachers were lawyers, one a local minister in the M.E. Church.

(Signed) D.G. McMasters

### 3

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## OAK GROVE SCHOOL

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**T**he Oak Grove School house stood a short distance northeast of the Oak Grove Methodist Church. At least two buildings were used as schools there. At one time, according

to tradition, it was also called an "Academy."

Some teachers who taught there were **Hester Reynolds**, **Priscilla Hill**, and **Jennie Lassiter**. Some pupils of Oak Grove who later attended the Farmer High School: **Lucille Kearns**, **Lena Cashatt**, **Rex Carter**, and **Adrian Burkhead**, who walked approximately four miles each way from his home to the Oak Grove School.



OAK GROVE SCHOOL — Mrs. Lanier's pupils: Lola Lanier, Beady Frye, Anne Shaw, Emma Jean Yates, Veda Yates, Nina Loflin.



OAK GROVE SCHOOL — Mrs. Lanier's pupils.





OAK GROVE ACADEMY SCHOOL (circa 1914— Front Row, left to right: Hal Yates, Fred Loffin, Hal Luther, Clarence Henderson, Harold Carter. Second Row, left to right: Connie Bouldin, Ethel Yeargen, Kate Thornburg, Nina Loffin, Edna Bouldin, Rosa Thornburg, Herbert Luther, Bob Yeargen, Walser Thornburg, Carl Loffin. Third Row, left to right: Blanche Yeargen, Viola Miller, Aire Miller, Nannie Loffin, Savannah Copple, Maude Loffin, Annie Thornburg. Fourth Row, left to right: Lewis Cranford, Val Yates, Hill Lassiter, Coy Loffin, Virgil Loffin, Henry Thornburg, Baxter Carter, Dewey Miller. Teacher: Priscilla Hill Luther.

## 4

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# NEW HOPE SCHOOL — ACADEMY

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The New Hope School came to life in 1879, at the beginning of a period that saw many educational institutions established in Randolph County. Located on the Martha-to-Troy Road (1181 today), the school was started when a committee for \$17.50 bought one and three-fourths acres from **Temple Cranford**, son of **Sawney Cranford**. That committee was made up of **McCain Russell**, **Cornelison Loffin**, **W.E. Andrews**, **L.D. Andrews**, **William Lewis**, and **H.L.**

**Steed** (book 41, page 278, Register of Deeds, Randolph County Courthouse).

The original school house, located near where the present church stands, was a one-roomed log structure. For a number of years it was used for church services also.

After a few years, a new building was erected and the Academy established. That building, which stood where the brick building was erected in 1935, consisted of one long room with a stage

at one end. A curtain partition was used when two teachers were employed.

Academy pupils came from a wide area, some of them boarding with families in the community. The academy continued until 1907 when the state assumed control of public education. The old structure was replaced by a brick building in 1935 and continued to serve as a public school until 1952. It was then remodeled into a two-

apartment dwelling and burned in 1975.

Before the turn of the century, Sherrill Lasiter taught for a while at New Hope and had an organized band there. Some of the other teachers were Nannie Lou Cranford, George T. Gunter, Georgia Howell, Dolly Kearns, Blanche Surratt, Ola Bescher, Lena Gallimore, Lula Andrews, Allen Prevost, \_\_\_\_\_ Wall, Polly Robbins Russell, Tenny Shaw Cornelison, and Lucy Cranford.



**MRS. ARTHUR GALLIMORE AND HER NEW HOPE SCHOOL PUPILS**, left to right **FRONT ROW**: George Donald Lanier, Lester Sanders, Gene Shaw, Jane Sanders, Nettie Lou Hill, Shelby Jean Luther; **SECOND ROW**: Betty Maie Shears, Ruby Johnson, Helen Cranford, Armisic Cagle; **THIRD ROW**: Vernon Simmons, Earl Hill, James Shaw, Dorse Hogan, Willis Russell, Five are deceased: Lester Sanders, Betty Maie Shears, Earl Hill, and Willis Russell.



**MRS. OLA BISHER AND HER NEW HOPE PUPILS** left to right **FIRST ROW**: Betty Mae Russell, Maude Eva Shaw, Jo Ann Hill, Emogene Luther, Shirley Shaw, Leatrice Daniel; **SECOND ROW**: Gary Luther, Paul Saunders, Ray Shaw, Norma Shears, Hoyt Loflin, Dwight Loflin, Walter Hill, Houston Russell, Hoyt Cranford.



*. . . Programme . . .*

*New Hope High School, May 15, 1907.*

*10:30 A. M., Music.*

Abraham Lincoln, - - - - - Cleveland Bean  
The Union Soldier, - - - - - Carr Lyndon  
The Art of Optimism, - - - - - Charles Strider

MUSIC

What is Truth? - - - - - Will Strider  
The Babies, - - - - - Rufus Lassiter

MUSIC

11:15 Literary Address - Hon. W. W. Kitchen, of Roxboro, N. C.

*Intermission*

*2 O'CLOCK P. M., MUSIC*

The Courting of Arabella.  
Appleby, - - - - - Nettie Luther  
The Tragedy of Dodd's Place - - - - - Lydie Lassiter  
The Ringing of the Curfew, - - - - - Beatrice Bruton

MUSIC

The Death of Mary Stuart, - - - - - Bettie Lyndon

MUSIC

Mrs. Slowly at the Hotel, - - - - - Jennie Lassiter  
My Pets, - - - - - Luna Kearns

MUSIC

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*To-night, . . . "Serving Two Masters"*

*A Negro Farce, Immensely Humorous.*

*Admission, 15c.*

NEW HOPE HIGH SCHOOL Program, 1907.



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# THE SAGA OF THE FARMER SCHOOL

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**F**armer is a small country village clustering around the school.

The first school building, built about 1871 or '72 was a three-room house, and the first teacher after it was erected was **Prof. Harris Skeen**, who taught for four years, and was succeeded by **Prof. Will Bradshaw**, **Prof. W.C. Hammer**, (now congressman) and others whose names were not learned.

Before this house was built **Miss Lizzie Rice** taught very successfully in the church, and it was through her influence, and that of **Prof. Skeen**, that the community subscribed to a fund for a school building. **Miss Rice** was the daughter of **Thomas Rice**, and afterward married **D. Matt Thompson**, who for many years was superintendent of the city schools in Statesville. After being in use for about 20 years, this first building was found to be too small, and a much larger one was erected. **Gideon Macon**, **Calier Kearns**, and **N.W. Newby** were the three most liberal contributors to the cost of this house, as well as **Dr. C.H. Lewis**, who was practicing medicine here at the time. Many smaller contributions were secured and the house was finished about 1893.

**Prof. Elmer Fentress** was the first teacher in the new house. This building was never owned by the county until several years after the establishment of a state high school in 1907. All pupils, except those in the lower grades, paid tuition, and a very successful boarding school was kept up for many years. This second building was burned in February, 1923, and the present one, a modern brick structure, with steam heat, electric lights, and modern plumbing, was begun in July of last year (1924). It was ready for use in February.

The present faculty (1924) is as follows: **Prin. F.A. Ficquett**; **Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Lank**, high school teachers; **Mrs. Ficquett**, **Misses Lula Spencer**, **Pearl Parsons**, **Mamie Lackey**, and **Linnie Dorsett**, in the lower grades; **Mr. R.F. Bracken**, farm life teacher.

The first merchant to engage in business there was **N.W. Newby**, now of Mt. Gilead. He was succeeded at different times by **G.T. Macon**, **J.F.**

**Cameron**, **I.S. Kearns**, **R.W. Dorsett**, and by the present merchants, **J.R. Hammond**, and **A.L. Hill**.

Among the prominent families from 1870 to 1890 who were instrumental in establishing a school here were the **Rushes**, **Cranfords**, **Fullers**, **Lewis**, **Rices**, **Horneys**, **Skeens**, **Johnsons**, and **Lassiters**. Drawn by the school other families came to the neighborhood, among whom were the **Kearns**, **Dorsetts**, and **Macons**.

**Dr. C.C. Hubbard** came here in 1908 from Worthville.

Farmer Roller mill was built in 1908 by **K.P. Plummer** and **J.O. Kearns**.

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*Reprinted from a 1924 newspaper account by Mrs. C.C. Hubbard.*

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The Farmer School has run the gamut of change from a one-teacher subscription day school up the scale to a private academy, a private institute, a full-fledged public high school, then back down the scale to a junior high and to a middle school, its present status (1981).

The school, however, for a hundred years or more, has served as a focal point for much of the community affairs, since a great many of the people's activities have been school related. Its educational programs, its teachers, its athletic events, its plays and recitals, its commencements—have all been an integral part of the village life. Like a project of a large family, the school's welfare—present and future—has been the concern of every Farmer citizen.

The Farmer School has been traced back to 1879 when **Miss Lizzie Rice** was given permission to operate a day school in the Concord Methodist Church, which had been built in 1859 immediately north of the Farmer Cemetery. The school remained in the church for three years; then a school building was erected farther up the hill, about where the central building of the present school structures stands today (1981). That



The Farmer High School building that burned in 1923. Built in 1893, it served as the "Farmer Institute" until 1907 when it became a public school. An academy building preceded the above structure.

# CLOSING EXERCISES

OF

## FARMERS HIGH SCHOOL

FARMERS, N. C.,

Friday, May 13th, 1892, 10 o'clock, A. M.

### INSTRUCTORS:

WILL. H. CROWDER, *Prin.* MRS. WILL. H. CROWDER, *Assist.*

### MARSHALS:

C. E. RIDGE, Chief, Farmers, N. C. W. P. THORNBURY, Rachel, N. C.  
J. M. MONROE, Farmers, N. C.

### MANAGERS:

W. S. CROWDER, Chief, Queen, N. C. A. H. HARRISON, Denton, N. C.  
O. H. FRY, New Hope Academy, N. C.

Next Session will begin August the 15th, 1892.

## PROGRAMME.

1. Music .....
2. What I don't Like to See ..... T. D. Rice
3. Class Poem ..... Miss Hattie Cox
4. North Carolina's Independence ..... W. S. Steed
5. Heroism ..... L. M. Kearns
6. Music .....
7. Push On ..... Miss Mattie Steed
8. Our Duties to our Country ..... C. H. Vuncannon
9. Live Not to Yourself ..... Miss Rouina Plumber
10. Opportunity for Effort ..... W. R. Newby
11. Music .....
12. Bernardo Del Carrpio ..... Miss Rebecca Parrish
13. The Snow of Age ..... J. M. Monroe
14. The Unseen Battle Field ..... Miss Claudie Steed
15. True Manliness ..... Z. W. Nance
16. Music .....
17. The Woman of Mumbles Head ..... Miss Mittie Bingham
18. Night in Eden ..... Miss Maggie Ingram
19. Our Country, Past and Present ..... A. H. Harrison
20. Music .....
21. The Fireman ..... Miss Lorena Vuncannon
22. The World Moves ..... C. F. Ridge
23. Morning ..... Miss Estella Elliott
24. Perseverance ..... O. H. Fry
25. Music .....
26. My Mother! My Country! My God! ..... H. L. Fuller
27. The Ideal Woman ..... Miss Genie Monroe
28. The Demagogue ..... W. P. Thornbury
29. Music .....
30. Bingen On the Rhine ..... Miss Julia Parrish
31. History ..... R. J. Wood
32. The Palmetto and The Pine ..... Miss Ida Vuncannon
33. Music .....
34. Let the War of Races End ..... W. S. Crowder
35. The Voiceless Chimes ..... Miss Lillian Miller
36. Let the Dead Past Burry the Dead ..... R. B. Ridge
37. Music .....
38. A Brave Woman ..... Miss Mary Leflin
39. The Actor's Story ..... Miss Minnie Skeen
40. Music .....
41. Valedictory ..... Miss Crissa Miller

### AWARDING MEDALS.

Literary Address by Prof. Martin Holt, Oak Ridge, N. C.

### DOXOLOGY.

COLE'S PRINTING HOUSE, SANFORD, N. C.





THE FARMER DRAMATIC CLUB of 1901. A group of students from the Institute, including, left to right FRONT ROW: Unknown, Jessie Lassiter, Unknown; SECOND ROW: Prof. James Bost, Unknown, Mary Groom, art teacher; THIRD ROW: Bob Fuller, John Kearns, Adrian Burkhead, Herman Cranford, Unknown, Bertha Dorsett, and Lewis Dorsett.

building served the Farmer Academy until it burned in 1893. William C. Hammer, who later owned and edited the *Asheboro Courier* and served in the U.S. Congress, was at one time a teacher and principal in the academy. Instrumental in the formation of the academy were Julius Horney, James Skeen, and Burrell B. Ridge. The academy grew rapidly in size and reputation, becoming well-known for its excellence, and drawing students from a wide area.

In 1892, before the academy building burned and was replaced by the "Institute" structure, the academy evidently considered itself a high school and was using "High School" in its name. In a program card prepared for commencement exercises in May of that year, it was referred to as "Farmers High School" (See a copy of that programme under the heading "Closing Exercises of Farmers High School" elsewhere in this historical booklet).

When the old building was burned, the school's supporters replaced it with a three-story



FARMER SCHOOL — Linnie Dorsett, Maude Nance, Hope Hubbard, Kate Nance, Cammie Nance, Arthur Macon, Reginald Porter, Emma Dorsett, Carlyle Lewis, Irvin Kearns, Gladys Porter, Mary Ingle.





**FARMER SCHOOL (1906 or 1907)**

**FRONT ROW:** James Rush (?), Ivey Pierce, Unknown, Rufus Russell, Raymond Kearns, Lon Russell, Carl Hammond, ? Kearns, Neal Kearns, Tom Hammond, Wood Russell, Sidney Kearns. **SECOND ROW:** Effie Rush, Ada Hammond, Lula Spencer, Lucile Kearns, Ethel Kearns, Ruby Fuller, Edith Spencer, Annie Cranford, Etta Pierce, Emma Trotter, Claudia Trotter, Juanita Kearns, Henrietta Lassiter. **THIRD ROW:** Robert Johnson, Micajah Bingham, Jeffrey Horney, Wade Kearns, Charles Cameron, George Kearns, Elmer Burkhead (?), Eugene Horney, Manley Fuller, Bob Hammond, Luna Kearns, Dorothy Hubbard, Mary Parker, Leatta Kearns, Unknown. **FOURTH ROW:** Hal Kearns, Clay Cranford, Joe Kearns, Van Cranford, Claude Dorsett, Elbert Kearns, Edgar Kearns, Othel Kearns, Clarence Russell, Estley Kearns (?), Lewis Nance, John Trotter, Byron Nance, Lonnie Fuller, Maude Lassiter, Mary Horney, James Rush, Jennie Lassiter, Priscilla Hill, Lena Steed. **SHORT ROW:** Claude Birkhead, Jeff Arnold, Fred Kearns, Clay Nance, Elsie Luther, Rufus Lassiter, Esta Horney, Hope Hubbard, Bettie Byrd, Loretta Spencer. **BACK ROW:** Sam Barnes, Adrian Birkhead, Ernest Luther, Arthur Macon, Chester Bulla, Frank Steed, John Arnold, William, Horney, Walter Newby, Walter Johnson, Walter Ridge, George Dorsett, Frank Birkhead, Gertrude Ridge, Linnie Dorsett, Mamie Pierce. **TEACHERS:** Berta Hutchins, Elbie Miller.



**FARMER SCHOOL – FRONT ROW:** Hub Kearns, Zeb Rush, Jim Rush, Dallas Elliott, Hazel Kearns, Hallie Trogdon, Vivian Kearns, Norine Birkhead, Madge Kearns, Bernice Kearns, Unknown; **SECOND ROW:** Paul Hammond, Estley Kearns, Unknown, Lewis Kearns, Velon Kearns, Anna Spencer, Lena Cashatt, Ila Morgan, Ethel Roach, Neal Kearns, behind Neal Kearns (unknown); **THIRD ROW:** Sid Kearns, Fred Bingham, Elsie Cashatt, Irvin Lassiter, Hazel Trogdon, Alton Kearns, Rosa Elliott; **BACK ROW:** Myrtle Barnes, Thelma Trogdon, Ruth Presnell, Blanche Bingham, Lyde Bingham.



frame structure complete with a large auditorium that took most of the second floor, and steeped bell tower. It also contained three well-furnished recitation rooms, two literary society halls (debating, declaiming, and reciting having important roles in the educational programs in that era), a music room, and a Masonic Hall. There were also cloak rooms, a basket room, a library, and an office.

Henry Cranford, Tom Lassiter, and Warren Rush — all local men — were the carpenters that put the building up. They are remembered as the best workmen of that time.

The board of trustees, who chose to name the renovated institution "Farmer Institute," were Callier Kearns, president, N.W. Newby, secretary and treasurer, Marvin P. Skeen, Erasmus Ingram, Gideon Macon, D.B. Lewis, and B.B. Ridge. Most of these men, as well as many others, contributed generously to the building fund.

The first faculty for the new institute consisted of Thomas C. Amick, principal, a graduate of Nashville and Peabody Normal College in Tennessee; Phillip E. Shaw; Bethenel S. Kearns; and Miss Luna E. Neal.

A catalogue issued for the 1894-95 term said that the site of the institute was chosen because it "is one of the finest agricultural districts in our county, it is removed from the temptations of the town and city life."

"We regard the community as particularly



**FARMER HIGH SCHOOL BAND.** Soon after the Farmer school became a public high school, Sherrill Lassiter, a teacher, organized a band, shown above. Lassiter is seated before the group. This picture, taken about 1910, contains the following: left to right **FRONT ROW:** Lewis Steed, Elbert Kearns, Fred Kearns, Irvin Kearns, Arthur Macon, Clay Cranford, Numa Russell; **BACK ROW:** Clay Nance, Walter Kearns, Frank Steed, Ed Kearns, William Horney, and Marvin Kearns.

adapted to sustain a school of high grade, because of its moral and religious sentiment, its temperance sentiment and its active educational spirit which now persuades its people," the catalogue said.

Students boarded with the families of the community. Board (including meals, fuel for heating, furnishings, etc.) was \$6 per month. "Young ladies and young men will not be allowed to



**6TH GRADE, 1914, FARMER SCHOOL.** **FRONT ROW:** Lewis Kearns, Estley Kearns, James Rush, Elsie Cashatt, Esther Russell, Lyde Bingham, Irving Lassiter, Alton Kearns; **SECOND ROW:** Allen McDaniel, Alec Yeargan, Ila Morgan, Blanche Bingham; **THIRD ROW:** Sid Kearns, Fred Bingham, Thelma Trogdon, Ruth Presnell.





**10TH GRADE. 1914, FARMER HIGH SCHOOL. FRONT ROW:** Ethel Kearns, Percy Morgan, Ida Myers; **SECOND ROW:** Mamie Thompson, Carl Vuncannon, Adleta Trogdon, Coy Kearns; **BACK ROW:** Claude Walker, Erman Trogdon, Carl Lassiter, Claude Dorsett.

board with the same families," the catalogue warned.

"There will be two entirely and distinct departments of our school: the Male and the Female! Boys and girls will be together only on recitations and there will be allowed no communication between the two sexes. Social entertainments will be given from time to time as the faculty sees fit."

The Farmer Institute had an enrollment of 89, 37 of which were female, that first year of 1893-94. It continued to grow and attract students, as well as good teachers, from outside the community. In a letter written about his experiences there, H.M. Loy of Jacksonville, N.C., wrote:

In the fall of 1895 George Neese and I entered school at the Farmer Institute, Farmer, North Carolina. At that time, W.H. Boone, a graduate of Elon College, was principal, and Prof. H.C. Stout, Alamance



**FARMER SCHOOL 1915? – FRONT ROW:** Raymond Horney, Edward Morgan, Tom Hammond, Jake Presnell, Wood Russell, Othell Kearns, Neal Kearns, Sid Kearns, Estely Kearns, Robert Free, Willy Plummer, Herbert Kearns, Wilbur Pierce, Robert Fuller, Lewis Kearns, Zeb Rush, Raymond Kearns, "Jim" Rush, Tom Burkhead, Earl Kearns. **SECOND ROW:** Hazel Kearns, Fay Kearns, Vida Cornelison, Leah Hammond, Vivian Kearns, Bernice Kearns, Velon Kearns, Rosa Elliott, Hazel Trogdon, Ethel Roach, Ruby Kearns, Ruth Presnell, Madge Kearns, Dallas Elliott, Hallie Trogdon, Blanche Bingham, Esther Russell, Norine Burkhead, Lena Cashatt, Ocia Morgan, Lyde Bingham, Elsie Cashatt, Mildred Russell, Lena Lassiter, Sam Hudson. **THIRD ROW:** Luna Kearns, Louise Kearns, Henrietta Newlin, Ina Ellington, Lydia Bingham, Effie Rush, Ida Bingham, Thelma Trogdon, Ila Morgan, Ada Hammond, Edith Spencer, Lucille Kearns, Leata Kearns, Virginia Steed, Annie Cranford, Ethel Kearns, Lula Spencer, Vernon Nance, Carl Hammond, Paul Hammond, George Steed, Irvin Lassiter, Joe Steed, Alton Kearns. **FOURTH ROW:** Annie Morris, Mamie Thompson, Janie Elliott, Sallie Morris, Tom Morgan, Rosa Barnes, Benson Bingham, Raymond Nance, Percy Morgan, Dorsey Lewis, Orvil Wood, Bunkster Bingham, Glenn Lassiter, Wade Hussey, Jeffrey Horney, Eugene Horney. **FIFTH ROW:** George Kearns, Carl Lassiter, Austin Elliott, Adleta Trogdon, Ida Meyers, Alice Thompson, Myrtle Barnes, Juanita Kearns, Fred Bingham, Pearl Hussey, Martin Cooper, Mary Horney, Mose Adams, Edith Parrish, Walter Morgan, Esther Horney (Teacher), Linnie Shamburg (Principal), Pearl Gordon, (Teacher), Nettie Highfield (Teacher), Claude Dorsett, Van Cranford, Edwin Cooper, Elmer Burkhead. **IN WINDOWS:** 1. Coy Kearns, Joe Kearns, Lewis Nance. 2. Bud Kearns, Lewis Cooper, Bob Morris.



County, was assistant. There were probably as many as 30 boarding pupils. The girls, most of them, boarded with families in the community. The price of board was \$6 per month.

The course of study was about what was required for college entrance. The tuition was \$40 per year.

Neese and I graduated in the spring of 1898, and I think we were the first two graduates to receive diplomas at that institution.

The school building was a three-story frame building, rather large for those days. The desks and blackboards were modern in every respect. In fact, Farmer Institute at that time was a very good preparatory school.

In those days there were no automobiles.

We had to board a train at Burlington and we were met at Asheboro by someone who took us and our baggage in a wagon (to the institute) a distance of twelve miles.

Esta Horney Morgan, daughter of Julius Horney, in her notes about the Farmer school says that the graduating class of 1904 included Ed Macon, Agnes Johnson, and Margaret (Maggie) Horney. Teachers at the Institute that year were Eugene Harris, principal, Laura Gibson, Helen Newbold, and Miss Annie Johnson (music).

As a private institute, the Farmer school continued its contribution to the educational excellence of the community and the state until 1907 when the General Assembly enacted law providing for the creation and maintenance of public high schools in every county, the location of the



FARMER HIGH SCHOOL (1916 or 1917) — FRONT ROW: Sam Lewis (?), Wade Kearns, Clarence Russell, Unknown, Glenn Lassiter, Elmer Burkhead; SECOND ROW: Claude Dorsett, Carl Vuncannon, Frank Bingham, Wade Hussey, Austin Elliott, Martin Cooper, Phillip Garner; THIRD ROW: Linnie Shamburger (Teacher), Neal Kearns, Ethel Kearns, Carl Hammond, Virginia Steed, Ina Ellington, Henrietta Lassiter, Esther Hussey, Bob Hammond, Unknown; FOURTH ROW: Lee Atta Kearns, Lula Spencer, Lucille Kearns, Edith Spencer; FIFTH ROW: Sally Morris, Alice Thompson, Adleta Trogdon, Mamie Thompson, Sarah Shaw, Emma Loflin, Unknown, Ida Meyers, Edith Parrish, Grade Thornburg; SIXTH ROW: Luna Kearns, Mary Horney, Unknown; BACK ROW: Percy Morgan, Carl Lassiter, Erman Trogdon, Dyle Cranford, Mose Adams, Hobson Johnson, Brian Cox, Joe Kearns, Willie Trogdon, George Kearns, Claude Walker.



schools to be determined by the environment most conducive to the general purpose of education. Taking into consideration all the advantages offered, and the broad field in the southwestern part of Randolph County, the Board of Education designated Farmer as a place suitably situated for one of the schools.

The trustees of the institute—J.H. Kearns, chm., Madison Hammond, A.J. Macon, L.M. Kearns, and H.C. Nance—permitted the institute building to be used for the public high school, and the school continued under the control of the state. E.J. Coltrane was made County Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1907.

The members of the faculty at that first state controlled school were C. Linnie Shamburger, principal, Adna Lamb, Nettie Highfill, and Esta Horney, who also served as librarian.

The first graduating class of the Farmer High School, which included grades 8—11, listed Hope Hubbard, Alma Lassiter, Kate Dorsett, Maggie Parrish, Walter Kearns, and Conrad Horney. Teachers at that time were George Bradshaw, principal, Miss Betts, Gladys Highfill, Pearl Gordon, Linnie Shamburger, Mr. Carson, Mamie



Jesse Garner, Principal Farmer High School.



**FARMER HIGH SENIORS 1918.** The girls put on their middy blouses and the boys donned hard collars and neckties to have their picture taken. **FRONT ROW:** Edith Spencer, Ina Ellington, Henrietta Lassiter, Virginia Steed; **SECOND ROW:** William A. Young, prin., Frances Varner, Clarence Russell, Jamie Hammond; **THIRD ROW:** Lyde Kearns, Moleta Morgan, Lola Allred, Mabel Morgan; **FOURTH ROW:** Baxter Allred, Glenn Lassiter, and Carl Hammond.



**FARMER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 1918.** **FRONT ROW:** Nellie K. Dry—teacher, Esther Russell, Clara Morris, Lyde Bingham; **SECOND ROW:** Roy Varner, Tom Hammond, Irvin Lassiter, Lewis Kearns; **THIRD ROW:** Elsie Cashatt, Ila Morgan, Blanche Bingham; **FOURTH ROW:** Wood Russell, Edward Morgan, Fred Bingham, Allen McDaniel.





The Farmer School students in 1918. First Grade through High School.

Lamb, Henry Smith, Maggie Horney, Sherrill Lassiter, Frances Marshall, and Esta Horney (there was one other teacher whose name has been lost).

During this period in the school's history Sherrill Lassiter organized a brass band. Members were S.T. Lassiter, Walter Kearns, Elbert Kearns, Lewis Steed, Frank Steed, Marvin Kearns, Ed Kearns, William Horney, Clay Nance, Irvin Kearns, Fred Kearns, and Clay Cranford. At that time also, Hiram Bell taught music. His father was pastor of the church and his mother taught music in the parsonage.

At the end of each school year, the school staged a series of programs, usually for the entertainment and enlightenment of its patrons, called a "Commencement." Long hours were spent in practice of the plays, recitations, musical renditions, the baseball game, etc. Hawkers from as far away as High Point came to erect business "stands" from which they sold refreshments and that day's version of "fast foods" to the commencement crowd. One thing they sold was lemonade made in a galvanized washtub. Another delicacy was bananas hanging yellow from the stalk, a strange and thrilling sight to many of the Farmer children of that day (Esta Morgan says).

Featuring the morning exercises of that day was an address from some distinguished speaker — some widely known politician, educator, or business man. He spoke to the seniors and the assembled citizens gathered in the auditorium. Following the address, dinner was held on the grounds.

Parents and friends brought picnic baskets filled with their favorite recipes, which they spread on a communal table set up under the trees. That event not only took care of the appetites of those gathered for the day, but it gave them the opportunity to visit with neighbors they had not seen since commencement the year before.

In the afternoon, the school's baseball team, sometimes using teachers and principal in the line-up, played, weather permitting, a game, sometimes with another school, sometimes the "town" team. That night, to wind up the year,



FARMER SCOUTS — 1924 — Ocia Morgan, Hope Hubbard, Mozelle Johnson, Janet McMasters, Pid Johnson, Mary Lewis Skeen, Elizabeth Fuller, Madge Johnson, Hazel Kearns.





**FARMER SCHOOL FIRST GRADE**—FIRST ROW, left to right: Pallie Shaw, Callie Scarlett, Kathleen Bescher, Jacklyene Bingham, Miriam Wham, Unknown, Lewella Bane, Unknown, Claudia Harris, Unknown, Teacher: Alice Dorsett. SECOND ROW, left to right: Unknown, Jack Johnson, Charles Hunt, Gracie or Thursie Hoover, Unknown, Unknown, Walton Harris. THIRD ROW, left to right: Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, Odell Jackson, Unknown, Keith Hammond, Lewis Yates.



**FARMER HIGH SCHOOL 1925**—FRONT ROW: Allene Kearns, Grace Kearns, Nellie Barnes, Beth Richardson, Nell Cooper, Leah Hammond. SECOND ROW: Ruby Lassiter, Madge Johnson, Mack Pickett, Annie Johnson, Lena Trogdon, Linas Bailey, Maude Carter, Sue Morgan. THIRD ROW: Ocia Morgan, Bessie Lowe, Margaret Lewis, Ina Kearns, Sallie Pickett, Elgie Hopkins, Jennie Cooper, Dermont Kearns, Hal Bingham. FOURTH ROW: Clyde Cornelison, Rupert Thornburg, Baxter Elliott, Paul Skeen, Laura Lank (teacher), Roby Garner, John Lank (teacher), Alton Kearns, Fred Ficquette (Principal), John Morgan, Robert Fuller, Ira McDowell.





**FARMER GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM 1927** – FRONT ROW left to right: Madge Johnson, Grace Kearns, Hazel Cashatt, Sue Morgan, Allene Kearns, Myrtle Lanier. BACK ROW left to right: Nellie Barnes, Viola Sanborn – coach, and Elizabeth Fuller. The team played teams from Denton, Asheboro, Ramseur, Franklinville, and once they went as far as Thomasville to play a game at night. They traveled by school bus. Their record for that year has been lost with the bouncing ball of time.



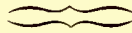
**GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM AT FARMER HIGH SCHOOL 1929 – 30:** Faedene Ridge, coach, Gertrude Lowe, Myrle Johnson, Dorothy Cashatt, Glynn Bane, Edith Lackey. Cleta Varner, Lula Plummer, Loy Dawson, Hazel Cashatt, Walta Parish, Sarah Kearns. Won all their games in the county tournament but one. Lost to Randleman in finals.



# Graduating Exercises

Farmer High School

May 5th 1927



Salutatory .....	Hal Bingham
Class History .....	Elgie Hopkins
Class Prophecy .....	Sallie Pickett
Giftorian Speech .....	Edna Walker
Class Will .....	John Morgan
Valedictory .....	Madge Johnson

Presentation of Diplomas

Class Song

Address to Graduating Class .....

Professor P. E. Lindley

Presentation of Attendance Certificates

Presentation of Certificates to Seventh Grade Graduates

Seventh Grade Valedictory .....

Mary Lewis Skeen

Class Song

Graduation Program – May 5, 1927.



CL

**FARMER HIGH SCHOOL, SENIOR CLASS, 1930 – FIRST ROW:** Sarah Kearns, Cleta Varner, Gertrude Lowe, Hazel Cashatt, Lula Plummer, Glynn Bane, Crissie Trogdon, Louise Thornburg, Prof. E.E. Farlow; **SECOND ROW:** Annie Leigh Williams, Melva Cranford, James Johnson, Loy Dawson, Everett Morris, Annie Pickett; **THIRD ROW:** Roy Lackey, Holton Thornburg, Van Lanier, Henry Parker.

some of the high school boys and girls staged a play, usually a light comedy – a part of the program well attended in those days before radio and television.

In concluding her notes about the early Farmer High School, Mrs. Morgan states: “From there have gone out many young people who have done many things to uphold the high ideals they learned at that school. There have gone out many school teachers, members of the legislature, preachers, doctors, business men, and good farmers.”

The Farmer school continued to operate as a state supported high school until 1970, when, as a part of the state’s general consolidation program, the 10th, 11th, and 12th graders moved to the newly constructed Southwestern Randolph High School, leaving Farmer for the first time in over half a century without a high school. The school at Farmer became an elementary setup with grades 1 – 6 and a junior high with grades 7 – 9. In still another change in grade organization in 1976, the 9th grade was moved to Southwestern,

leaving Farmer with an elementary school and a middle school, grades 7 – 8.

In the meantime, a number of other events have transpired to bring about changes in the Farmer school.

On February 15, 1923, the old three-story structure, dating back to 1893 when the academy was founded, burned. It burned one cold day while school was in session. One of the 6th grade pupils, Sue Morgan Denny, remembers the tragedy:

“It was about 2 o’clock and our reading class was just beginning when suddenly the gong in the hall near our door started clanging – faster and more fiercely it sounded than I had ever heard it before. Some pupil yelled, ‘I’ll bet the school’s on fire!’

“Without waiting for permission, or in any order, we all started running pellmell out of the room. I grabbed one of my goloshes (leaving the other one that was right beside it) and Edwin Plummer’s reader and ran out into the hall and into the school yard. Within a few minutes all of



the students had spilled out into the yard. Then we spotted it! Smoke was boiling up from the roof on the west side!

“Miss Hope Hubbard’s room was on the second floor and her class was the last one to get out. She had very calmly, when the alarm sounded, lined her children up and made them march out, as they had in fire drills before.

“We had to stand helplessly by (a few of the nearby neighbors had seen the smoke and come) and watch the flames spread. There were no means by which any one could get to the top of that three-story building!

“But when the teachers realized that, because of the manner in which the structure was burning, the desks and books could be saved, they, with the help of the larger boys, did save most of the furnishings, even the piano, which was in the auditorium on the second floor.

“When everything possible was rescued, the teachers and the boys joined the girls, who were standing in the cold yard crying. As the fire reached the windows, especially the big ones in the auditorium, the breaking glass made an ear-

piercing sound that I shall never forget, and heard for a long time in my dreams.

“The flames from the burning building could be seen for miles, we later heard.

“My books and the other golosh were thrown from the windows and I recovered them. But **Edwin Plummer**, who did not like to read, told me that he was sorry that I had saved his reader.”

**Ocia Morgan**, who was in the 9th grade when the building burned remembers it as one of the most exciting events that ever occurred in Farmer.

During the remainder of that year and until a new building was finished in 1924, school was held in a vacant store, in the church, and in the vacant dwelling of **Mrs. Rosa Kearns**.

An agriculture department was added to the school in 1924 and a wood and block building erected to house it. In 1929, Highway 62 (later changed to 49) was constructed through Farmer, giving the school and the village better access to the surrounding center of population.

With the continued growth of the school and the community, clubs and organizations became increasingly interested in the school and involved



FARMER SCHOOL — 1931(?) — SITTING: Charles Kearns, Jr. and Claude Williams; FIRST ROW: Betsy Bane, Dorothy Luther, Jewel Hopkins, Edna Arnold, Miranda Harris, Eva Lambeth, Mozelle Horney; SECOND ROW: Cleo Tysinger, Clifford Cashatt, Val Thornburg, Edith Trotter; THIRD ROW: Raymond Thompson, Roy Small, George Yates, Gilbert Parker, George McDowell, Dwight Morgan, Jack Hoover; FOURTH ROW: Wade Briles, Lindsey Walker, George Cranford, Eugene Loflin, Bruce Luther, Clay Wood. Teacher — Miss Calhoun.



# “GO SLOW MARY”

By LILLIAN MORTIMER

Presented by

## THE JUNIOR CLASS FARMER HIGH SCHOOL

### CAST:

Billy Abbey, a young husband out of a job .....George Vuncannon  
Mary Abbey, his discontented wife..... Annie Lanier  
Mrs. Berdon, Mary's mother ..... Walta Parrish  
Sally Carter, Mary's bosom friend..... Mary Lewis Skeen  
Harry Stevens, Sally's sweetheart .....Robert Nance  
Burt Childs, Billy's friend ..... Stanton Poole  
Bobby Berdon, Mary's young nephew, a holy terror. Woodrow Ridge  
Dolly Berdon, Mary's niece, another holy terror ..... Ruth Trogden  
Katie, the Abbey's maid ..... Ruth Garner  
Denny Grubb, an iceman, suitor to Katie..... John Bane  
Murphy, a policemen, Denny's rival.....Buren Cranford

Time—The Present

Place—Suburb of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

ACT. I. Living room of the Abbey's home in Philadelphia,

ACT. II. The same; three days later.

ACT. III. The same; immediately after Act II.

Junior Class Play Program, Date Unknown.



FARMER GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM 1930-31. Annie Lanier, Ruth Garner, Mary Lewis Skeen, Myrle Johnson, Dorothy Cashatt, Grace Nance, Edith Lackey, Betsy Bane, Lucille Cranford.



FARMER BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM 1931-32. FRONT ROW: Clyde Harris, Clark Thornburg, Clifford Cashatt, Hal Lanier, Wayne Bingham, Val Thornburg, Burrell Hopkins, John Wagoner, coach; BACK ROW: Reid Harris, Buren Lanier, Glenn Dawson, Eugene Loffin, Whitman Kearns, Mgr.



in its activities. The Farmer Home Demonstration Club operated a cafeteria in 1944 on a voluntary basis. It was located in the basement of the Farmer Methodist Church and **Mrs. Wayne Bingham** and **Mrs. Worth Garner** served as co-managers, with other members helping when needed. The cafeteria was self-supporting except for government commodities. It was moved in 1951 to the basement of the high school building. It became grade "A" and operated under the management of **Mrs. Newton Kearns**, **Mrs. C.C. Cranford**, **Mrs. Doak Lowe**, **Mrs. Lewis Pierce**, and **Miss Hope Hubbard** for several years.

In 1948-49 a gymnasium was added to the building complex. Up until that time the basketball teams had played on outdoor, dirt courts. Again, the people of the community chipped in to help the school improve its facilities.

In 1951, the first part of a new high school building was erected. Four more rooms were added in 1958. The old building was remodeled to include an elementary library.

The Farmer school, by the time it was consolidated in 1970, had grown from 90 students

with four teachers back in 1893 to an enrollment of about 800 with 30 or more teachers, proving that it had within itself the ingredients for growth and success. Furthermore, the imprint of its spirit lies upon the Farmer Community, a spirit of honesty and industry that has doubtlessly influenced the culture of North Carolina far beyond the school's geographical limits.

A list (possibly incomplete) of the principals who have served the Farmer school shows the following:

**Eugene Harris** (served the last years—1904-1907—of the institute), **Linnie Shamburger** is remembered as the first principal of the public school. Then came **George Bradshaw**, **Henry Smith**, **Sherrill Lassiter**, **Laura Scott**, **W.A. Young**, **Miss Thompson** (school closed in 1918 because of World War I under her), **Mr. Stewart**, **W. Carson King**, **Jesse Garner**, **Frank Wood**, **B.M. Cheatham**, **Fred Fiquette**, **Grover Bush**, **C.U. Lowrance**, **E.E. Farlow**, **W. Henry Dewar**, **John Wagoner**, **E.H. Thompson**, **J.F. Barrier**, **G.C. Castello**, **Worth Hatley**, **Mike York**, and **John Mattocks**.



The Farmer School teacherage, located near the school buildings. Used until 1963.



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## 100TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED BY FARMER SCHOOL

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In 1979, students **Amy Little** and **Celeste Kenyon**, with help from teacher **Phyllis Younts**, planned and headed a series of activities to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Farmer School.

One activity was the sale of 500 buttons which proclaimed "The Farmer School—100 years of quality education!" Other events planned included Dress-up Days, Spirit Days, and a Saturday-Gathering Day to be held on the school grounds with various events planned.

A seal contest for the school was held and **Lynne Henley**, a seventh grader, won first prize.

Her seal showed four areas of school accomplishment: learning, social activities, friendship, and athletics. Her slogan said, "Over 100 years and Farmer still strong in. . ." the above areas. **Beth Hayworth** was awarded second place.

The Farmer School was started in 1879 in the Concord M.E. Church as a subscription day school. It then became an academy with its own building in 1882, the three-storied institute in 1893, a public high school in 1907, a junior high school in 1970 when the schools were consolidated and the high school was moved to Southwestern Randolph. The school serves as an elementary and middle school at present.



Farmer School — 1979

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# BOMBAY INSTITUTE

AN ADVENTURE IN EDUCATION

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**B**ombay Institute, an adventure in education that began in 1897 (some say 1900) and covered a span of twenty-five years, played a role of inestimable value in North Carolina's "burgeoning out" of its educational program after the turn of the century. Bombay, together with Farmer Institute (later public high school), gave southwestern Randolph County educational opportunities hardly equaled elsewhere in the state. Its influence has reached, through business leaders, into such municipalities as Denton, Asheboro, High Point, Lexington, Thomasville, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem.

Bombay (usually pronounced "Bomby") was

built by subscription money with some help from the county on land donated by Frank Kearns, who lived in the area. The name came from the little village that had grown up around the post office named "Bombay," the origin of the village name being lost.

The school year began in late August and—after observing the usual holidays—closed in late May. Its curriculum included grades one through nine with the usual courses in reading, writing, and arithmetic, but Bombay offered rhetoric, German, French, Cicero and Virgil, physics, chemistry, and astronomy. The cost ranged from one dollar per month for first graders to three-



Bombay School, a leading educational institution in Southwestern Randolph County during the first quarter of this century.



fifty for ninth graders. Room and board was advertised at six dollars per month. The principal received thirty dollars per month; the teachers twenty.

**Harris Johnson**, a former student who made his home in Winston-Salem, recalled that the school had two classes in the beginning — one for grades one through four, the other for grades five through nine. While county schools operated for three months, if they had enough money, the Bombay school ran for six months.

Some students lived at home and walked to school, some coming from four miles away. Others boarded with families in the community. Some students came from as far away as Stokes County.

Bible reading and prayer opened each day of classes. Recess meant outside activities: rope jumping, bullpen ball, town ball (in which the batter hit the ball and everybody ran. If the players were “crossed out” with a thrown ball, the other team got its turn at bat). The little girls had play houses at the edge of the woods. One portion of the playground was for the boys, another for the girls. Outhouses were discreetly placed on opposite sides of the grounds.

Commencement exercises at the end of the year highlighted the social activities of the community. An article in the *Asheboro Courier* in 1906 gave the following account of a Bombay Commencement:

“The commencement exercises of the Bombay Institute occurred Friday. The day’s program was well arranged and the efforts of those who took part were highly complimented by the large crowd that had gathered from miles around to witness the exercises.

The program during the morning consisted of declamations by the young men of the school and recitations by the young ladies, interspersed with music by the New Hope orchestra, which added much to the diversion of thought suggested by the different declaimers. The orchestra is composed of **Messrs. S.T. Lassiter**, director and pianist; **Bernard Varner** and **Walter Lyndon**, violinists; **Eck Loflin** and **Reggie Varner**, cornet; **Carl Lyndon**, trombone; **Walter Hill**, tenor violin; **Rufus Lassiter**, bass violin; **Floyd Lassiter** and **J.L. Cranford**, mandolin; and **Tony Johnson** and **Carl Nance**, banjo.

**N.L. Cranford**, formerly of Bombay and now one of Winston-Salem’s most enterprising and public spirited businessmen, had



Jim Way — Professor

offered a gold medal for the best declamation. The medal was won by **Byron Ingram**.

The reciter’s medal, given by **Prof. J.H. Robertson**, the principal, was won by **Miss Tura Cameron**.”

One of the highlights of Bombay’s existence was an address delivered at the commencement in 1903 by North Carolina’s foremost Educator, the man who coined the phrase “burgeoning out” in relation to learning, **Governor Charles B. Aycock**.

No vestige of the institute’s location remains today, but a brochure prepared by one of Bombay’s principals, **J.M. Brown**, gave the following information:

“Bombay Institution is situated seventeen miles southwest of Asheboro, twenty-two miles north of Troy. It is surrounded by one of the best farming communities. Bombay (the village) has two mails per day, stores, etc., in fact everything necessary for students. There is ample room for boarders near the school. Preaching and Sunday School at the institute every Sunday.”

(The site is off the Bombay Road about four miles southwest of Farmer).

Former Bombay students have been holding



annual reunions since 1962 when the first one was observed at the home of Carson and Ila Cranford, both former students of the institute. Since that time they have been held in the Farmer Grange Hall.

Other former students who have attended recent reunions are Mrs. Forest Kearns Kearns and Carl Nance, Rt. 2, Denton; Mrs. Ossie Kearns Cranford and Mrs. Jessie Morris Skeen, Rt. 3, Denton; Johnny Mitchell, Glenn Johnson, Roy Kearns, and Walter Johnson, Denton; Reid

Kearns, Archdale; Austin Elliott, Thomasville; Mrs. Annie Johnson Thornburg and Mrs. Annie Mitchell Nance, Greensboro; Mrs. Jessie Johnson Bingham, Clemmons; Worth Kearns and Virgil Morris, High Point; J.C. Loflin, Winston-Salem; Willard Loflin, Fayetteville; and Mrs. Rose Elliot Kivett, Asheboro.

Mr. and Mrs. Carson Cranford, who have been married about 67 years, were married in the yard of the school while they were seated in their buggy.



**BOMBAY SCHOOL REUNION OCT. 29, 1972, in Farmer Grange Hall. Left to right FIRST ROW: Forrest Kearns, Willard Loflin, Jessie Bingham, Annie Nance, Jessie Skeen, Ila Cranford, Carson Cranford, Annie Thornburg, Ossie Cranford; SECOND ROW: Glenn Johnson, Austin Elliott, Sr., Worth Kearns, Reid Kearns, Virgil Morris, Clinard Loflin, Roy Kearns.**

# PINEY GROVE SCHOOL

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CENTURY

**B**efore the Civil War, and for several years thereafter, the only school available to the children of the Piney Grove Community was the Northbend School, which was located on the Jackson Creek Road near the Northbend Cemetery. The families living northwest of Piney Grove, then, had some four miles for their children to walk to school. Consequently the people of Piney Grove got together to secure land from the **Haley Morgan** estate, on which a one-room structure was built, probably sometime during the 1870's. It stood 500 yards southeast of the Piney Grove Church.

During the early years of the school, focus was on reading, writing, arithmetic, and spelling, the school running for four to six months each year, with some teaching for the smaller children in the summer time.

As the pupil population increased, a new building was erected after the turn of the century. It contained one large classroom, two cloak rooms, and a porch. It was located on a knoll about 150 yards from the church.

Prior to the turn of the century and until 1906, the public funds for operating schools were often inadequate and a tuition had to be charged the pupils to meet the school expenses—a problem that confronted the Piney Grove School, as it did all others.

Until 1915, the school contained only one room with seven grades being taught by one teacher. After that year, two teachers were employed and the classroom was partitioned into two rooms.

Soon thereafter Piney Grove began to receive attention and assistance from **John R. (Jack) Mitchell**, a native of New Jersey who owned a hunting lodge nearby. He provided funds for a new classroom and paid the salary of an additional teacher. Each year he gave the students and their parents a picnic. At that time athletic events were held and prizes awarded to the winners. During the period of **Mitchell's** interest, the school developed a strong "esprit de corps" and grew into a three-room, three-teacher institution.

By the 1920's many children finishing the work offered at Piney Grove began to want to continue their education in a high school. Since Farmer had the nearest high school, they began to go there, a school bus being used by sometime in the mid 1920's. As busses came into general use, the people of the Piney Grove Community decided they wanted all of their children to get the benefit of the school facilities at Farmer. Consequently, in the beginning of the school year 1934 all the Piney Grove children began attending the Farmer School.

The building at Piney Grove was bought by **Clay and Marvin Bescher**, who dismantled it.

A partial list of Piney Grove teachers:

<b>Moses Morgan</b>	<b>Kate Surratt</b>
<b>Mary Reagan</b>	<b>Lela Delk</b>
<b>Erastus Wood</b>	<b>Mamie Lackey</b>
<b>Sam Varner</b>	<b>Rev. Robert Short</b>
<b>Lovie Surratt</b>	<b>Conrad Horney</b>
<b>Tom Ingram</b>	<b>Madge Kearns</b>
<b>Carl Linden</b>	<b>Elizabeth Fuller</b>
<b>Alma Delk</b>	<b>Madge Craven</b>
<b>Glenn Scott</b>	<b>Mattie Hicks</b>
<b>Ernest Ridge</b>	<b>Carl Lassiter</b>
<b>Blanche Ingram</b>	<b>Hazel Trogden</b>
<b>Alma Nixon</b>	<b>Mabel Ridge</b>
<b>Mittie Russell</b>	<b>Pearl Hussey</b>
<b>Esta Horney</b>	<b>Annie Johnson</b>
<b>Ethel Allred</b>	<b>Lola Briles</b>
<b>Blanche Chriscoe</b>	<b>Maude Miller</b>
<b>Emma Loffin</b>	<b>Hope Hubbard</b>
<b>Bessie Morgan</b>	

**Percy Morgan**, one of Farmer's oldest residents (1981), had his first experience with school as a visitor at Piney Grove when he was a pre-school child. His father, **Moses Morgan**, a school master, took him to a "school closing" in which he made a "speech." The speech, as **Percy** recalls, went like this:

*Love is a pretty thing,  
Beauty is a blossom.  
If you want your finger bitten,  
Poke it at a 'possum.*



His first teacher when he started to school was **Mary Reagan** who ran a subscription summer school near the Piney Grove Church in the Jackson Creek Community. He remembers his first accomplishment—making the figure “2” like his teacher’s, something that made him very happy.

After going to that school for three or four years, he entered his first “free” school. **Erastus (Rat) Wood** was his teacher. **Mr. Wood** had a very strict rule that no one was to whisper while he read the Bible in the morning devotion. Once when **Percy**, his brother **Walter**, and **John McDowell** were all sitting on the front seat during the Bible reading, **McDowell** started whispering to **Percy** and **Walter** about swapping “thumb cards,” cards used while reading to keep from getting the pages of the book dirty. Quickly came three resounding slaps from **Mr. Wood**, putting an end to the **McDowell** boy’s little enterprise.

One morning, when **Miss Surratt** was the teacher, **Percy** and his brother **Tom** and **Walter**, arrived at school to find that some of the older boys had the door blocked with some of the desks piled against it to keep the teacher out until she promised them a Christmas treat. But they let the pupils in until the teacher came. She arrived with one of the older girls, heard the demands of the boys, and left. But she soon returned with **Frank Cameron**, one of the committee men, and another man whom the teacher had met on his way to do some cattle trading.

When the boys saw the teacher and the two men, they scrambled out through the back door and fled into the woods, the smaller children trailing behind soon to be left. When the teacher rang the bell, all the smaller children went back to school, but the older boys went home. One of them, **Alfred McDowell**, never returned to school



**PINEY GROVE SCHOOL—1917**, taken at Mock House, Thomasville. **FIRST ROW:** Clifford Delk, Roby Garner, Pernel Hoover, Tom Nance, John Morgan, Sam Nance, Clay Gallimore, Silas Garner, Allen Garner, Roy Yates; **SECOND ROW:** Don Q. Surratt, Hilda Garner, Pauline Hoover, Annie Delk, Cleta Hoover, Louie Arnold, Leta Morgan, Irene Hoover, Reggie Nance, Joe Pierce, Lindsay Small, Bob Delk; **THIRD ROW:** Charlie Delk, Trellis Pierce, Clara Pierce, Effie Garner, Blanche Delk, Ruth Delk, Roannah Gallimore, Ilata Yates, Lewis Varner; **FOURTH ROW:** Troy Nance, Bert Gallimore, Albert Garner, John Nance, Agnes Nance, Nina Nance, Lola Delk, Bessie McDowell, Clatie Yates, Idyl Hill, Dave Hoover; **FIFTH ROW:** May Varner, Vernie Wood, Tishie Pierce, Callie Yates, Ina Wicks, Mattie Delk, Miss Horney, Miss Nixon, Hope Hubbard, Roy Loffin; **SIXTH ROW:** Edward Loy, Mr. Jasper Surratt, Mr. J.R. Mitchell, Mr. R.C. Hoover, Mr. Carl Garner, Mr. C.H. Hill, Mr. Watt Nance, Mr. Marvin Garner, Fred Nance; **SEVENTH ROW:** Mr. Joshua Morgan, Mr. Cleve Grimes, Lewis Pierce, Alfred Wicks, Early Hill, Mr. Lee Delk, Ray Hoover, Jordon Hill, McKinney Hill, Frank Delk.



after that day.

Teachers other than **Wood** and **Lovie Surratt** whom **Percy** had were **Tom Ingram** and **Sam Varner**.

When the Piney Grove free school was first opened, the Committee sought a male teacher, believing the male could better discipline the larger boys who still attended the grade schools in those days. But the committee had to accept **Blanche Chrisco** (who later married **Jap Surratt**).

**Allen J. Macon** did teach the first week of the new school because **Miss Chrisco** could not get there. She was scheduled to open school on Tuesday, but arrived early and **Frank Cameron** sent word around that the school would begin Monday. Now, the **Morgan** boys and the **B.D. Hoover** boys had planned a rabbit hunt and they did not like for their plans to be thwarted. So, when Monday came and the **Hoover** boys passed by on the way to school, they took their dogs—**Morgan's** and **Hoover's**—along. Soon the dogs had two rabbits up and school was forgotten. But alas! One of the rabbits ran under the church, which was near the school. While the boys tried to get the bunny out, the teacher sent **Joe Delk** to tell the boys to come into the school house.

**Percy** contended that the message was only a **Joe Delk** trick and they did not heed her summons. Pretty soon **Delk** was back with another message from the new teacher. That one fetched the rabbit hunters. Once inside, they met their teacher.

"And did we get a raking over the coals!" **Percy**

says today.

She kept them in at recess and at the noon hour, a method of punishment employed by many teachers of the time. To be deprived of playing "Cat Ball," "Fox-in-the-War," and "Hide-and-Seek," was real punishment. As **Percy** recalls **Miss Chrisco**, she proved to be an efficient teacher.

A later teacher at Piney Grove had **Tom Morgan** standing in the window once for some infraction of the rules when **Tom** faked a "fit" and fell to the floor, being careful not to hurt himself. But **Tom** pretended that he was having convulsions and thrashed around on the floor. "You never saw such kicking of the wall and the chairs," **Percy** says.

**Percy** remembers spelling matches that the teachers used as a means of teaching. The pupils chose teams that stood facing each other until one team, obviously with the best spellers, "spelled" the other team down. **Iva Wicks**, he recalls, was the top speller in those days.

One of **Percy's** desk mates, who often reached school earlier than the other pupils, saw a strange black dog trot by the window one morning. He went out to chase it away, but it growled viciously and charged him. The boy managed to get in and slam the door shut against the beast, knocking it back down the steps.

The dog was "mad" it was later learned. It had bitten dogs and cattle of **Bob Hoover** and **Raleigh McDowell**, causing them to be destroyed.

## 8

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# DAVIS MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

(1912 TO MID 30'S)

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**P**rior to the erection of Davis Mountain School children in this section of Cedar Grove Township attended area schools known as "Long Branch" and "The Shack" during the late 1800's and early 1900's. Both were South of Davis Mountain. "The Shack" was on **Jason Hoover's** farm, near new Highway 49, and "Longbranch", or "Long Branch" was a little to the East.

Davis Mountain School was located in Cedar Grove Township (now West Cedar Grove) ap-

proximately three and one-half miles West of the present boundary of Asheboro, and about one-half mile North of "old" Highway 49, at the foot of the South side of Davis Mountain. It was bounded on the East by **Henry Allred's** land, on the South by **John Pool's** land, on the West by **Jule Hoover's** land, and on the North by the mountain from which it got its name.

In 1911 a one-room wood structure approximately 18 × 30 feet was built, and the first school



Miss Birdie Wood, at far right, and her pupils at Davis Mountain School in 1922.

was taught in 1912. Joel Ashworth, Jason Hoover, and Jule Hoover were those who made up the School Committee.

Teachers were: Miss Mary Bunting, Miss Nell Clark, Mr. Frank Bingham, Miss Mary Pickett, Miss Ethel Allred (2 terms), Mr. Baxter Allred (1921), Miss Birdie Wood, Miss Addie Frye, Miss Flay Vuncannon, (2 terms), Miss Esther Hussey, (2 terms), Miss Pauline Elliott, Mrs. Merle Shaw, Miss Pearl Hussey, Miss Sallie Pickett, Mr. Conrad Horney, Mr. Sidney Walker (1931-32), and Mrs. Lyde Auman.

There was no public road by the school, so paths were made by pupils and teachers from all directions, some several miles long. A good many children lived along the "old Farmer Road", as much as three or four miles North, and followed a path leading South over the mountain to get to school.

Heat was from one wood stove in the center of the room. Parents took turns cutting and hauling poles from the woods nearby onto the school grounds, to be cut to proper stove-length by the older students. Often the supply ran short, and the older boys would take the one axe the County furnished (which was usually dull as a froe), and

go into the woods and cut firewood, carrying it back to school in their arms considerable distances.

Water was carried from a spring nearby, and poured into a four gallon container with a spigot at the bottom, from which the children and teacher could fill their pocket-sized, collapsible drinking cups.

Lunches were brought from home in small tin buckets, or pails, boxes, or baskets hand-woven from oak splits (collector's items today). If several children from the same home attended, their container might be a full sized bucket, or an egg basket, with portions of food for each child. There was country ham in biscuits, boiled eggs, fried chicken, rabbit, or squirrel, baked sweet potatoes, pinto and white beans, cornbread, molasses cake, pumpkin pie, sweet potato custard, fruit in season, etc. The children usually ate at their desks, sometimes swapping food.

Desks, which seated two, were "bought", and graduated in size to accommodate children from the first to the seventh grades. They were arranged with the smallest in front, and the largest at the back of the room. The teacher sat in a plain, straight chair, at a small table. A large blackboard was on the wall behind the teacher.



There were no clothes closets. Coats, jackets, sweaters, hats and caps were hung on nails driven in the wall.

There were no toilet facilities, therefore the boys headed East, and the girls headed West, after asking to be excused, just as the most primitive people on earth have to do.

Each day, after lunch, the teacher would appoint two of the larger students to clean the floor. Windows were raised, the floor was sprinkled with water to keep the dust down, and the children swept the floor clean, using the two "store-bought" brooms furnished the school.

Those not sweeping and cleaning went out in the yard to play. Games consisted of baseball (with home-made bat and ball), jump the rope (an old plow line), tap hands, marbles, etc. One game, which may or may not have been played in other localities, was called "Fox". The boys would choose one who was swift on foot to be the "fox". Then they would choose the "hunter", and the remainder of the boys were "foxhounds". Several minutes were allowed for the "fox" to get deep into the woods, then the "hunter" would give the hunting cry, and the chase was on! All the "hounds" in the pack would make excited barking sounds as they trailed the "fox" through the woods. If the "hounds" got off the trail too far the "fox" obligingly would make sounds to lead them in his general direction. Often the chase covered three or four miles, and once in a while would last into the afternoon session of school. The hunt would end by the "fox" climbing a tree, and the "hounds" baying him, demonstrating great originality in quality of tone in their baying. The "hunter" then came up, carrying his "gun" (a stick), and he would "shoot" the "fox" from the tree. By this time it was time to go back to school, or past time.

Before the end of the day the teacher would appoint one older student to come to school early next morning to clean the ashes from the stove, and get a fire going. A nice hot stove would be awaiting those who had long, cold walks through the rain, sleet, and snow. Most of the children attended, in spite of the condition of the weather, distance to be traveled, or age of the child.

The school term was six months long. October,

November, December, January, February, and March were the school months, and teachers spoke of how many "winters" they had taught, and students spoke of how many "winters" they attended school, since all these months were mostly either chilly or really cold.

The first day at school was spent clearing the school yard, which grew full of weeds, broom-sedge, briars, and sprouts, during the six spring and summer months it was not in use. After "sprouting" the grounds, "brush" brooms were made, and the yard was swept clean. Leaves and "trash" were burned, making the yard suitable for play at recess.

Reading, writing, and arithmetic were taught, along with geography, English, and history. Seven grades (with a total of perhaps forty pupils) were taught in one room by one teacher. Sometimes spelling matches between Davis Mountain and Back Creek School were held on Friday afternoons. Pupils marched miles through woods and paths from one school to the other. Those too young to walk so far were sent home at noon on such days.

Sometimes school "commencement" programs were given at the end of the term—sometimes not. On such occasions there were speeches, recitations, spellings, singing, etc. for the benefit of those parents attending.

"Correction", or punishment might be verbal, or a sentence to stand in the corner, or even a "switching", but overall the children were well-behaved, and respectful, partly due to the fact that the teacher usually had the cooperation of the parents. Sometimes parents, after forewarning their children, would punish them at home, in addition to punishment the teacher gave.

Davis Mountain School building still stands (as of 1981), but it was remodeled, added-to, and transformed into a home long ago by **Murphy Luck**, who still resides there.

As far as I know, none of Davis Mountain School's pupils grew up to become truly "famous", but they have taken their places in life as hard-working, honest, and honorable people, a credit to their communities.

**Sidney Walker**, March 1981



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## REDBERRY SCHOOL

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“**H**appy memories still linger in the minds of those who went there as pupils and teachers,” one of the Redberry School alumni writes today. “Two annual fun events characterized Redberry School: the shutting out of the teacher one morning just before Christmas until she promised to treat the pupils, and the exhibition near the close of school. At that time entertainment—speeches, dialogues, skits, songs by the students, and games furnished by Mr. Jack Mitchell were enjoyed by the patrons, who were mostly Ridges, McDowells, Woods, Pierces, Trotters, and Parrishes.”

Jack Mitchell from New Jersey then owned and operated a hunting lodge located on one of the Uwharrie Hills west of Jackson’s Creek.

The school was built on the road at the foot of

Dutchman’s Mountain, and ran until it was consolidated with the Farmer School sometime in the 1930’s. It was a one-roomed structure with an open fireplace for heating, and operated four months, at first, as a subscription school. Water was brought from a nearby spring and a common dipper served as the “fountain” for all.

In the 1920’s Mitchell, who took a great interest in the community surrounding his lodge, built a second room and another teacher was employed for the remainder of the school’s tenure.

Some of the teachers at Redberry: John Horney (1880’s), Ben Lanier, Mattie Ingram, Lindley Parker, Ernest Ridge, Emma Ridge, Roby Garner, Nell Spencer, Mamie Lackey, Sam Varner, Ida McCracken, Stella Lowe, Millie Tedder, Blanche Hughes, Lola Briles, and Susanna Baldwin.



The Redberry School

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# ONE ROOM SCHOOLS

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## SALEM SCHOOL

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**T**he Salem School, of the Salem Church Community, was distinguished by its log walls and its large fire-place, which was high enough for pupils to stand up in it. Once when the building caught on fire, **Walter Cranford** became the hero for the day by carrying **Walter Johnson** from the building, which was saved from the flames.

It is remembered that snow-time was fun-time for the children because they could then ride around the school house in their sleds. The community also used the building for social gather-

ings, spelling matches sometimes being held there at night. **Ila Cranford**, wife of **Carson Cranford**, is remembered as being a constant winner of the matches.

Teachers who taught at Salem: **Callie Vuncannon**, **Lena Steed**, **Jennie Lassiter** (daughter of **Thomas Lassiter**) **Sam Varner** (brother of **Milton**), **Erastus Wood**, **Jim Way**, and **Bynum Way**. **Mary Clinard** (**Julius Horney's** first wife) taught there in the 1880's. **Conrad Horney**, **Mary's** son, taught his first session there.



SALEM SCHOOL — 1916

FRONT ROW left to right: Grace Kearns, Blanche Lackey, Madge Johnson, Vernon Johnson, Allene Kearns, Harris Steed, Howard Kearns, Tom Steed. MIDDLE ROW: Neuse Owens, Bessie Lackey, Lyda Mae Crowell, Fleta Kearns, Mada Morris, Ina Kearns, Myrle Steed, Annie Morris, Doris Steed. BACK ROW: Val Kearns, Burt Jackson, Glenn Kearns, Finch Kearns, Curtis Lackey, Jake Owens, Miss Callie Vuncannon (Teacher).



## FAIRMONT SCHOOL

The Fairmont School, located near the Hill's Store Post Office, was sometimes called the "Goose Hollow School." The building, a one-room structure, was heated by a large wood stove that stood in the center. It had benches for the children to sit on and warm themselves when they got cold in their desks. Drinking water came from the well of Mrs. Sate Lewis, who also ran the post office. A common dipper was used for drinking. Janitorial services were rendered by two girls each afternoon after school, the girls taking turns from week to week. The boys got the wood and kept the fire going. They also brought the water.

Some teachers who taught there: Jennie Lassi-

ter, Lee Kearns, Carl Lassiter, Kate Nance, Esther Hussey, and Moses Adams.

The Fairmont School roll was distinguished by its small number of different family names. The Coopers — Edwin, Jennie, Nellie, Vida; Byerly — Lennis; Kearns — Glenn, Virginia, Callie, Clegg, Irene, David; Elliott — Pauline, Cleron; Lassiter — Clifford, George, Daisy, Maisy, Ruby; Lewis — Norman, Margaret, Imogene, J.B. Dorsey, Sam, Will, Robert; Parrish — John, Van, Katie, Creig, Edith, Fritz, Walter; Allred — Ada; Varner — Abb, Pete, Bertha, Hazel; Taclock — Fern; Rush — Lewis, Stacey; Yergan — Blanche, Mattie, Bob, Ethel; Barnes — Nell.



FAIRMONT SCHOOL — Concord Township, Randolph County (near Hill's Store). Picture by Northern Trogon (date unknown). FIRST ROW left to right: Teacher: Mose Adams, Walta Parrish, Craig Parrish, Imogene Lewis, J.B. Lewis and Vida Cooper. SECOND ROW: Ruby Lassiter (Mrs. Culver), Margaret Lewis, Lena Trogon (came with photographer, not a student), Nellie Cooper, Maisy Lassiter, Nell Barnes, Bill Lewis.

## SCHOOLS ABSORBED BY THE FARMER SCHOOL

**SPERO** — Located on the road from the Uwharrie River to the Bob Davis Store. Near the Will Cashatt road. **Reid Kearns**, who moved to High Point, remembered going to school there in the late 1890's. He said **Hattie Cox** and **Sherrill Lassiter** taught the 15 to 20 pupils there.

**TABERNACLE** — Located between Tabernacle Church and Highway 64.

**LOCUST GROVE** — Located on the Back Creek Church Road. **Linnie Dorsett** taught there in 1912 and later at Farmer; **Esta Horney**, in 1912-13.

**NORTH BEND** — Near the cemetery on the **Marvin Bisher** place. **Julius Horney**, born in 1850, attended school there, as did **Barnum Bingham's** children, about 1875. **Addie Rice** was one of the teachers.

**RED HOUSE** — A school for black children.

**GOOSE HOLLOW** — Near the **Shamburger** place. **Maggie Horney** taught there 1904-05. She boarded at the home of **Micajah Lassiter**.

**HOPEWELL** — First held in the church and moved into its own building about 1907. Some of the teachers were as follows: **Stella Lowe**, **Ada Vuncannon**, **Russell Ashworth**, **Emma Dorsett**, **Trilby Miller**, **Fleta Cox**, **Sevanna Lowdermilk**, **Frank Beane**, **Ernest Ridge**, **Imogene Lewis**, **Ada Shaw**, **Lucy Davis**, **Nell Hussey**, **Mr. Burgess**, **Talmadge Bulla**, **Bertha Russell Stewart**, **Bascom L. Richardson**, **Bryan Cox**, **Clata Smith Burton**, **Nova Comer**, **Garrett Dawson**, **Pauline Elliott Haggerty**, **Pearl Hussey**, and **Pearl Boling**.

Other one-teacher schools absorbed were **BACK CREEK**, **CANAAN**, **DAVIS MOUNTAIN**, **GRAVEL HILL**, **HOPEWELL**, **NEW HOPE ACADEMY**, **OAK GROVE**, **SALEM**, **PINEY GROVE**, **SCIENCE HILL** and **REDBERRY**.



Red House School



# II

## TEXTBOOKS

FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE EARLY FARMER SCHOOLS

A text book owned and used by **Madison Hammond** was a *Fourth Reader*, by **Holmes**, and called the *University Series*. It was published and entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1870 in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the U.S. for the District of Virginia.

Its table of contents lists chapters on the "Oral Element," which contains subdivisions of "Tonics" (the vowel sounds), "Vowel Equivalents," and "Consonant Sounds." The reading assignments offer such exciting pieces as "Anecdote of a Crane,"

"The Sagacious Squirrel," "The Fox and the Stork," "Somebody's Darling," "The Boy at the Dike," etc.

Another reader, *Holmes' Fifth*, was used by **Vetura Johnson**, of Salem Church, N.C. Published in New York in 1884, it contains a number of selections used later in texts for high school students: "The First Snowfall," by Lowell; "Wreck of the Hesperus," by Longfellow; "The Battle of Blenheim," by Southey; and others.

A math book (owner unknown) in use in the years before 1900 — *Emerson's Arithmetic* — asks

20

A GRADED SPELLING BOOK.

LESSON 27.

REVIEW.

leaves	leaves	howls	howls
aunt	aunt	ap'ples	ap'ples
their	their	e nough'	e nough'
claws	claws	through	through
board	board	dread'ful	dreadful
field	field	ven'ture	venture
mean	mean	skip'ping	skipping
learn	learn	e'ven ing	e'ven ing
masts	masts	George	George
fence	fence	sum'mer	summer
green	green	break'fast	breakfast
great	great	pleas'ant	pleasant
breeze	breeze	roll'ing	rolling
man'y	man'y	glos'sy	glossy
sea'son	season	au'tumn	autumn
school	school	rab'bit	rabbit
should	should	scratch	scratch

A GRADED SPELLING BOOK.

21

[By this time the pupils will have associated the script forms of the words with the printed forms so familiarly that the script forms can be dispensed with. But the principle is still to be observed that the sentences of the lessons are to be written before the words are studied and spelled.]

LESSON 28.

"The cunning old cat lay down on a mat  
By the fire in the oaken hall;  
'If the little mice peep, they'll think I'm asleep ;'  
So she rolled herself up like a ball.

"Nibble, nibble, nibble ! went the little mice,  
And they licked their little paws;  
Then the cunning old cat sprang up from the mat,  
And caught them all with her claws."

mice	ball	rolled	went
cun'ning	they'll	herself'	licked
oak'en	a sleep'	nib'ble	think
I'm	paws	sprang	caught

LESSON 29.

Fred found a bird's nest with four eggs in it. The birds flew around his head, making shrill cries, as if trying to tell him not to touch the nest. Fred knew what they meant, and said, " Good-by, little birds ; I would not harm you for the world ! "

found	eggs	try'ing	said
knew	mak'ing	Fred	good-by'
world	shrill	touch	harm
bird's	cries	meant	flew

questions like the following:

1. How many times  $\frac{5}{6}$  of a gill is 3 bushels?  
2. Suppose a wheel to be  $11\frac{5}{14}$  feet in circumference; how many times will it roll around in going  $39\frac{3}{7}$  rods?

3. A farmer owning  $132\frac{5}{6}$  acres of land sold  $56A\ 3R\ 12r$ . How much land had he remaining?

(In this book many of the answers had been penciled in at the end of the problem).

An excellent (apparently) text, published in Richmond and copyrighted by W.C. Allen — a widely known Superintendent of Schools in the early 1900's — in 1901, was used in the Farmer and other local schools. It contains many events in the history of North Carolina written in story form. This book was used by the Hammond children.

# NORTH CAROLINA HISTORY STORIES

BY  
W. C. ALLEN,  
Superintendent Waynesville, N. C., City Schools



RICHMOND  
B. F. Johnson Publishing Company  
1901

North Carolina History Stories ©1901.



"He said good-bye to Mr. and Mrs. Dare, took little Virginia up in his arms and kissed her several times." Page 30, Book 1.

## North Carolina History Stories

### TWO INDIAN BOYS

Three hundred years ago there were no white people in North Carolina. Only Indians lived here. They owned all the land, and lived in their wigwams near their hunting grounds. They were very happy in their homes in the forest. They knew nothing of the great cities and fine people on the other side of the big ocean.

Little Indian boys and girls played games in the fields and woods, and plucked the wild flowers with joy and gladness, just as boys and girls do now. They heard the birds sing and saw the squirrels and the deer. How happy they were as they chased the butterflies or watched the birds build their nests in the trees!

The names of two of these Indian boys, who lived on an island called Croatan, are well known. They were Manteo and Manchese. They were about the same age, and were brighter and more active than the other boys

cro tan'      man'te o      man che'ze  
(9)

North Carolina History Stories ©1901.



# HOLMES' FOURTH READER

NEW EDITION



BY  
GEORGE F. HOLMES, LL.D.  
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA  
FRANK A. HILL, A.M.  
HEAD MASTER ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL  
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

NEW YORK  
UNIVERSITY PUBLISHING COMPANY  
1902

Holmes' Fourth Reader ©1902.

UNIVERSITY SERIES.

# HOLMES' FIFTH READER;

CONTAINING

FRESH SELECTIONS IN PROSE AND VERSE FROM STANDARD WRITERS, WITH BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES, AND AN INTRODUCTORY TREATISE ON THE PRINCIPLES OF ENUNCIATION AND EDUCATION.

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF  
GEORGE F. HOLMES, LL.D.,  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA.



NEW YORK.  
UNIVERSITY PUBLISHING COMPANY,  
1884.

Holmes' Fifth Reader ©1884.

## READING LESSONS.



PART I.

1. One Christmas, in that part of the country where Colin and his sister Dora lived, there was a great scarcity of holly. The children wished very much to get some to put up among the evergreens which their father had arranged over the big fire-place in their parlor. But not a sprig of holly could they find.

"I tell you, Dora," said Colin, "we are too late."

"Yes, indeed," said little Dora.

2. All at once, as they were wandering about the woods, Colin saw waving gently a fine sprig of holly, bright with scarlet berries. It seemed as if it must be the only sprig left on some little bush.

3. Without saying a word, Colin dashed forward, followed closely by little Dora; but when they reached the holly, they found that it was not on a bush at all, but was held by a little dwarf, who had been waving it over his head to attract their attention.

Holmes' Fourth Reader ©1902.

HOLMES' FIFTH READER.

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L.

### ESCAPE FROM A PANTHER.—COOPER.

[JAMES FENIMORE COOPER, the distinguished novelist, was born at Burlington, New Jersey, in 1789. At the age of sixteen he received a midshipman's commission, and served six years in the navy, in which service he obtained that accurate nautical knowledge which rendered his sea-tales the most graphic, spirited, and truthful works of the character in our language. His first novel, "Precaution," attracted but little attention. In 1821, he published "The Spy," which at once obtained immense popularity, and gave him a world-wide fame. Other works followed rapidly, the most popular of which are the so-called Leather-stocking Tales, in which Natty Bumppo, or Leather-stocking, stands as the acknowledged representative of the American backwoodsman. The subjoined extract is from "The Pioneers; or, the Squires of the Susquehanna," one of the earliest of his publications. Mr. Cooper died in 1851.]

1. ELIZABETH TEMPLE and Louisa had gained the summit of the mountain, where they left the highway, and pursued their course under the shade of the stately trees that crowned the eminence. The day was becoming warm; and the girls plunged more deeply into the forest, as they found its invigorating coolness agreeably contrasted to the excessive heat they had experienced in their ascent. The conversation, as if by mutual consent, was entirely confined to the little incidents and scenes of their walk; and every tall pine, and every shrub or flower, called forth some simple expression of admiration.

2. In this manner they proceeded along the margin of the precipice, catching occasional glimpses of the placid Otsego,\* or pausing to listen to the rattling of wheels and the sound of hammers, that rose from the valley, to mingle the signs of men with the scenes of nature, when Elizabeth suddenly started, and exclaimed—"Listen! there are the cries of a child on this mountain! Is there a clearing near us? or can some little one have strayed from its parents?"

\* A beautiful lake in the central part of the State of New York.

Holmes' Fifth Reader ©1884.





# IV — FAMILIES, ANNIVERSARIES, AND INDIVIDUALS

## FARMER: YESTERDAY AND TODAY

### FARMER FAMILIES

ADAMS	DUNBAR	JOHNSON	MORRIS
ALLRED	ELLIOTT	KEARNS	NANCE
BESCHER	FULLER	LASSITER	PIERCE
BINGHAM	GARNER	LEWIS	RICHEY
BROWN	HAMMOND	LOFLIN	RIDGE
BURKHEAD	HARRIS	LOWE	RUSH
CASHATT	HENSON	LUTHER	SNIDER
COPPLE	HORNEY	LYNDON	SPENCER
CORNELISON	HOWARD	MACON	THORNBURG
CRANFORD	HUGHES	MCMASTERS	WHAM
DAVIS	INGRAM	MORGAN	WINSLOW
DORSETT			WOOD

### ANNIVERSARIES

MR. AND MRS. CARSON CRANFORD	MR. AND MRS. MADISON HAMOND
MR. AND MRS. GRADY CRANFORD	MR. AND MRS. REID KEARNS
MR. AND MRS. R.L. DAVIS	MR. AND MRS. HENRY NANCE
MR. AND MRS. W.P. THORNBURG	

### INDIVIDUALS

BINGHAM BUGGY MAKING NEAR FARMER  
NIXON CRANFORD — PUBLISHER  
MRS. OSSIE CRANFORD  
J. HYATT HAMMOND  
SHERMAN HOOVER  
DR. HUBBARD — GUARDIAN ANGEL OF FARMER'S WELFARE  
MY STORY: DR. CHARLES C. HUBBARD  
MRS. FRANCES WALKER PORTER HUBBARD  
THE HUBBARD'S LIBRARY  
HOPE HUBBARD — THE DORCAS OF FARMER  
THE SKELETON IN HOPE'S CLOSET  
NANCY JEAN KEARNES  
JACK (LOWE) AND HIS MULES  
GRADY MILLER — MUSICIAN  
GRADY MILLER COULD MAKE MUSIC COME TO LIFE  
MICHAEL MORGAN  
PERCY MORGAN — THE FARMER MISSIONARY  
RUSSELL FUNERAL HOME  
AGRICULTURE TEACHERS  
MERCHANTS  
PROFESSIONAL MEN





# I

## FARMER: YESTERDAY AND TODAY

**F**armer—a name that suggests peaceful grain fields, farmhouse-barn-granary-toolshed complexes set amid groves of giant oaks, modestly beautiful churches standing like serene sentinels keeping an eye on the on-going activities, and winding roads that lead alluringly away soon to be lost among the heavily forested hills. Farmer—the sum total of the character of the people who have lived and died there, and of those who continue to make it their home.

Therefore it is appropriate that the people—the families and individuals whose dreams and accomplishments are the essence of the community—be given the most prominent place in this brief account of Farmer today and yesterday. The following genealogical excerpts—incomplete though they are—have been included to credit and honor those who have dug up the stumps, built the roads, established the homes, founded the churches and schools, and set the pattern of life that is the heart of Farmer today.

Among those early Farmer families whose histories have been kept, at least to some extent, are as follows: **Kearns (Keerans), Dunbar, Cranford, Johnson, Lyndon, Lassiter, Horney, Morgan, Bingham, Lowe, McMasters, Hammond, Ridge, Nance, Dorsett, Macon, Fuller, Elliott, Morris,**



Farmer Station Store, Johnny Owens, operator.

**Lewis, Cashatt, Lofin, Cornelison, Rush, Howard, Winslow, Burkhead, Spencer, Adams, Pierce, Bescher, Snider.**



Carl Kearns and John Kearns in wheat field.

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# FARMER FAMILIES

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## ADAMS

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Mose Adams married Bessie Parks, the daughter of Orlando and Premmie Cornelison Parks, and they had three children: Ersal, who married Wallace Garner; Dr. Harvey Adams, to Elizabeth Forbus; and Patrick, who married Judy Yates.

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## ALLRED

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“Dock” Allred and his wife Caroline Brown Allred lived on a farm near the Herman Johnson family east of the Uwharrie. Their children were Pearl; Sam; Ora, who married Ollie Shaw; Kate, married Robert Gearren; Ada, who married Dewey Parks; Clarence, married to Rassic Gibson; and Zeb, who never married.

“Dock” operated a grist mill, a cotton gin, and made molasses. Keeping cows and using a separator, he sold the processed milk to one of the commercial milk companies. He was one of the first men in the community to own a registered cow. Dock was especially known for digging graves in the community cemeteries before the funeral homes took over the job.

The Allred’s daughter Kate has been recognized in North Carolina Yearly Meeting, and in wider circles, for making thousands of garments for needy children, as well as producing many quilts for the American Friends Service Committee.



Kate Gearren, standing behind the 43-year-old sewing machine with which she sews garments for the American Friends Service Committee, is holding a small coat which will soon be shipped overseas.

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## BESCHER

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The Charles Bescher family lives near the old Bescher place about three miles west of Farmer, where his grandparents, John and Nancy Nance Bescher lived before him. Charles, who married Pauline Wright, has three children: Wayne, who married Vonzell Kinley; Sue, who married Steve Grubb; and Janie, who married J.T. Cole. Charles is the son of Marvin and Lula Ridge Bescher.

Marvin Bescher, who lived at the old homeplace at the intersection of the Farmer-Denton Road and the Jackson’s Creek Road, was the son of John Bescher and the father of Charles. Marvin had, in addition to Charles, two other children: J.W., who married Margie Hudson; and Myrtle Mae, who married Elsie Bailey.

John Bescher had three children besides Marvin. Minnie was married to Alfred Miller and had five children: Charles, who married Mada Morris; Fred; John; Ruth; and Dallas. Della married an Andrews. Clay married Bessie Gallimore and had five children: Olin married Ruth Parson; Beulah, who married Connie Henson; Mamie, who married Guy Hunt; Lillian, who married Charles Shanas; and Kathleen, who married Robert Vuncannon.

(Sidelight: Marvin Bescher was an outstanding farmer of his day. To commemorate his love for and pride in his farm, a tractor was carved on his tombstone).

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## BINGHAM

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The family of Thomas W. Bingham, who lived in Farmer or nearby after his marriage to Effie Johnson until his untimely death in an automobile accident in 1958, traces its heritage back to Keysville, Virginia, where the great-great grandfather Thomas Bingham lived in 1765, according to records that verify the birth of a son Christopher, known generally as “Kit,” to Thomas Bingham in that year and place. Kit Bingham, then, was the great-great-great uncle of the Bingham



generation made up of **L.G. Barnum Bingham's** great grandchildren, to which belongs **James Bingham, Jr. D.D.S.**, who has done considerable research on the **Bingham** family.

Although he apparently kept a residence in Virginia until sometime after 1765, since his son was born there, **Thomas Bingham** acquired a Granville grant for 200 acres of land on the Pee Dee River in 1756. But his land-seeking took him into South Carolina, also. He received Craven grants in Marlboro county in 1765, 1770, and 1771 for a total of 750 acres.

It is probable that in his travels from Virginia to South Carolina he passed through the Uwharrie region and was attracted by its beauty and promise. Anyway, the 1790 census showed that he and his family were living in Randolph County: two males over sixteen, four males under sixteen, two females and two slaves. The records further show that **Thomas Bingham** purchased land from **Aaron Hill**, in 1792; from **H.E. McCulloch**, 1794; from the University of N.C., in 1796; received a state grant, in 1800. In 1781 and 1799 he sold his lands and property in Pittsylvania and Halifax counties, Va.

It appears from early deeds that **Thomas Bingham** once owned land adjoining the Uwharrie River between the home of **Betty McGee**, of Guilford Courthouse Battle fame, and Silver Run Creek. The farm of **Worth Garner**, whose grandmother was **Caroline Bingham**, a daughter of **Michael Bingham**, is a part of the original **Bingham** holdings.

The **Thomas Bingham** will, dated Jan. 20, 1816, names his wife **Elenor**, sons **Michael**, **Elija**, **Christopher**, and **William**; daughters **Sarah** (**Callicotte**), and **Milly** (**Detheridge**). He willed all of his land to **Michael**, giving his widow lifetime rights, with all household property, stock, etc., to be divided between **Michael** and **Elija**. **Michael** received two slaves, **Elija** one, and a grandson **Thomas** one. The rest received from 20 shillings to \$50 each.

**Michael Bingham** (died 1854) had five sons: **William**, **Nathaniel**, **Thomas**, **Greeneberry**, and **Warren**; daughters **Caroline**, **Rebecca**, **Lovina** (and possibly one named **Synthia**).

**Warren Bingham** (1811-1850), through whom the **Binghams** in question are traced, died after a "continuing fever, and sick 10 days," and left his widow **Rebecca Laughlin Bingham**, age 40, with the following children: **L.G. Barnum Bingham**, 14; **Julian**, 5 and blind; **Eliza Nelson**, 19. The widow **Rebecca**, after seven years, married



L.G.B. Bingham.



Emily Ward Bingham.

**Newton Carter** and deeded the farm of 108 acres on Jackson Creek to the son **L.G.B. (Lorenzo Greeneberry Barnum)**, 21, and to **Julian**, 12.



L.G. Barnum Bingham married Emily Ward, daughter of Lewis and Elizabeth Ward. To L.G.B. Bingham were born John Webster, Martitia (Ridge), Flora (Morgan), Warren Lewis Greeneberry, Idenie (Talley), Nannie (Welborn), Thomas W., Mittie (Mitchell), and Claytie (Loffin).

Barnum Bingham made his living by farming and making buggies. With the help of his blind brother Julian, some hired labor, a professional painter, and his own family—John Webster became the woodworker, Greene the blacksmith, and Tom the farmer—turned out well-made vehicles that soon became widely known throughout Davidson, Randolph, and Montgomery counties. He did a thriving business from about 1870 to 1898, building and selling 1120 units: buggies, carts, buckboards, phaetons, and surreys. They sold from about \$45 up to a \$150.

A favorite market place in those days was the county seat during court week. Bingham made regular trips to Lexington, Asheboro, and Troy with his shiny buggies pulled in tandem to the courthouse grounds where he came in contact

with a cross-section of the populace—farmers, business men, and professional people.

Since most of the work done on the Bingham buggies was done by hand, the increased mechanization that was becoming available in the cities, plus the advent of the automobile, forced the Bingham enterprise, isolated as it was in that part of the county, to close. The children married and scattered.

John Webster bought a farm near the Uwharrie River east of Farmer and made his home there. Martitia married Lum Ridge and lived in the community of Canaan. Flora married Moses Morgan and, after living for a while in the Jackson Creek area, moved to Farmer in 1912. W.L. Greeneberry Bingham took his blacksmith trade with him to Denton. Idenie married Wiley Talley and reared a large family in Randleman. Nannie married Arthur Welborn and made her home near Trinity. Thomas W. married Effie Johnson and settled near Farmer, where he carried on a business of sawmilling and lumbering. Mittie married Wesley Mitchell and made her home in Denton. Claytie married Gowan Loffin, a real



Lonnie Fuller built this house in 1896. It has been the home of Charlie Plummer, T.W. Bingham, and at present, Roy Smith.





Front Row, left to right: Effie Johnson Bingham, Thomas and Lyde. Back Row, left to right: Donald Bingham, Fred, Wayne and Hal.



The Webb Bingham Family. Seated: Cora (the mother). Left to right: Blanche, Frank, Lydia, Benson, Ida, Wade and Mary. (1936)

estate dealer, who also resided in Denton.

**Tom Bingham's** sons – Fred, Hal, Wayne, and Donald – have all had interests in the lumber business. His daughter Lyde became a teacher. She married **Euclid Auman**. David and Amanda Sue were the children.

The **John Webster Bingham** family lived on the Uwharrie east of Farmer and on the road that crossed the river to the present Uwharrie Country Club site. The **Binghams**, for many years, maintained a bateau for the public's convenience in crossing there.

**Bingham**, the son of **L.G. Barnum Bingham**, married **Cora Ridge** and had seven children: **Wade**, who married **Nellie Thompson**; **Mary**, married to **Randall Tedder**; **Benson**, to **Emma Grubb**; **Ida**, to **Adrian Burkhead**; **Frank** ("Bunkster") to **Emma Newsome**; **Lydia**, to **Ernest Hardwick**; **Blanche**, to **Ray Byrd**.

**Wade** had a son **Barnum**; **Benson**, a son **Hubbard** and a daughter **Jacklyn**; **Ida**, a son **Eugene**; **Bunkster**, sons **Robert** and **Raymond** and a daughter **Betty Sue**; **Lydia**, sons **James** and **John** and a daughter **Ilene**; **Blanche**, a son **James** and two daughters **Betty** and **Anne**.

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**Lee Bingham** married **Sarah Vuncannon** and had nine children: **Mada**, who married **Addison Barnes**; **Laura**, married to **Edgar Macon**; **John** (never married); **Garfield**, to **Janie Hammond**; **Barnabas** (never married); **Albrian** (never married); **Russell**, to **Mary Effeid**; **Elizabeth** to **Elmer Byrd**; **Micajah**, to **Virginia Kearns**.

**Mada** had a daughter **Nellie**; **Laura** had five



Garfield and Janie Bingham.

children, **Fred**, **Faye**, **Florence**, **Raeford**, and **James Henry**; **Garfield** had four, **Homer**, **Glenn**, **William**, and **Carl**; **Russell** had **Ralph** and **Donnie**; **Elizabeth** had **H.L.**, **Sarah**, **Grayson**, **Helen**, and **Harmon**; **Micajah** had **Irmalee**, **Betsy**, and **Lloyd**.

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## BROWN

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The family of **Eli Brown**, son of **Daniel Brown**, and his wife **Alice Vuncannon Brown**, daughter of **Alfred** and **Bethay Lassiter Vuncannon**, consisted of two sons and a daughter: **Ray**; **Fred**, married to **Nellie Hill**; and **Grace**, married to **Dr. Robert Johnson**, the son of **Jeremiah Johnson**.



Eli Brown Family. Front Row, left to right: Ray, Eli, Grace. Back Row, left to right: Fred, Alice Vuncannon Brown.



Ivy Burkhead children and wives. Front Row, left to right: Vivian, Adrian, Isa, Wade, Claude. Back Row, left to right: Nannie Kearns, wife of Wade; Edna Ewing, wife of Claude; Mildred Frye, wife of Frank; Ida Bingham, wife of Adrian; Willie Baldwin, wife of Vivian. (1941)

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## BURKHEAD

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**Ivy Burkhead** married **Mattie Wade** and lived near Second Creek west of the Uwharrie River. He had seven children: **Wade**, **Vivian**, **Isa**, **Claude**, **Frank**, **Adrian**, and **Elmer**.

**Wade** married **Nancy Kearns** and they had seven children: **Norine**, who married **Tom Hammond**; **Tom**, who married **Nora Maxwell**; **Rosa**, married to **Glenn Bruton**; **Frances**, to **Frank Long**; **Hampton**, to **Frances McCaskell**; **Mary Lee**, to **Eugene Parsons**; **Nancy Wade**, to **Vinson Bruton**. **Vivian** married **Willie Baldwin**. **Isa** married **Gentry Lassiter** and they had three children: **Isa**, **Frances**, and **Ralph**. **Claude** married a **Ewing** and had one child, **Claude, Jr.** **Adrian** married **Ida Bingham** and they had a son **Eugene**. **Frank** and **Elmer** were also married.

Two of **Ivy Burkhead's** sisters also lived in the community: **Mollie** and **Lanta**, the latter being a teacher.

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## CASHATT

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The **William Thomas Cashatt** family lived in the Farmer Community, south of the village. **William Thomas** married **Esther Cople** and they were blessed with ten children: **Elsie**, married to **Raymond Sexton**; **Lena**, married to **Val Kearns**; **Howard**, married to **Idella Shellcup**; **Ralph**, married to **Iris Loffin**; **Hazel**, married to **J.P. Bost**; **Clifford**, married to **Leola Winslow**; **Dorothy**, married to **DeWitt Kemp**; **Eva**, married to **Paul Vuncannon**; **Jewel**, married to **J.C. Ridge**; and **Roy Gene**, married to **Jane Fairchild**.



Will Cashatt Family. Front Row, left to right: Roy Gene, Jewell, Will T., Esther, Elsie, Eva. Back Row, left to right: Ralph, Lena, Clifford, Hazel, Howard, Dorothy.



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## COPPLE

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The Copple family lived at the old Steed place on the Denton Road west of Farmer. Rob Copple, son of Solomon and Frances Pope Copple, married Bertha Thompson, daughter of Leach and Sarah Cranford Thompson. Their children were Hazel, Dorothy, Robert, Charles and Joe Don.



The Robert Copple Family. Front Row, left to right: Dorothy Shoe, Robert P. (Rob), Bertha, Hazel Davis. Back Row: Robert, Joe Don, Charles.



Clyde Cornelison.

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## CORNELISON

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Ananias Cornelison married Lillie Henderson. Two children were born to them: Vida, who married James Rush and had two daughters, Della and Doris; Clyde, who married Irene Raby and had three children: Steve, Phillip, and Rebecca.



Ananias and Lillie Cornelison.



Jim and Vida Rush.

## CRANFORD

Three **Cranford** brothers, according to handed-down stories in the **Cranford** family, came to North Carolina during colonial days, and settled in Montgomery and Randolph (what is now Randolph) counties. According to the 1790 census, **William** and **Samuel Cranford, Sr.**, owned land in Randolph. **Elias Cranford's** name also appears in the 1790 census, and he is buried in a cemetery in the woods in New Hope Township, his birth date given as 1767, death date, 1843.

The present older generation of **Cranfords** is not sure of its great-great-grandfather, but its members believe him to be either **Elias** or **Samuel, Sr.**

Anyway, **Sawney Cranford**, the great-great grandfather, and his wife, whose name has been lost, had a son **Thomas** (born Feb. 14, 1825, and died July 22, 1901), the great grandfather. Other sons born to that wife were **Henry**, **Temple**, and **Seth**. After she died, he married **Ruth Ledwell**. **Sawney** died Jan. 19, 1848.

The son **Thomas**, who married a **Cranford** (**Eliza Ann**—1822-1902) on Feb. 1, 1848, had a son **Milton** (born Mar. 22, 1853, and died Dec. 22, 1931). He married **Priscilla Kearns** (born Mar. 26, 1860, and died Dec. 1, 1931) on May 23, 1878. **Priscilla** was the daughter of **William T. Kearns** (1835-1895) and **Martha Elliott Kearns** (1840-1860). **William T.** was the son of **John C. Kearns** (1794-1858) and **Anna Nance Kearns** (1797-1874). **John C.** was the son of **Isaac Kearns, Sr.**, (1766-1844) and **Rebecca Webb Kearns** (1769-1835).



The **Thomas Cranford** home, built circa 1800. Residents have been **James P. Stafford**, **Hewey Stafford**, and **Mrs. Russell Frye**.



**Milton and Priscilla Kearns Cranford.**



The **Milton Cranford** family, Martha, N.C. Left to right: **Fred**, **Hattie**, **Ila**, **Milton** (father), **Priscilla** (mother), and **Eula**.

To **Milton** and **Priscilla** was born **Ila Flo**, June 17, 1893. She married **Carson Clark Cranford** (born Mar. 30, 1886) on May 28, 1911. **Milton Cranford** died Dec. 22, 1931.

Other children of **Milton W.** and **Priscilla Kearns Cranford** were **Carl** who married **Nannie Kindley**; **Emogene** who married **Carl Bisher**; **Hattie** who married **Boyd Hix**; **Eula** who married **John Devon**



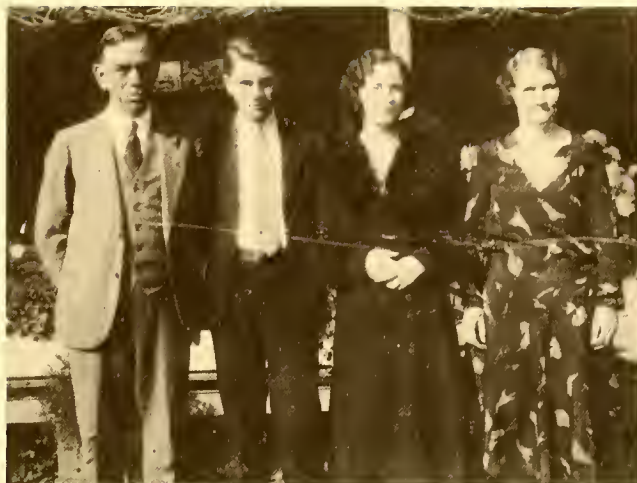
Cranford; Fred who married Frances Varner; and Walter who married Evelyn Harrington.

To Carson Cranford and Ila Cranford Cranford were born Charles Lester, and Melva. Lester makes his home with his father and mother, who live on Highway 49 southwest of Farmer. Melva married Dewitt Reynolds and had four children: Joseph Carson, Patty Ruth, Evelyn, and Charles Dewitt. They live at Star.

(Sidelights: Carson and Ila Cranford celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on May 28, 1981. Ila Cranford worked for twenty years in the Farmer School cafeteria and attended the Homemakers Club for thirty-nine years without missing a meeting. She was a charter member of the Woman's Curb Market that operated for years on E. Salisbury Street in Asheboro, and a life-long member of the Salem United Methodist Church).

The Carson Cranford family has been traced back to Kidd Christopher Cranford, born about 1797, who lived at one time in New Hope Township, the 1850 census listing his family as residents of Randolph County at that time. He married Elizabeth Coggin, but neither his nor her parents have been determined at this time.

To Kidd Christopher was born John Richard



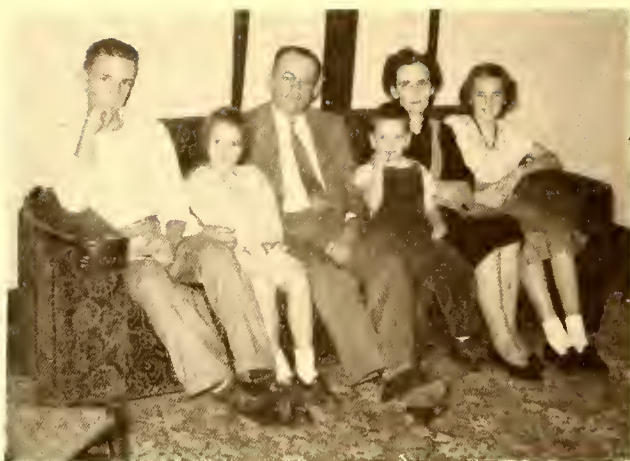
The Carson Cranford family, 1932. Left to right: Carson, Lester, Melva, and Ila.

Cranford (April 7, 1837 – April 7, 1922) who married Emily Morris (1832 – 1901). John's and Emily's son was Alson Grey (Dec. 1, 1859 – July 7, 1936). Alson married Hannah Haltom (born June 6, 1862 – died Nov. 17, 1939). They first lived in Davidson County, Kidd Christopher evidently having moved there sometime after 1850, then moved to Randolph County in 1898



The Marsh Dorsett house originally. Began as a four-room dwelling and remodeled in 1920 by the present owner, Carson Cranford.





Joseph Carson Reynolds, Evelyn Reynolds, Dewitt T. Reynolds, Charles Dewitt Reynolds, Melva Cranford Reynolds, Patty Ruth Reynolds.



Alson and Hannah Haltom Cranford.

when Alson bought a farm from his brother-in-law H. Lee Haltom.

However, Carson Cranford was born in Davidson County in 1886, coming to Randolph with his parents in 1898. The Alson Cranford home was located on Second Creek across the road from the Milton Cranford's (not related) home. After retiring, Alson Cranford moved back to Davidson

County (Denton) where he lived out his days.

Other children of Alson Grey and Hannah Haltom Cranford were Oscar who married Cora Steed; John Devon who married Eula Cranford; and Clayton who married Edna Pope.

Nathan Worrell Cranford (1851—1922), the son of John and Mary Hurley Cranford, married Nancy Moriah Cranford (1849—1924), the daughter of Seth and Lavinia Lewis Cranford. To them were born seven children, three of whom died young; Crissie, Franey, and Pattie. The others were Mollie, who married Oscar Hoover; Nivin Clark, who married Delia Little; Betty Black, who married Reid Cagle; and Tishie, who



The Alson Cranford family and home, Martha, N.C. Left to right: Alson (father), Hannah (mother), Mary Ridge (foster daughter), De Von, Clayton, Carson and his horse.



Nathan and Nancy Moriah Cranford family. First Row: Nathan (son of John and Mary Hurley Cranford), Nancy Moriah (daughter of Seth and Lavinia Lewis Cranford), Nivin (Bud); Second Row: Oscar Hoover, Molly Hoover, Betty Cranford, Tisha Cranford.





The Samuel Cranford Family in front of their home. Left to right: Van Cranford, Samuel Cranford, Annie Cranford, and Nancy Elliott Cranford.

wed Gus Shaw.

The Samuel Cranford family that lived near Farmer had three children: Clay (died young); Van, married Mamie Lackey first, then Ruth Bundy; and Annie, who married Walter Newby. Samuel's wife was Nancy Maticia Elliott, daughter of Osborn and Mary Lewis Elliott. His parents were Henry and Damaris Cranford Cranford.

Zimri Cranford married Rozina Lassiter, settled on the Uwharrie River, and reared a large and distinguished family. He was the son of Henry and Damaris Cranford Cranford. His wife was the daughter of Aaron and Caroline Bingham Lassiter.

Zimri and Rozina had eight children: Chisholm; Charles L., Carrie Matilda, Elsie Herman, Mattie, Mabel D., Crissie, Albert Erving, (and an infant that died after three days).

Chisholm C. Cranford married Annie Davis, and they had four children: Edward M., who married Hazel Maxwell; Clarence C., who mar-

ried Ethel Cox; Samuel Davis, who married Margery McKaughan; and Vivian, who married Sam Story.

Charles L. Cranford married Teresa Davis. To them were born Leon, who married Ruth Edwards; Charles L. Jr., who married Grace Belbingsfield; and Tommy, who married Rennie Bryant.

Carrie Matilda married Charles W. Scott, but had no children.

Elsie Herman married Nellie Rush. They had six children, one of which, Jack, died in youth. There were Eva, who married Irvin Frye; Odell, married to Dette Kimery; Catherine, to Dr. Jake Fritz; Hilda, to George Rose; and Dorothy, to James Thomas.

Crissie married John Ingram and they had a son Henry; and daughters Foy, Alberta, Mabel, and Anna Gladys.

Mattie married Houston Elliott, and they were blessed with two children: Pauline and Cleron. Pauline married Clarence Feemster first, then





Chisholm C. Cranford.



Built by C.C. Cranford in the 1930's. The house is located on the Uwharrie Golf Course and is presently occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cummings.

**Stewart Haggerty. Cleron married Celia Fox.**

Two other children of **Zimri Cranford** – **Mabel** and **Albert** – died young.

(Sidelight: **Zimri Cranford** – born Aug. 22, 1842 – was nineteen when he joined the Confederate forces – Company H, 38th Regiment – in 1861 and became a part of that widely known unit, the “Uwharrie Boys.” He fought through the four-year conflict and was at Appomattox when Lee surrendered.

**Chisholm C. Cranford**, **Zimri’s** oldest son, was known as “one of the biggest contributors to Asheboro’s distinction as a manufacturing center.” Beginning his business career as a flour miller, he expanded into furniture, banking, and textiles. He served as Asheboro’s mayor for a period.

Although he became a millionaire and walked among the financially and socially elite, he always kept in close touch with his Farmer relatives and friends, maintaining a home until his later years on the Uwharrie River, where the Uwharrie Golf Club is today. It is said that as he grew older, he wanted to spend his hours of recreation riding around among the Uwharrie Hills where he grew up.)

The family of **Martin Baxter Cranford** lived in the Bombay community. The son of **John** and **Mary Hurley Cranford**, he married **Jane Cranford**, daughter of **Leonard** and **Lucy Newsome Cranford**. To them were born ten children: **Nixon L.**,



The Martin and Jane Cranford family: front, **Grady Cranford**; second row: **Bessie Cranford Elliott**, **Ernest Cranford**, **Keturah Cranford Kearns**, **Ivey Cranford**; back row: **Nixon Cranford**, **Lewis Cranford**, **Jane Cranford (mother)**, **Martha (Mattie) Cranford Elliott**, **John Frank Cranford**. (Made circa 1925. Martin deceased.)





Martin and Jane Cranford home. Owned at present by Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Sink.

who married Jennie P. Clingman; Lewis Milton, who married Etta Sheets first, then Anna Lassiter Kearns (widow of Frank Kearns); Mattie, who married Leander Clark Elliott; Merry (died young); Keturah, who married Elmer O. Kearns; John Frank, who married Maude Wooley first, then Ada Skeen Morris; Bessie, who married Pearl Elliott; Ernest L., who married Eunice Tesh Setleff; Ivy N., who married Olea Hill; and Grady, who married Ossie Kearns.

Lewis M. Cranford (1872 – 1957), married Etta Sheets (1879 – 1922), the daughter of Branson and Cornelia Jane Kearns Sheets. They had the following children: Dyle, who married Nannie Lou Chaffin; Laurin, who married Agnes Bynum; Janie, who married Neal Kearns; and Lucille, who married J.D. McCrery. After Etta Cranford's death, Lewis married Anna Lassiter Kearns.

Grady Cranford's family lived in the Bombay Community. The son of Martin B. and Jane Cranford Cranford, he married Ossie Kearns, daughter of Oscar and Dora Kearns. To them were born two children: Martin and Imogene.

Martin married Faye Delk and had two children: Delbert, who married Cleta Swaney; and Tony, who became a doctor.



Lewis and Anna Cranford.

Emogene married Raymond Sink and they had two children: Carter, who married Tabitha Davis; and Hilda, who married Michael (Mike) Upchurch.

Ollie Van Buren Cranford (1880 – 1952), son of Lee and Lizzie Bright Cranford, married Pearl Hix (1882 – 1947), daughter of L.L. and Fannie Sheets Hix.





Lewis M. Cranford home, built in 1914, now owned by Aaron Lewis Cranford, a grandson.



The Grady Cranford family: Ossie, Grady, Emogene, and Martin (1937).

Ollie Cranford's children were Lewis, who married Jewel Sexton; Craig, who married Pauline Carroll; Buren, married to Estella Clodfelter; George, married to Ruby Welborn; and Floyd, who wed Bessie Drayton.

Ollie Cranford was a prosperous farmer in the Oak Grove Church Community and his sons were very active in sports at Farmer High School. All sons are living in 1981, and living in Thomasville except Floyd who lives in Greensboro. Ollie was a great grandson of Seth Cranford and a great-great grandson of Sawney Cranford.

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## DAVIS

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Robert (Bob) L. Davis, farmer and section foreman of the North Carolina Department of Highways, was the son of Ellicott and Elizabeth Cranford Davis. He married Metta Russell, daughter of Mayberry Russell. They had three children: Hoyt, who married Eula Harris; Lillian, who married Bill Bunting, and Frances, who married Hal Jernigan.



The R.L. Davis Family in front of Davis Home. Front Row, left to right: Frances Davis, Bill Davis (grandson). Back Row, left to right: Lillian Davis, R.L. Davis, Metta Russell Davis, Hoyt Davis.



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## DORSETT

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The **Dorsett** family, whose home stood in the fourth lot east of the post office until it burned in 1938, was prominent among the Farmer citizens during the early decades of this century. **Bud** and **Roxanna Lewis Dorsett** had eight children: **Lewis**, who married **Lola Belle Howard**; **Robert**, who remained a bachelor; **Frances (Fannie)**, who married **Milton Fuller Skeen**; **Emma**, who married **Irvin Kearns** (he built the house in which the family lived); **George**, who died young; **Linnie**, who married **Sankie Cox**; **Katherine (Kate)**, who married **Graham Edgerton**; and **Claude**, who married **Alice Preister**.

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## DUNBAR

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**John Dunbar**, many of whose descendants seem to have disappeared from the Farmer Community, is best remembered for the bridge he is credited with building over the Uwharrie River about a mile east of the present Farmer Post Office, probably about the middle of the Nineteenth Century. He constructed the bridge, using the skills of an engineer, to take the place of the nearby ford that had been the passageway for travelers since early colonial days. The structure served to defeat partly at least, the flooding demon of the small river, characterized by its ever-recurring freshets. Testimony to the fact that **Dunbar** built his bridge well is its record of withstanding every raging flood that came until it was replaced by the county with a steel structure in 1904. Like other bridges of the time, **Dunbar** put a cover over it, making it a picturesque part of the rural scene.

**Dunbar** (1793-1863) was the son of **James** and **Rachel Dunbar**, and married **Sarah Ridge** Nov. 15, 1816. To them were born **Rebecca** who married **Thomas Lowe**, Apr. 5, 1838; **Jane**, who married **Micajah Lassiter**, Nov. 26, 1835; and **Noah R.**, who married **Olive Brookshire**, Sept. 4, 1840.

After his first wife died, **Dunbar** married **Sarah Lowe**, Nov. 26, 1826. They had eight children: **Sarah**; **Annie**, who married **Peter Vuncannon**; **James**, who married **Louise Jones**; **Thomas**, who married **Mary E. Henley**; **Mary**, who married **Lewis Jones**; **Joseph**; **Fannie**, who married **John Dunbar**; **Eliza**; and **Leander H.**

**Dunbar**, whose name is listed among those who built the Science Hill Academy in 1858-59,

belonged to the Uwharrie Friends Meeting and is buried in the Uwharrie Friends Cemetery.

**Jack Lowe**, one of Farmer's elder citizens, is a descendant of **Dunbar**, being the great grandson of **Rebecca**, (the second daughter of **Dunbar** and his first wife), and her husband **Thomas Lowe**. **Rebecca's** son **Nereus** married **Mary Jane Rush** and had eight children, among them **Jack**.

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## ELLIOTT

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**Leander Clark Elliott**, who married **Mattie Ellen Cranford** and became known as the "best mollasses maker ever," was the son of **Osburn** and **Mary Lewis Elliott**. His wife, **Mattie Ellen**, was the daughter of **Martin B.** and **Jane Cranford Cranford**.

**Leander Elliott**, who lived south of Farmer along what is now Highway 49, had eight children, one of whom, "**Whit**," continued to live near the old homeplace and became an outstanding farmer and a leading citizen.

**Leander's** children were **Mary Gladys**, who died young; **Earl Whitson (Whit)**, who married **Mary Barker**; **Effie Blanche**, who married the **Rev. Moody Nifong**; **Austin L.**, who married **Arline Barber** first, then **Mary Barber**; **Janie Edna**, who died young; **Rose May**, who married **George Kivett**; **Dallas Lea**, who married **John Leak**; and **Willie Baxter**, who married **Larestine Hall**.

**Whit Elliott's** son **Charles** lives in the Farmer Community and carries on an extensive farming operation. Another son **Joe** also lives in the community, but works as a supervisor in the Klopman Mills. **Charles** married **Blanche Glover**; **Joe** married **Hazel Nance**.

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## FULLER

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**Samuel** and **Sarah Hill Walker** bought the farm on the Uwharrie River where **Elizabeth Fuller Patton** now lives, and built in 1830 the house that remains there today. To **Samuel** and **Sarah Walker** was born **Mary Lundy**, who married **Thomas Henry Fuller**.

To that couple was born **Bob Fuller**, who married **Mabel Kearns**, a daughter of **Samuel** and **Lenora Lassiter Kearns**.

They lived on the **Fuller** family farm on the Uwharrie River north of Farmer. Their children were **Robert** and **Elizabeth**. **Robert** married twice: **Ida Cochrane**, first; then **Goldie Godwin**. **Robert**



resides in High Point. Elizabeth has also been twice married. Richard D. Crouch was her first husband. She married Buford Patton the second time. Elizabeth continues to live on the old Walker plantation jointly owned by her and her brother Robert.



Elizabeth Fuller and one of her favorite horses.



Elizabeth Fuller and Robert Fuller.



The Fuller home. Built by Col. Samuel Walker in 1830, it is now the residence of Elizabeth Fuller Patton. Remodeled in 1954.



Robert Fuller (1946).



Mrs. R.W. (Mabel) Fuller.



## GARNER

Phillip Franklin Garner and his wife Pandora had six sons: Phillip, Jr., Jesse, Clegg, Julian, Worth, and Adrain. Phillip, Jr., married Beulah Hammond and they had the following children: Lucille, Edna, Ralph, and James. Jesse Garner became a teacher and he and his wife Ruby (also a teacher) lived for a period in Farmer when he served as high school principal. Worth Garner

reared his family in a home overlooking the Uwharrie River about three miles east of Farmer. There he reared the following children: Ruth, married to Wesley Morris; Marian, who married Wayne Bingham; Esther, wed to Dick Davis; Richard (never married); Edwin (died young); Wallace, wed to Ersal Adams; and Thomas, who married (Trudy) Ceytru Bentley. Clegg Garner married Sallie Branson, sister to Worth's wife, and they had a daughter Grace, who married Clark Thornburg.



The Garners. Pandora, Jesse, Clegg, Julian, Worth and Adrain.



Adrain Garner, Clegg Garner, Worth Garner, Julian Garner.



Richard G. Garner, Grace Garner, Marian Branson Garner, Ruth Ellen Garner, Ester Honor Garner.



Thomas Harold Garner, Professor at Clemson University.

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## HAMMOND

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William and Caroline Hammond lived in the Cedar Grove Township area in the early 1800's. On Feb. 21, 1823, they had a son John, who grew up to marry Mary Belinda Lassiter, who was born Mar. 28, 1832. John and Mary resided in the Cedar Grove Community and had six children: Madison (born May 31, 1864), Emma, Alexander, Mary, Ann, and William.

Madison attended Science Hill Academy. He moved to Farmer when he became an adult and

lived with a sister on the Calier Kearns farm working for 25 cents a day at clearing land for cultivation. To get rid of the logs, he rolled them into piles and burned them, as was the custom of the times.

On Dec. 28, 1893, Madison married Tura Johnson (born Feb. 26, 1870), who traced her ancestry back to William and Mary King Keerans (Kearns) who first settled in America about 1760, having migrated from Ireland. Tura Johnson was the daughter of Winburn and Melinda Campbell Johnson and the granddaughter of Allen Harris



The Madison Hammond Family. First Row, left to right: Madison Hammond, Paul Tura Johnson Hammond, Leah, Tom. Second row, left to right: Carl, Bob, Ada. (1915).





Madison Hammond

and **Elizabeth Kearns Johnson**. Elizabeth was a descendant of **William and Mary Kearns**. Tura attended the Salem School, Farmer Academy, and the Salem Methodist Church.

Married in Asheboro, they started housekeeping on the farm of **Mrs. Mollie Fuller Skeen**. During their residence there, **Mrs. Skeen** built a new home—the one that **Hyatt and Bonnie Hammond** live in today, after renovation.

On June 28, 1895, **Madison's** and **Tura's** first child, **John Robert**, was born. When **Robert** (called "**Bob**" for most of his life) was two weeks old, the rented house burned. The mother and Baby **Bob** had to be rescued from the building on a mattress. The family then moved to a small farm on Moore's Road (running north-south east of the Uwharrie River) in Cedar Grove Township, a farm which **Madison** later bought. While they lived there, the following children were born: **Ada** (Mar. 13, 1898), **Carl** (Oct. 26, 1900), and **Tom** (Oct. 28, 1902).

In the year that **Tom** was born, **Homer and Janie Hammond**, whose parents **Alexander and Janie Finch Hammond** had died in 1892, joined the **Madison Hammond** family. The two orphans had been living with their grandmother Hammond, but she had died also.

In 1905 **Madison** bought another farm of 150

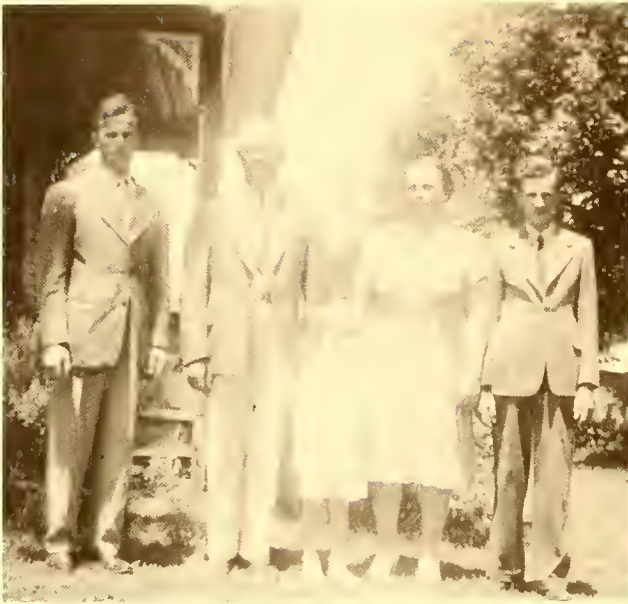
acres from **Ivy Kearns** in Concord Township. It bordered the Uwharrie River on the east and Second Creek on the south. The dwelling there had a large kitchen with a big fireplace, and an adjoining large room that was called the "slave quarters." That room, the children remember, had a peephole for the slave master's use. In that house was born **Paul** (Nov. 13, 1904) and **Leah** (Nov. 11, 1906). **Ada, Paul, and Leah** are the only surviving children at this date (1981).

Because the family continued to be plagued with malaria, the **Hammonds** built a new home away from the river about three-fourths of a mile northeast of the old house. There the youngest child **Garland** was born. He contracted whooping cough and died when he was ninety-five days old.

**Madison Hammond** farmed, but he and his sons, his nephew, and some hired men operated a sawmill during the winter months. He prospered and, as the years passed, he bought more land from **Clark Johnson, Houston Elliott, and Ananias Cornelison** until the homeplace contained about 400 acres. He later purchased the **Drew Lewis** farm and another tract near Parker's Mill. **Bob and Edith Parrish**, married soon after World War I, began housekeeping on the **Drew Lewis** farm.

After **Bob Hammond** sailed from Newport





The Bob (J.R.) Hammond family. Keith, Bob, Edith, and Hyatt. W.A. stands in front.

News, Virginia, for foreign service during World War I, his family waited anxiously for seven weeks before hearing from him. After the armistice was signed, **Bob** guarded German prisoners for a period.

**Carl Hammond** married **Jennie Cooper**; **Ada** married **Virgil Loffin**; **Paul** married **Carrie Cranford**, and **Tom** married **Esther Brookshire**.

The passing time brought other changes: Delco lights had been installed at the homeplace, a Ford with a brass radiator had been purchased, a reaper (wheat cutting machine) had been bought and assembled with the help of an Ag teacher, **L.L. Ray**. A telephone system extending from Asheboro had been installed with 13 families subscribing, making the line a 13-party facility. Tractors had replaced the four mules and a horse on the **Hammond** farm. Early in the 30's a combine replaced the one new-fangled reaper.

In 1938, **Madison**, his family reduced to three by marriage and death, moved to Farmer to live in a building that had once been **N.W. Newby's** store. Remodeled by **Joe Presnell**, it contained nine rooms, three porches, and two big hallways. During the days when the Farmer Institute had been a boarding school, some of the students batched there.

**Leah Hammond** finished high school at Farmer in 1925 and graduated from Guilford College in 1929. She was teaching in Colfax, Guilford County, when her family moved into Farmer. But she came back to Farmer to live with her parents

in 1938 and taught there until her retirement in 1970, after teaching in Rockingham, Guilford, and Randolph counties for 39 years.

In 1950, the **Hammonds** built a brick home across the road (the road leading to the cemetery and across Tom's Creek on a covered bridge in those days) from the old house. Two grandsons — **Hyatt Hammond**, son of **Bob**, and an architect, and **Keith Hammond**, also son of **Bob**, and an electrician — took the initiative in getting the new home built with up-to-date conveniences for their grandparents.

**Madison Hammond** and his son **Bob**, as well as **Harvey Hammond**, son of **Carl**, have all served on the Farmer school board. **Madison**, his wife **Tura**, **Leah**, and **Homer** have been life-long members of the Science Hill Friends Meeting and have served on various committees.

**Bob** operated a store in Farmer for several years and boarded teachers in the Farmer School. **Carl** operated a sawmill for many years, and then went into trucking. **Tom** worked for Nello Teer in road construction and **Paul** was employed by the McCrary Hosiery Mills in Asheboro.

**Carl's** son **Harvey** operates an Exxon Station in Asheboro. His other son **Harold** follows the carpenter's trade in Guilford County. **Janie Hammond**, the niece who lived with **Madison's** family, married **Garfield Bingham**, and they spent most of their lives in McAlister, Okla., where four sons were born to them: **Homer**, **Glenn**, **William**, and **Carl**. They returned to live at the **Bingham** farm in 1933. **Garfield** died on Oct. 24, 1938; **Janie** passed away August 28, 1943.

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## HARRIS

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**Arthur Harris** (April 4, 1883; July 22, 1966), was the son of **Emsley** and **Marinda Williams Harris**. He married **Ina Yates** (Sept. 1, 1897; Oct. 9, 1975), daughter of **Pete** and **Rebecca Ridge Yates**. To them were born three children: **Charlie**, **Marinda**, and **Eula**.

**Charlie Harris** married **Faye Garner** and they had five children: **Joyce**, **Eugene**, **Becky**, **Lynn**, and **Ellen**. **Joyce** married **Johnny Gordon** first, then **Elbert Leviner**. She had two children — **Gwendolyn** and **Steve** — by her first husband. **Eugene** married **Shelby Bunting**. **Becky** married **Winfred Wilson** and they had a child **Chesley**. **Lynn** married **Barry Richburg**. **Ellen** married **John Spivey**.



**Marinda Harris** married **George Yates** and they had three children: **James**, who married **Ruth Pierce**; **Nell**, who married **David Scott**; and **Roy**, who married **Sandy Hall**. **James** had two children; **Pam**, who married **Randy Spikeleather** and they had two children, **Bryan** and **Jamie**; and **Chris**, who never married. **Nell** had two children: **Jeffrey** and **Shelia**.

**Eula Harris** married **Hoyt Davis**. They had one child **William**, who married **Carolyn Craig** first, then **Nell Pruitt**.

The early home of **Arthur** and **Ina Harris** was approximately three miles south of Farmer west of old Highway 49. About 1925 the family moved to the **Herbert McMaster** former home in Farmer. While living there, they operated the Central Telephone Company, which had been operated by the **McMasters**. The office, which was within the dwelling, closed about 1932. The **Harris**es later moved into the **Sam Kearns** house on the Dunbar Bridge Road.



Arthur and Ina Harris.

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## HENSON

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In 1930 **J.B.** and **Ovie Henson** and son **Joey** moved from the Bethel Community east of Asheboro to Farmer. In the early 1800's the farm was owned by **John Ingram** and other members of his family. The **Hensons** bought the farm from the **Henry Parrish** family. Tom's Creek flows through this farm.

**Mr. J.B. Henson** passed away in 1943 and **Joey** graduated from Farmer High School the same year.

In 1944 **Joey** joined the Army Air Force and served until 1946.

**Ovie Henson** began to root different kinds of shrubs and to grow various kinds of plants. This was the beginning of Tom's Creek Nursery.

Soon after **Joey** returned home he married **Audrey Massey**.

Their children are **Melinda** who has a Masters degree in Landscape Design from State College. In December 1977 she married **Steven Vaughan** in a church wedding at Science Hill. She and her husband operate Tom's Creek Landscaping, Inc. They live in Asheboro.

**Rebecca** graduated from Eastern Carolina College. She teaches Special Education at Seagrove Middle School. She, too, lives in Asheboro.

**Rodney** is a student at Farmer Middle School.

**Joey** and **Audrey** operate a dairy and Tom's Creek Nursery. For their nursery they use irrigation getting their supply of water from Tom's Creek.

They employ from 7 to 8 workers and sell shrubbery in several eastern states. The nursery is expanding yearly (1981).



Mrs. J.B. (Ovie) Henson, founder of Tom's Creek Nursery. She still prefers to cultivate her shrubs by hand.



## HORNEY

**Jeffrey Horney**—according to handed-down stories in the family—came to America from England in the early 1800's with his brothers **Jared** and **John**. He is the ancestor of those **Horneys** who have been a part of Farmer's history. Dates of his birth and death have been lost, but it is known that he married **Keziah Smith**, who was born April 23, 1790. They were probably married about 1810 shortly after he had settled to live near Jamestown in Guilford County. One of their children, named after his Uncle **Jared**, was born Jan. 6, 1817. Through him the **Horneys** trace their ancestry.

Sometime early in the Nineteenth Century, **Jeffrey** moved his family to the Science Hill Community across the river from Farmer, and built his house where the **Welch** family later resided. **Jeffrey** and **Keziah**, it is believed, are buried in the old graveyard near the **Welch** houseplace.

**Jared Horney** married **Sallie Ingram**, probably the daughter of the **Ingrams** who lived about a mile west of Farmer on the farm that was known as the "Elzivan Ingram" place. They had eight children, four of which lived to adulthood.

Old records of the Farmer (Concord) Church—records found in **Harris Kearns's** safe—showed that **Jared Horney** served as a member of the church board when the church building was erected in 1859.

At some point in his early manhood, **Jared Horney** acquired a large tract of land immediately



The C.C. Horney home. **Julius Horney** once had a Farmer's Alliance store on the back porch.

west of Farmer—all the land lying between Jackson's Creek and Tom's Creek, including the present-day **Horney** farm (where **Mozelle Horney** now lives), the old **Moses Morgan** farm, and the **Ridge** property.

The original **Horney** home there was located near Rock Spring, which is across the road and field east of the present dwelling. Because of its more convenient location, **Jared**, about 1838, built his family a two-story log house by the road and dug a well for his water supply. An inside ladder was used for the children to climb to their beds upstairs.

One of **Jared's** sons, **Julius** (born Sept. 4, 1850), married **Mary Clinard** and remained at the homeplace. Born to them were **Margaret (Maggie)**, **Conrad**, and **William**. Then **Mary** died, and **Julius** married her sister **Margaret**, and they had five children: **Esta**, **Mary**, **Jeffrey**, **Eugene**, and **Raymond**.

Another of **Jared's** sons, **John**, built his home where the **Ivy Johnsons** later lived (the present home of **Ocia Morgan**). **John** later moved his family to Alabama, where he was killed by a train. His family then moved to Columbus, Georgia, where they all died in time.

When **Jared** died (June 20, 1870), **Julius** took over the management of the farm, caring for his mother **Sallie** and a niece, **Emily Jones**, the daughter of **Elizabeth Horney Jones**, **Jared's** sister. **Elizabeth's** son, **James Addison Jones**, often stayed at the **Horney** home also. **Sallie Horney** died Oct. 23, 1893.



**Julius Horney's** children: **Jeffrey**, **Eugene**, **Esta**, **Conrad**, **William**, and **Raymond**.



Elizabeth Horney Jones was buried in the Farmer Cemetery and James A. Jones gave the pulpit furniture to the present Farmer Church in memory of his mother. James A. Jones was the founder of the J. A. Jones Construction Company in Charlotte. A son of James became a world renown member of the Methodist Church, holding office in the World Conference.

Julius Horney, known to his neighbors as "Jube," became a leader in his community, being particularly active in the Farmers Alliance movement which flourished during the last two decades of the Nineteenth Century. He also served the community as merchant, operating a Farmers Alliance store from his back porch for several years. Ever interested in progress, he encouraged his children to seek an education beyond the public schools, and several of them attended college. Three of them — Margaret (Maggie), Conrad, and Esta — taught at one time or another in the Farmer School, as well as at other schools in the area.

When Julius Horney died in 1910, Conrad, who was 21 at the time, took over the farm, and kept a portion of it throughout his life, leaving it to his daughter Mozelle. He married Mittie Russell, of the Farmer community. Esta married Tom Morgan, a son of Moses Morgan, and Mary married Walter Scotten, of Staley. Margaret, Eugene and William found spouses outside the community. Jeffrey and Raymond remained bachelors.

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## HOWARD

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When James Macon died, his widow, Artimshial Lowdermilk Macon, married Eli N. Howard. To them were born three children: Lola Belle, who married Lewis Dorsett; Mamie, married to Joe A. Piper; and Herbert, to Virginia Holland. Lola had two sons Howard and Charles; Mamie had three, Joe, Rodney, and Herbert. Howard's stepdaughter, Elma Macon, married Barton Carter the second time and had two children, Harold and Norma.

Eli Howard operated a store and the post office in Mechanic, the Post Office being located in the store. The store stood at the intersection of two roads, about three-fourths mile southeast of the Science Hill Friends Meeting house.

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## HUGHES

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The Felix Thomas (Vick) Hughes family lived south of the Tom's Creek about three miles west of Farmer. Vick and his wife Becky J. Hughes had eight children: Elwood, who married Lou Hughes; George, who married Lucy Hulin; Julia, married to Carl Morris; Sadie, married to Ed Pulliam; Felix, who married Mae Hughes; Annie wed to Purn Gordon; Maudie, never married; and Magdalene who married Robert Garner.



The Julius Reeves and Vick Hughes home.

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## INGRAM

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**John Ingram** (Oct. 24, 1792; Oct. 27, 1854) married **Nancy Arnold** and had eight children: **Sarah, Disedy, Thomas (Lock), William, Erasmus (Rad), Emily, Parthenia (Thene), and Martha.**

**Lock Ingram** married and had seven children: **Louise, Mary, Celia, Ella, Emma, John, and Elzavan.**

**John Ingram** married **Crissie Cranford** and had five children: **Henry, Foy, Alberta, Mabel, and Anna Glades.** **Henry,** made his home in Ashboro and became a state senator. **Henry's** son **John,** also served in the state legislature and is at present serving a second term as State Insurance Commissioner.

**Lock Ingram's** home was located south of Tom's Creek about two miles west of Farmer. **Elzivan Ingram** lived on the farm immediately west of the **Moses Morgan** place.

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## JOHNSON

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**John Johnson** — the first person by the name of **Johnson** in the Farmer area, and the great, great, great grandfather of **Leah Hammond,** a resident today (1981)— was a Revolutionary War soldier, according to legend, and settled with his family after the war near Jackson Hill in present-day Davidson County. Legend also says that he had a younger brother who went off to the War of 1812 never to be heard from again.

**John** had two sons, **Abram** and **Jimmy.** **Abram** left the area some time in the 1830's and settled in Mitchell County, North Carolina. He married **Jennie Kinner** who bore him three boys: **Alfred, Wesley, and Alex Harris,** and three girls: **Frankie, Polly, and Sally.** **Abram** was a blacksmith of renown and an "ironmaster". According to the **Johnson** records, **Abram** was the first "rosmelter" in North Carolina. He worked near the Cranberry Iron Mine in Avery County, a mine that supplied considerable metal to the Confederate iron works during the Civil War. **Abram** smelted the ore and made it into plow points, selling a load of his wares in Marion, N.C., when he had reached the age of 110.

The other son of **John Johnson,** **Jimmy,** married **Charity Skeen** and had eight children: **John; Pink; Alson; Prissy,** who married **Hansel Elliott;** **Adeline,** who married **Reuben Elliott;** **Tempie,** who married **Stephen Adderton,** and **Allen Har-**

**ris. Jimmy** lived and died on the family farm and was buried in the family plot near the home place. **Jimmy** had died from becoming overheated while threshing wheat on his place. According to legend, **Jimmy** once buried a goodly sum of money on his farm, then could not find it again. After more than a hundred years another family that had moved to the farm plowed it up.

The last son of **Jimmie Johnson,** **Allen Harris** (born Mar. 21, 1817, and died Sept. 30, 1905) married **Elizabeth (Betsy) Kearns** (born Mar. 21, 1821, and died July 21, 1899), daughter of **Thomas and Rebecca Ivy Kearns,** in 1836. They moved to Farmers Community soon thereafter and had the following children: **Titus Winbourne, James Ivy, Thomas Clarke, John (Jack) Hansel, Jeremiah W., Clarinda E., Milton H., and Louie Jane.**

**Titus Winbourne Johnson** (born July 4, 1837, and died April 17, 1913) married **Melinda Campbell** who bore him four children: **Norman, Perry, Mary, and Tura.** After **Melinda** died, **Titus Winbourne** married **Amanda Nance** to whom were born **Effie, Lonnie, Herman, Walter, Louie, Lillie, and Mamie.** They lived west of Farmers on Tom's Creek.

**Norman Johnson** married **Julia Morris** and they had seven children: **Starling,** who married **Della**

*You are cordially invited to be present  
at the  
Family Reunion  
of  
Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Johnson  
at 10 o'clock a. m.,  
Saturday, October 16th, 1897.  
at their home near  
Farmers Post-office, N. C.*

Invitation to A.H. Johnson Family Reunion, Oct. 16, 1897.





The Johnson family. Couples left to right: Mary Johnson Thompson and Lee Thompsom, Julia Williams Johnson and Perry Johnson, Effie Johnson Bingham and Tom Bingham, Tura Johnson Hammond and Madison Hammond, Bell Lowe Johnson and Lonnie Johnson, Julia Morris Johnson and Norman Johnson, Lillie Johnson Plummer and Clifford Plummer, Stella Lowe Johnson and Herman Johnson, Betty Snider Johnson and Walter Johnson, Louie Johnson Lowe and Worth Lowe, Mamie Johnson Wright and Carl Wright. (circa 1936).



Johnson Family Reunion of Oct. 16, 1897. First row of adults, left to right: Thomas Clark and Letitia Lewis Johnson, James Ivey and Eliza Daniel Johnson, Louie Johnson Diffie, Elizabeth Kearns and Allen Harris Johnson, Tempe Adderton, Amanda Nance Johnson, Titus Winbourne Johnson, Jeremiah Johnson.





The Herman Johnson home.

Mae Surratt; Gertrude, who married Gurney Surratt; Val who married Cora Smith; Joe who married ?; Edward, who married Gertrude Hill; Willard, who married Annie Morris; and Thomas, who married Blanche Shaw.

Perry Johnson married Julia Williams.

Mary Johnson married Lee Thompson and they had four sons: Dexter, Free, Ray, and Harris.

Tura Johnson married Madison Hammond. Their children were: Robert, Ada, Carl, Tom, Paul, and Leah.

Effie Johnson married Thomas W. Bingham and had five children: Fred, who married Jessie Johnson; Lyde, who married Eculid Auman; Hal, who married Edna Walker; Wayne, who married Marian Garner; and Donald, who married Sarah Smith.

Mamie Johnson married Carl Wright. To them were born four children: Eloise, who married Fred DeLappe; Hazel, married to George Kuhn; Marcella, married first to James Stewart, then to Hervey Yates; and Richard, who married Marietta Thompson.

Louie Johnson married Worth Lowe. They had six children: Glenn, married to Lillie Steed; Halbert, to Edith Brown; Gertrude, to Sandy Winslow; Nereus M., to Lizzie Stout; Winbourne, never married; Esther Lou, to Sam Phillips.

Lonnie Johnson married Bell Lowe, and had two children: Allene, and Mary Sue.

Lillie Johnson married Clifford Plummer and had no children. Walter Johnson married Betty Snider and had no children.

James Ivy Johnson (born Oct. 15, 1840, and died Sept. 30, 1917), a twin of Thomas Clarke Johnson, married Eliza Daniel from Davidson County in 1868, but they made their home in the Farmer Community, having lived in the house

built by John Horney and in later years the dwelling of the Moses Morgan family (Ocia Morgan, daughter of Moses Morgan, still resides there). Ivy Johnson built the two-story front part of the house. To Johnson were born Robert Edward, Dora Belle, Virginia Cordelia, James Harris, Henry Clay, Bessie Lula, and Lena May.

Thomas Clarke Johnson (born Oct. 15, 1840, and died Sept. 6, 1922) married Letitia Lewis in 1868. They lived in Randolph County until they moved to Greensboro in 1907. To them were born Eula, who married Allen Fuller; Mada, who married Emory Lassiter; Pearl; Agnes, who married Lee M. Kearns; Clara; Kate, who married Lee Ralls; Thomas Albert; and Annie.

John (Jack) Hansel Johnson (born April 26, 1842, and died May 29, 1919) married Jennie Birkhead. They had the following children: Charles, Nora, Bert, and Alice, who married an Allbright. Charles was killed in a train wreck in the Greensboro railyards.

Jeremiah W. Johnson (born July 2, 1846, and died Feb. 15, 1922) married Elbie Stokes. One child, Emma, was born to them. Elbie died and Jeremiah married his wife's sister Maggie and they had three children: Harris, Robert, and Bettie. Emma married Charlie Thompson and was blessed with nine children. Bettie married Oscar Elliott and had ten children. Robert married Grace Brown. Jeremiah Johnson ran a mill on



Some members of the Herman Johnson family in 1958: James, Madge, Stella (mother), Charles, Myrle, and Vernon.



Tom's Creek about three miles west of Farmer.

**Clarinda E. Johnson** (born Feb. 12, 1851, and died Jan. 15, 1904) married **Manley Riley** and had seven children: **May, Hattie, Bettie, Carl, Essie,** and **John.**

**Milton H. Johnson** (born Feb. 9, 1853, and died Jan. 2, 1900) lived and died a bachelor.

**Louis Jane Johnson** (born Oct. 17, 1859, and died Sept. 25, 1942) married **Alpheus Diffie**, who had three children by a former marriage: **Prim, James,** and **Sherman.** To **Louie** and **Alpheus** were born **Gertrude** and **Ethel.** **Gertrude** married a **Reitsell** and died soon thereafter. **Ethel** married a **Tomlinson** of the **Tomlinson Furniture Company** in **High Point.**

(**Johnson** family sidelights: **Bessie Johnson**, **Ivy's** daughter, married into the **Miss Fannie Rice** family. **Miss Fannie** was a bed-ridden invalid for many years but a good neighbor and kindly influence in the community nonetheless. The **Rices** moved to **Asheboro** and had a daughter **Emma** who married the industrialist **Hugh Merritt** of **Mount Airy.** They had a daughter, **Julia.** Five sons of **Allen Harris Johnson** served in the **Civil War.**

**Lena May Johnson**, another of **Ivy's** daughters, bought the **Bingham** flax wheel from **Flora Bingham Morgan.** In later years, one of the **Morgan** daughters, **Mabel Byrd**, negotiated with the **Johnson** family and bought the wheel back so that it might be kept with the descendants of the **Binghams).**

**Bob Johnson** operated a store on **Second Creek.** In the store the **Post Office Sol, N.C.,** operated from 1906 to 1917. Eggs were often brought to the store and bartered for household needs. On the creek nearby stood a "roller" mill and the miller's house. The families of **Harris Rich, Ed Hardister,** and of a **Mr. Yeargen** lived in the miller's house, the men obviously operating the mill at the time. **Annie Johnson**, who later married **Rom Thornburg**, used to sit on the mill porch as a child and watch the customers bringing in their grain in carts and wagons to be ground. She was especially fascinated with one old black man who always brought his corn in a cart pulled by a big ox.

The remaining children of **Bob** and **Dora Carter Kearns Johnson** were **Hobson**, who married **Daisy Michael** and had one daughter **Bobby;** **Jessie**, who married **Fred Bingham** and had three children—**Thad, Max,** and **Peggy;** **Glenn**, who married **Ruth Sexton** and had one daughter **Glen-**

da. **Annie** and **Rom Thornburg** had a daughter **Ramona.**

**Dora Carter** had been married previously to **Oscar Kearns.** To that union had been born a daughter **Ossie** who married **Grady Cranford.**

**Bob Johnson**, who was the son of **Ruffin** and **Jane Johnson**, married **Dora Carter Kearns**, the daughter of **Samuel** and **Selecta Carter**, in 1896.



The **Bob Johnson** family: **Bob Johnson** (father), **Jessie Johnson Bingham**, **Dora Carter Johnson** (mother), **Ossie Kearns Cranford**, **Hobson Johnson**, **Glenn Johnson**, **Annie Johnson Thornburg.**



**Bob Johnson's Mill** on **Second Creek.**

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## KEARNS (KEERANS)

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The **Kearns** family, many of whose descendants continue to live in the area, has the following record:

The first **Kearnses** (spelled **Keeranses** originally)\* that can be found in the records in Washington, D.C., are **William** and **Mary King Kearns**. They came from Ireland to America between 1760 and 1765, and made their home on Second Creek (which flows into the Uwharrie River three miles below Farmer)\* *\*Parentheses are the editor's.*

**William** lived on the farm that he established there (in the vicinity of the Salem United Methodist Church) until his death in 1825. Around his grave grew the **Kearns Cemetery**, in which the following children of **William** and **Mary King Kearns** were buried: **Silas**, born July 10, 1767, and died May 28, 1842; and **William T. Jr.**, born May 5, 1769, and died February 9, 1837. **Silas's** wife, **Jane Thompson Kearns** and the step-daughter of the school master **Henry Lyndon**, and **William T. Kearns's** wife **Margaret Andrews** are also buried there.

Those pioneering **Kearnses** had five sons:

**William** and **Silas**, mentioned above; **Isaac**, born 1766; **Josiah**, born (c)1771; and **Thomas**, born 1776. **Silas** had two wives—**Jane Thompson** and **Ann Taylor**. **Isaac** married **Rebecca Webb**, whose family had moved to Granville County from Virginia. **Josiah** took **Jane Hannah** for his bride, and **Thomas**, who was born the year the Declaration of Independence was written, married **Rebecca Ivy**.

The **Kearns's** name has been traced over five generations through the second son (**Isaac**) of **William** and **Mary King Kearns**: **Isaac** and **Rebecca Webb Kearns** had nine children, among whom was **Allen** (born 1798), who married **Nancy Wood**. To that couple were born eight children, among them **Henry Clay** (born 1840). **Henry Clay** took unto himself **Frances Jane Harriss** and they had fifteen children, one of which was named **Oscar Eugene** (born 1868).

In addition to the **Kearnses** who moved out of Randolph County into nearby cities, such as Asheboro, Greensboro, and High Point, and some who migrated to the opening west (**Charlotte Kearns Jackson** and her husband **William Jackson** moved to Missouri), many of them remained in the area to become leading farmers, business men, and professional people. In a pic-



First home of **William** and **Mary King Kearns**. Later home of **Virden Kearns**. Built between 1767 – 1775. Mrs. **Willie Shaw Kearns** with dog in yard.



ture taken at the Farmer School in 1915, 27 of the 120 students listed were **Kearnses**. In a later photograph of the high school students (1925) five of the 31 students belonged to the **Kearns** family.

The 1979 roll of the Salem United Methodist Church lists among its members the names of 15 **Kearnses**. The church history records the names of many **Kearnses** who have been active members and supporters of the church since its very beginning in 1818 in the Russell Schoolhouse, which stood a few hundred yards west of the present building. The history carries the statement: "The new church building at Salem was built by the united efforts of **Ivy Kearns, H.H. Kearns, John Thompson, Emory B. Kearns, D.G. McMasters, Samuel S. Kearns, Samuel W. Kearns, C.S. Kearns**, and others in the winter of 1881 and was dedicated to the service of God Almighty by the **Rev. W.S. Black**, July 1, 1883.

A student who finished at the Farmer High School in 1928 made the following statement about the **Kearnses** that once lived in the village of Farmer.

"I can remember when, if I yelled for **Mrs. Kearns**, I wouldn't have known which one would answer: **Nora, Bessie, Myrtle, Janie, Rosa, or Clarinda.**"

**Nora** was **Mrs. Sam Kearns**, **Bessie**, **Mrs. Marvin Kearns**; **Myrtle**, **Mrs. Harris Kearns**; **Janie**, **Mrs. Orpheus Kearns**; **Clarinda**, **Mrs. Ed Kearns**; and **Rosa** was a widow. **Mrs. Anna Kearns**, **Frank's** wife, lived out of yelling distance across the **Uwharrie River** beyond the **Dunbar Bridge**.

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**Thomas Kearns** (born Jan. 19, 1776, and died in 1847) who married **Rebecca Ivy**, was the son of **William T. and Mary King Keerans (Kearns)**. **Thomas** had a son **Ivy**, who married **Diza Arnold**. To them were born nine children: **Sallie**, who died young; **Nancy**, who married **D.G. McMasters**; **Samuel Wood**, who married **Lenora Lassiter**, **Mary Elizabeth**, who married **James L. Skeen**; **Julia Ann**, who married **Emory Benson Kearns**; **Abigail**, who married **Clark Fuller**; **Elizabeth Virginia**, who married **Fletcher Lassiter**; **Martha** and **Diza**, both dying young.



The **Samuel W. Kearns** home built in 1888. **Everette Kearns** lived there, then **Leander Elliott, J.R. Wham, and C.R. Johnson** (now).

Samuel Wood Kearns had six children: Sallie Gennette, who died young; Hattie B., who married Lonnie Fuller; Bessie, who married Marvin Kearns (son of Calier); Everette, who married Carrie Fuller; Mabel Fletcher, who married Robert W. Fuller, Sr.; and Clyde, who never married.

Everette Kearns, son of Samuel, had three children: Tom, who married Allene Cooley; Austin, who married Ruth Primm; and Edwin, who died young.

Tom Kearns, son of Everette, had two children: Edwin, who married Nancy Little; and George. Austin, Everette's other son, had one child, Ray.

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Other children of Thomas and Rebecca Ivy Kearns were Nancy (born April 12, 1802), who married Joel Kimbel; Mary (born April 27, 1805), married to James Cameron; Sallie (born August, 1807), married to Martin Luther; Annie (born Feb. 21, 1812), who married Elisha Hancock; Silas (born Mar. 7, 1814), married to Dorcas Lassiter; Hannah (born Sept. 1, 1816), married to Richard Loflin; John (born Sept. 30, 1818), married to Margaret Feazier; Elizabeth (born Jan. 29, 1821), married to Harris Johnson; and Martha (born Sept. 13, 1823), married to Stephen Harris.



Left to right: Lenora Elizabeth Lassiter Kearns, Hattie Bronson Kearns Fuller, Bessie Wood Kearns Kearns, Mabel Fletcher Kearns Fuller, and Clyde Lassiter Kearns.

Calier Kearns, a leading citizen of Farmer at the turn of the century, was a great grandson of William T. and Mary King Kearns, being traced through his father Isaac Kearns II and Mary Steed



Mr. and Mrs. Everette Kearns and their sons Austin and Tom.





The Calier Steed Kearns Reunion.

Kearns, and his grandfather Isaac Kearns I, son of Wm. T. Kearns.

Calier Kearns married Mary Plummer some time in the latter half of the Nineteenth Century,

and to them are listed three sons and a daughter: Marvin, Harris, Frank, and Emma.

Marvin Kearns married Bessie Kearns, daughter of Samuel Wood Kearns, and they had



Mary Plummer Kearns and grandchildren.

seven children: Luna, who married Harry L. Hames; Lewis, who married Mildred Hames; Ethel, who married Wm. Hendon Hogshead; Vivian, who married Dr. Eben H. Toole; Eugene, married to Alta Matthews; David, married to Margaret Davis; and Dale, who married Jewell Kerns.

Lewis Kearns had two children: Barbara Scott, who married George Barker, and Beverly, who died young. Ethel Hogshead had twins: William and Jean. Eugene had a son, Eugene, Jr.; Dale had a daughter Rebecca.

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Harris Kearns married Myrtle Fuller and had five children: Walter, who married Olive Meador; Elbert, who married Dorothy Hubbard (Dr. Hubbard's daughter); Juanita, who married the Rev. Walter Lee Lanier; Alton, who married Edith Seaboch; and Hazel, who married the Rev. Clyde S. Boggs.

Walter Kearns had three children: Olivia, Fuller, and Margaret. Elbert had one daughter, Elberta. Alton had a daughter, Mary. Hazel Boggs had two children, James and Nita.

Elberta Kearns married Marvin Watkins and had three children: Daniel, Laura, and Beth. Mary Kearns married Robert Park and to them were born two children, Robert, Jr., and Mary Catherine.



Mr. and Mrs. J. Harris Kearns about 1898. Son Elbert stands in front with his brother Walter standing behind him.



The children of Mr. and Mrs. J. Harris Kearns: Elbert, Hazel, Alton, Juanita, and Walter.



Wedding picture of Elbert Kearns and Dorothy Kearns. Taken at Dr. Hubbard's home, April 4, 1921.





The Harris Kearns home.

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Frank Kearns married Anna Lassiter. Four children were born to them: Wade, who married Ruhama Coltrane; Velon, who married Earl Kearns; Fay, who married Earl Shaw; and Thomas Franklin, who married Nina Jackson.

To Wade were born two children: Evelyn and Waldene. Velon had two children: Earl Wayne and Wilma Ann. Fay Kearns Shaw also had two children, William Kearns and Mack Ray.

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Emma Kearns married William Watson and they had five children: Willie, who was killed in World War I; Odel; Mary Lee, who married Bonner Hall; Emma Leah; and Ruth, who married a Scarboro.

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Wilson Kearns, a brother to Alson and Calier Kearns, married Miss Jackson and they had the following children: Hal, who married Ola Parrish; Kate, who married Carr Parrish, and Cletus (Clete), who married Jack Lowe.



Wade, Velon and Fay Kearns.



Earl and Velon Kearns Wedding party. Back row, left to right: Virden Kearns, Nannie Welborn Kearns. First Row, left to right: Tommy Kearns, Earl Kearns and Bride Velon Kearns, Lucille Cranford, (standing in front of Bride and Groom.) Rev. Rathburn. Faye Kearns standing left and behind Earl Kearns. Nan Vuncannon behind Tommy Kearns. Jeff Vuncannon right of Bride.

Nathan Virden Kearns, whose parents were Lyndon and Sarah Hammond Kearns, married Willie Shaw, daughter of Jesse and Amanda Hardister Shaw. They had four sons: Fulton, who married twice — to Ella Morris first, then to Jessie Shaw; Reid, who married Cammie Nance; Coy,

who married Susie Sexton; and Earl, who married Velon Kearns.

In later life “Vird” Kearns, whose home was in the Second Creek Community, remarried — the second time to Nannie Bingham Welborn, the widow of Arthur Welborn.



The Virden Kearns family. Reid, Virden (Vird), Fulton, Willie Shaw Kearns, Earl Kearns (infant), and Coy.





Coy Kearns



Reid Kearns

The **Martin and Renda Adams Kearns** family traces its lineage back to **William T. and Mary King Keerans** through **Isaac Kearns, Jr.**, Martin's father, son of **Isaac, Sr.**, the son of **William T. and Mary King Keerans**.

Martin had five children: **Edgar**, who married **Clarinda Ellington**; **Orpheus**, who married **Janie Plummer**; **Lula**, who married **Roland Kearns**; **Junius**, who married **Rosa Plummer**; and **Irvin**, who married **Emma Dorsett**.



The "Granny" Kearns home (Mrs. Martin Kearns). Other residents have been **Summerfield Loffin**, **Lineberry Hill**, **Fletcher Ridge**, and **Clem Allred**.



The John Orpheus Kearns family. Joseph Wade (Joe), George Orpheus, John Orpheus (Orph), Fred Martin, Lucille (Polly), Corrina Jane (Jannie) Plummer Kearns, John Edgar (Bud). Yet unborn were the other children: Estley Ernest (Es), Herbert Plummer (Hub), and Fletcher Dermont (Bid).



The Orpheus and Janie Plummer Kearns home.

Edgar had two children, Neal and Madge. Neal married Janie Cranford and had one child Majorie, who married Louis Hoffman. Madge married R.F. Bracken and had two children, Bennett and Bobby.



Orpheus Kearns's children: Estley, Herbert, Edgar (Bud), Mrs. Janie, Dermont (Bid), George, Joe, Lucille (Polly), Fred. Picture taken between 1938 and 1950.

Orpheus ("Orph") Kearns and his wife Janie had eight children: Fred, who married Allie Lambeth; Edgar, who married Willie Loyd; Joe, who married Dolly Vickery; George, who married Pearl Tant; Lucille, married to Kingston Gregg; Estley, to Alene Kearns; Herbert, to Ruth Skeen first, then to Forrest Kearns; and Dermont (Bid), to Annie Lee Brewer.

Fred Kearns had one child, Fred Jr., who married Wilma Briles. Joe had one son, Jack, who



married Jean Jones. Jack's children are Joe, Eddie, and Lynn. George had two children, Howard and Helen. Howard married Ferrell Hughes and Helen married George Briggs. Lucille Kearns Gregg had three children: William, George, and Lucille, the latter marrying Dalton Beamon. Estley Kearns had two children, Carol and Jane. Herbert had two sons, Richard and Reece by his first wife; and a daughter, Nancy Jean, by his second. Richard married Rachael Knight and they had two children: Linda, who married James Solomon, Jr.; and Janet, who married Richard Thomas. Reece married Elizabeth Barnhart and had two children, John and Renda. Nancy Jean Kearns married Roger Jewett and had four children: Mark, Timberly, Franklin, and J. Scott. Dermont, the youngest of the family, had two sons, Kenny and Terry.

Lula Kearns, the only daughter of Martin, married Roland Kearns and they had seven children: Pearl, who married Jack Davis; Eugene, married to Chloe Allen; Dora, married to Clendon Lowdermilk; Clara, to Emory Walker; Lester, to Carrie Lee Ingram; Claude, to Ruth Way; and Wilbur, married to Cleta Mae Ragsdale.

Eugene, son of Lula and Roland Kearns, had three children: Norma Jean; Shirley Anne, who married Forrest Price; and Reid, who married Lois Brown. Dora Lowdermilk had three: Reba, who married Bob Benbow; Max, who married Mary Dettor; and Emma Lou, who married Bobby



Jane and Carol Ann Kearns.



Janie Kearns and grandchildren of Farmer, N.C.



The children of Lula and Roland Kearns: Wilbur, Eugene, Pearl (Davis), Claude, Dora (Lowdermilk), Lester, and Clara (Walker).

Peterson. Clara Walker had a daughter Ruby, who married Jim Alexander and had two children, Ann and Brenda. Lester Kearns had a son, J.R., who married "Pat" Spiner had three children. Claude had two daughters, Carolyn and Nancy, the latter wed to Larry Trotter. Wilbur had two sons. Neal, married to Elaine Albright; and John, to Susie Bulla. John had a daughter Sandy.

Junius Kearns, the third son of Martin Kearns, had four children: Louise, who married Hamp Turpin; Sidney, who married Ruth Pierce Sowers; Bernice, who never married; and Earl, married to Pearl Davis.

The last son of Martin Kearns, Irvin had three children: Emogene, who married Max Wilson; Elizabeth (Libby), who married Charles Loman; and Mack.

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The Henry Kearns family lived in the Salem Church Community. The son of Samuel S. and Emma Fuller Kearns, he married Mattie Nance, daughter of Branson and Gracy Nance Nance. To them were born nine children: Howard, wed to Allene Surratt; Colon (Dock), did not marry; Grace Nance, wed to Jasper Wilbourne; Mozelle, married Charles Batdorf; Elna, wed to E.C. Coleman; Annie Lee, married John B. Hunt; Florine, married to Buford Yates; Allen C., married to Margaret Grey; and Oleta, who married Willis Carter.



The Samuel S. Kearns family. First row: Susan Dicks (wife of Henry Harrison Kearns), Samuel S. Kearns, Emma Fuller Kearns (wife); Second row: Annie, Henry, Kate. Susan Dicks Kearns was the mother of Samuel S.

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Alson Kearns, son of Isaac Kearns II and Mary Steed Kearns, married Martha Finch, daughter of John H. and Patsy Harris Finch. He lived in the Hills Store Post Office area, where he brought up eight children: Lora, married to John Watson Birkhead; Hattie, who married Will Durham; Alice E., married to H. Lee Kearns; Charles E., wed to Madge Thompson; Corrina, married to David Parsons; John T., (never married); Lee M., married to Agnes Johnson; and Sam, (never married).



H. Lee Kearns (1861 – 1927).



Alice Kearns.



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Another Kearns family in the Salem Church Community was that of H. Lee Kearns, the son of Henry Harrison and Susan Dicks Kearns. He married Alice E. Kearns, daughter of Alson and Martha Finch Kearns. He had six children: Worth, who married Miss Troy Nance; R. Glenn, wed to Lura Sexton first, then to Margaret Beemer; Fleta G., wed to Lacy S. Lewis, Sr.; B. Finch, married to Canary Johnson; Ina Lee, to W.A. Carter; and Allene E., to Estley Kearns.



The home of H. Lee and Alice Kearns.

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Clarence Kearns was the son of John Calvin and Sarah Virginia Lewis Kearns. He married Ida Vuncannon, daughter of Calhoun and Jane Phillips Vuncannon, and had five children: Virginia, who married Cage Bingham; Glenn, wed to Ida Trotter; Callie, who married David Bullard first, then Raymond Newman; Clegg, married to Hester Monroe; and Blake, wed to Oleta Shaw first, then to Exie Lee Loflin.

The son of Alson and Martha Finch Kearns, Charles Elkins Kearns married Madge Thompson, and had three children: Matalene, married to Hal Luther; Sarah, who married Rev. Henry Lewis; and Charles, Jr., who wed Wilma Watts.

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Of all the Kearnses that once peopled the Farmer Community, only one family with that name remains today (1981). That is the family of Herbert (Hub) Kearns. Of course, many of the citizens today are Kearns descendants through marriage.

Herbert is the son of Orpheus and Jane Plummer Kearns. His first wife was Ruth Skeen, daughter of Milton and Fannie Dorsett Skeen. Their children were Richard and Reece. His second wife was Forrest Kearns, daughter of John N. and Eugenia Kearns Kearns.

Living in the Bombay area, Carl Kearns, who married Louise McKellar, is a brother to Forrest,



The H. Lee Kearns family: Glenn, Ina Kearns Carter, Alice E. (mother), Fleta Kearns Lewis, and A. Worth. (Missing were Allene and Finch).

Herbert's wife. Also living in the Bombay Community is **Johnnie Kearns**, who married **Allene McPhaul**. He is the son of **Newton Kearns**, whose wife was **Corrie Haltom**, Newton being a brother of **Forrest** and **Carl**.



Forrest and Hub Kearns.

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**John Kearns** married **Eugenia Kearns**, and to them were born six children: **Ruth**, **Newton**, **Myrle**, **Forrest**, **Carl**, and **Whitman**.

**Ruth** married **Ben Crowell**, and they had ten children: **Catherine**, **J.D.**, **Robert**, **John Hill**, **Lucy**, **Charles**, **Anna Jean**, **George**, **William**, and

**Nancy Carol**. **Newton** married **Corrie Haltom** and to them were born **Betsy**, **Anne**, and **John**. **Myrle** married **Wesley Cameron** and their children were **William**, **Jack**, and **Martha Sue**. **Forrest** married **Herbert Kearns** and had one daughter, **Nancy Jean** who married **Roger Jewett**. **Carl** married **Louise McKeller**. No children were born to them. **Whitman** married **Jean Roberts** and they had two children, **Thomas** and **Martha**. The **John Kearns** family was reared in the Bombay Community.

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John Kearns preparing for trading trip to town.



John Kearns' Home.





The John and Eugenia Kearns family. Back row: John Kearns (father), Eugenia Kearns Kearns (mother), Forrest, Carl, and Newton; front row: Whitman, Jack Cameron (grandson).

**Elmer O. Kearns** (1872 – 1939) was the son of **Silas Whitman** and **Adeline (Carter) Kearns**. On October 16, 1898, he married **Keturah Cranford** (1879 – 1944), the daughter of **Martin B. and Jane (Cranford) Cranford**. He made his home in the Bombay section and farmed on a large scale for that time. He was also involved in the sawmill and lumber business.

**Elmer Kearns** had eight children that reached adulthood, two to die young and one died as an infant. They were **Lyde** who married **John B. Ridge, Sr.**; **Glenn** who married **Madeline E. Natzle**; **Mary Gladys Kearns** and **Anner Metter Kearns** who died young; an unnamed infant son was born and died in 1901; **Clifford** who married **Elma Robeana Gasset**; **Marie** who married **Howard T. Wright**; **Thurlow** who married **Myrtie Lou Jackson**; **Ethel** married to **Clyde White**; **Elmer** married to **Hester Snider**; and **Lois** who married **Charles W. Modlin**. The family later moved to High Point, N.C.



The Elmer Kearns Family. Front Row, left to right: Ethel, Lois, Elmer. Second Row, left to right: Marie, Keturah, Lyde, Thurlow. Third Row, left to right: Clifford, Glenn.



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**Lenora Lassiter Kearns** was born to **Micajah** and **Martha Winslow Lassiter** near Lassiter's Mill Nov. 19, 1852. Married to **Samuel Wood Kearns** in 1871, she had five children: **Mrs. L.M. Kearns** and **Miss Clyde Kearns** of Greensboro, and with whom she made her home in winter after her husband's death in 1918; **E.T. Kearns**, of Thomasville; **Mrs. L.K. Fuller**, of Whiteville; and **Mrs. R.W. Fuller**, of Farmer, where she spent her summers in later years.

Educated at the Oak Grove Seminary, she joined the Oak Grove Methodist Church, but moved her membership to Farmer (Concord) after her marriage. She died August 24, 1942, in Greensboro, where her funeral was conducted but interment was in the Farmer Cemetery and final rites were held by the Rev. J.C. Erwin and Rev. W.B. Thompson.

"Miss Nora" and "Sam" Kearns lived on the Dunbar Bridge Road east of Farmer in the house later known as the **Charlie Harris** place. The daughter **Clyde**, before she moved to Greensboro, taught music, teaching many of the Farmer children, who came to love her and respect her talents as a musician.



Lenora Lassiter Kearns.

## LASSITER

**Josiah (Bud) Thomas Lassiter** married **Elizabeth Walker** and lived in the Farmer community. To them were born four children: **Anna**, **Nancy Jane**, **William Watson** and **Robert Franklin**.

**Anna** married **Frank Kearns** and their children were **Wade**, **Velon**, **Fay** and **Thomas Franklin**.

**Nannie** married **Jeff Vuncannon**. They had no children.

**William Watson Lassiter**, married **Mattie Jane Beeson** (parents not given). To them were born four children: **John Hal**, who married **Sallie Perkins**; **Alma Jean** (never married); **Maude Elizabeth**, who married **Dr. Paul W. Wager**; and **Henrietta**, who married **A.B. Campen** first, then **O.C. Newlin**.

**Frank Lassiter** married **Dora Spencer**. Their children were: **Carl Clayton**, **Robert Glenn**, **Irving Baxter**, **Lena Lois** and **Hilda Anna**.



Anna Lassiter Kearns and Frank Lassiter.





The Lassiter Homestead.



Nan and Jeff Vuncannon.



Will and Mattie Beeson Lassiter.



The Frank Lassiter Family. Left to Right: Robert Glenn, Carl Clayton, Lena Lois, Dora, Hilda Anna, Irving Baxter.

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## LEWIS

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**William Lewis**, who settled on land where the **Henry Nance** family lived, came with two brothers, according to handed-down stories, to North Carolina from near Roanoke, Va., several years before the Civil War. He later bought up additional acreages until he had enough land to give each child a farm. It is recorded that he married three times: first to **Bethany Lassiter**, daughter of **Micajah** and **Celia Spivey Lassiter**; second to **Mary Smithson**, and third to **Martha** (family name lost).

The children were **Mary**, who married **Osborne Elliott**; **Drew**, married to **Fannie Rush**; **Samuel**, married to **Elizabeth Harris**; **Micajah**, married to **Anna Hodgen**; **Sallie**, married to **Lock Ingram**; **Tishia**, married to **Clark Johnson**; **Lucy Jane**, married to **Walter Ingram**; **Nannie**, married to **Bud Newby**; and **Adelaide**, married to **John Horney**.

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## LOFLIN

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**David Loflin** married **Ethel Smith** and made his home south of Farmer, rearing a family of five children: **Henry**, who married **Edith Hoover**; **Clifford**, married to **Beulah Hogan**; **Allene**, to **Alvin McDowell**; **Leonard**, to **Elizabeth Hughes** first, then to **Ruth Staley Garner**; **Cleo**, to **Raymond C. Munn**.

**Henry's** children were **Leona** and **Geraldine**; **Clifford's** were **Clifford, Jr.**, **Hoyt**, **Harold**, **Dwight**, **Kenneth**, **Wayne**, **Shyrlin**, **David Lane**, and **Barbara Jean**; **Allene's** were **David L.** and **John Larry**; **Leonard's** were **Rebecca** and **Jerry**; **Cleo** had one child **Judy**.

**David Loflin** supervised the building of the low-water bridge across the Uwharrie at the country club.

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## LOWE

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**Thomas Lowe** (Jan. 27, 1810; Feb. 1, 1861), the son of **Thomas Lowe, Sr.**, married **Rebecca Dunbar**, the daughter of **John** and **Sarah Ridge Dunbar** (The Dunbar Bridge is named for John). **Rebecca** was born June 26, 1819; died June 8, 1874. The couple had eight children, two of which were drowned while young in a creek on their farm: **John T.**, **Joe**, **Nereus**, **Sara Jane**, **Sam**, and **Safronia** were the others.

**John T.** married **Sallie Rice**. To them were born **Annie**, **Lizzie**, who married **Alfred Hoover**, and

**Leroy**. **Joe Lowe** went to Indiana when he was a young man. **Nereus** married **Mary Jane Rush**, granddaughter of **John Dunbar**. They had eight children: **Ardina**, **Worth**, **Stella**, **Pat**, **Jack**, **Doak**, **Louella**, and **Kate**. **Sam Lowe** married **Cinella Lewis**.

**Sarah Jane Lowe** married **William Robert Lewis** and they had two children: **Charles** and **Mont**. **Safronia Lowe** married **John Cranford**.

**John T. Lowe** had one grandchild, **Duke**, who married **Bessie Lambeth**. Their children were **J.T., Jr.**; and **Mary Elizabeth**.

**Worth Lowe** married **Louie Johnson**, and to them were born the following children: **Glenn**, **Halbert**, **Gertrude**, **N.M.**, **Winburn**, and **Esther Lou**. To **Stella Lowe**, who married **Herman Johnson**, were born **Vernon**, **Madge**, **Mozelle**, **James**, **Myrle**, **Charles**, and **Jack**. **Madge** married **George Petters**; **Mozelle** married a **William H. Coster**; **Myrle** married **Van Lanier**; **Vernon** married **Evelyn Lee**; **James** married **Elizabeth Elmore**; **Jack** married **Audrey Bush**.

**Doak Lowe** married **Dora Delk** and they had the following children: **Lawson**, married to **Beatrice Chandler**; **Pallie**, to **James M. Morris**; **Vivian** to **Lloyd Vuncannon**; **Kathleen** to **W.G. Siler**; **Rachel** to **Henry Irvin**; and **Johnny**, to **Sue Moran**.

Born to **Walter** and **Pat Lowe Bunch** were **Walter A. Jr.**, **Mary Elizabeth**, **Patricia Jane**, and **John Charles**. **Mary Elizabeth** married a **Love**.

**Stella** and **Herman Johnson**, in later life, moved to High Point.



Mr. and Mrs. Doak Lowe.





The Doak Lowe home today. Built by Manly Fuller, it had been the home of Elmer Steed, Jesse Lambeth, and Tyson Russell. The giant oaks are typical of that tree that surrounds most of the older homes in the Farmer area.



The Children of Doak and Dora Lowe. Left to right: Joann, Kathleen, Pallie, Lawson and wife Beatrice, Rachel, Vivian, John.



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## LUTHER

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The **Thomas Elsie Luther** family lived in the Lassiter's Mill area, and **Mrs. Luther (Florence Miller)** ran the Pipe Post Office for several years. He was the son of **Josiah** and **Amma Cranford Luther** and she was the daughter of **Lee** and **Sarah E. Lassiter Miller**. The **Luthers** had four children: **Herbert**, who married **Maude Carter**; **Hal**, who married **Matalene Kearns** first, then **Thelma Jackson**; **Bruce**, who married **Bernice Deaton**; and **Dorothy**, who married **Ray Eller**.



Elsie Luther holding Hal, Herbert standing and Florence Miller Luther. (Bruce and Dorothy not yet born.)

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## LYNDON

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**Henry Lyndon**, one of the first professional educators in the Farmer area, moved into the county about 1782 and settled on Second Creek above the first **Kearns** home, taking up his abode at the same time the **Lassiters** moved to the place later to become known as "Lassiter's Mill." **Lyndon** lived there, presumably teaching the youth of the community, until he died in 1795 at the age of 54. He, his wife, and son **Josiah** are all buried in the **Kearns'** cemetery. The son, a budding young lawyer, was stricken in death at 31 while attending court at Hillsborough in December, 1815. Since the son left no offspring, the **Lyndon** name did not remain a factor in the social, educational and political affairs of the Farmer area.

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## MACON

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**James Macon** married **Artimshial Lowdermilk** and had one daughter **Elama (Lama)**, who married **Settle Ellington**, to whom was born a daughter **Ina**.

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**Gideon Macon** married **Jane Newby** and became one of Farmer's foremost citizens in the early 1900's. His old home, located in the grove across the highway from the post office, is the oldest remaining dwelling in Farmer. He was active in school and business affairs.

His children were **Edgar**, **Frank**, and **Allen Jay**.

Another **Gid Macon** lived on the Dunbar Bridge Road east of the post office in that era. It is remembered that he owned the first automobile in Farmer. His son was **Arthur Macon** who operated a drug store in Mount Airy for many years.



Uncle "Gid" Macon.



Aunt Jane Macon.



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## MCMASTERS

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**D.G. McMasters** (born Mar. 4, 1839, and died Oct. 11, 1918) married **Nancy Kearns** and they had eight children: **Cora, Sallie, Minnie, Betty, Flada, Myrtle, Mary,** and **Herbert.**

**D.G. (Green) McMasters** served as a magistrate in the county for forty years, served in the Civil War, and taught school for a number of years at Science Hill Academy. He was born on the Cole-ridge Road east of Asheboro, but moved to the Farmer area in his early years.

**Sallie McMasters** married **Columbus Kearns** and had five children: **Flossie,** who married **Erastus Wood;** **Paul,** who married **Tidy Needham;** **Robert Ivy,** who married **Nola Wooley;** **Hal W.,** who married **Amy Reece;** and **Milton,** who died young.

**Myrtle McMasters** married **Elmer Steed,** and they had five children: **Virginia; George; Joe,** who

married **Bernadine Bell; Bruce;** and **Thad,** who married **Irish Spoon.**

Born to **Betty McMasters,** who married **Charles Lewis,** were six children: **Dorsey,** who married **Mary Inez Justice,** then **Althea Presnell;** **Sam;** **William,** who married **Helen Hayes;** **Frances** married **Fred Hepler;** **Robert,** who married **Cly Justice;** and **James.**

Born to **Minnie,** who married **Allen Browning,** were **Max, Allen,** and **Nancy,** who married **Gordon Brown;** **Nell** married **John Carr.**

Born to **Herbert McMasters,** who married **Ada Vuncannon,** were **Raeford;** **Eugene,** who married **Maydelle Newman;** **Daniel,** who married **Mary Kirkman;** and **Janet,** who married **Bruce Hilliard.**

Other daughters of **D.G. McMasters** were **Flada,** who was married twice but had no children, marrying **James Brookshire** first, then **Perry Coppers;** **Mary,** who married **E.L. Tasker** but remained childless; **Cora,** who never married. **Cora** ran a ladies' hat shop in Asheboro.



The D. Green McMasters home built in the late 1700's. Owned at present (1981) by John P. Cranford.



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## MORGAN

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**Haley Morgan** (Nov. 11, 1795 – May 8, 1873) was the grandfather of the older generation of the **Morgans** living in the Asheboro-Farmer area today (1981). **Haley** first married a **May** girl whose inability to bear children led to her separation from her austere husband (and probably to the loss of her first name). After a generous settlement with the barren wife, having given her some \$50 or \$75 (the exact sum has been forgotten), **Haley** married **Martha Miller**, who bore him eight children that lived to adulthood. They were **Liza**, who married **Solomon Tysinger**; **Noah**; **Henry**; **Mary Ann**, who married **Isaac Hoover**; **John**; **Abigail**, who married **Henry Lewallen**; **Joshua**; and **Moses**.

**Haley Morgan** built his home in a beautiful cove in the east shadow of one of the Uwharrie Hills in western Randolph County – a hill known as “Mitchell’s Camp” or “Tiptop Lodge” in the Jackson Creek community. There he farmed the red hills and lived frugally, rearing his family with austerity and strict discipline. Deeply religious, in spite of the fact that he “divorced” his first wife, he abhorred slavery even when most of his neighbors owned them, and gained everything he owned by the sweat of his own brow.

**Joshua Morgan**, the seventh child (that lived) of **Haley Morgan**, remained at the old home place, using a part of the old house complex until it burned in the 1920’s. The **Haley Morgan** kitchen was remembered for its fireplace, which was wide enough to burn a fence rail in. To **Joshua** and his first wife, **Pelina Owen**, was born one child, **Erma**. To his second wife, **Nelia Harris Wicks**, were born **Leslie**, **Leta**, **John**, and **Dwight**. **Dwight**, after a career in the U.S. Navy, as Captain, returned to make his home in the Jackson Creek community, where he lives today (1981). **Leslie**, after working for many years with the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, retired and lives in Asheboro.

**Eliza Morgan Tysinger**, known by her relatives as “**Aunt Lizie**,” lost her husband soon after their marriage and lived a widow the remainder of her long life, making her home with her brother **Joshua**’s family.

**John Morgan**, Sheriff **Ben Morgan**’s father, settled at Shepherd’s Mountain. There he reared ten children: **Ben**, **Sirona**, **Sam**, “**Tebe**,” **Fannie**, **Moleta**, **Lyde**, **Verda**, **Joe** and **Bessie**. Most of these children have lived in the Asheboro area.

**Noah Morgan**, who made his home in the Handy community south of Denton, had six children: **Lindsay**, **Julia**, **Mattie**, **Perry**, **Lydia**, and **Cicero**. **Lindsay** and **Cicero** went west – to Seattle, Washington – to seek their fortunes. The others have remained in the area, except for **Mattie** who married **Robert Sechrest** and later moved to High Point.

**Henry Morgan**, the only son of **Haley Morgan** not to receive a Bible name, grew restless as a teenage boy and asked his father to let him go out on his own to seek his fortune. The family story is that **Henry** was given his freedom on the condition that he would not, when ultimately the **Haley Morgan** estate would be divided among the heirs, lay claim to any part of it. The story further relates that **Henry**, when the stock law was passed requiring people to fence the cows and hogs in, moved to Arkansas where he could still let his domesticated animals run free. The final records of **Haley Morgan** do not show **Henry** as the recipient of any portion of the old patriarch’s property.

**Moses Morgan**, the youngest of **Haley Morgan**’s sons, was born October 9, 1862, and died September 9, 1922. To further his education he attended the Oak Ridge Institute, entering there about 1889. After Oak Ridge, he went to Yadkin College, which later became High Point College. Following his formal training, he entered the teaching profession to spend his life in the classrooms of various schools in Randolph and Moore counties.

On September 4, 1892, he married **Flora Bingham**, the daughter of the buggy maker **Barnum Bingham**, and made his home on upper Tom’s Creek between Farmer and Denton. Then he moved back to the Jackson Creek community, where most of his children were born. In 1912, when many of his children were still of school age, he purchased the **Ivy Johnson** farm and home near Farmer and moved there in order for the children to attend the Farmer School, which had become recognized for its superior quality of training.

To **Moses Morgan** nine children were born: **Blanche**, who died in infancy; **Walter**, who married **Bertie Mae Chandler**, and died at 31; **Percy**, who married **Annie Johnson** first, then **Eunice Setzer**; **Tom**, who married **Esta Horney**; **Mabel**, who married **Colon Byrd**; **Edward**, who married **Myrtle Comer**; **Ila**, who died at 19; **Ocia**; and **Sue**, who married **Zeb Denny**.





The Moses Morgan family about 1913. Front: Sue, Ocia, and Ila; Percy is on the horse, Mabel, Moses, Flora, Tom, and Edward. The other son, Walter, was absent.



The Moses Morgan home. The kitchen and dining portion built originally by John Horney, completed by Ivy Johnson. Everette Kearns lived there, then Frank Plummer, from whom the Morgans bought the place in 1912. Ocia Morgan still resides there.



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## MORRIS

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Walter had three boys and two girls: Mahlon, who married Louise Gibson and had three boys: David, Tommy, and Ray; Hoyle, who married Thetus Howard, and had two children: Gerald, who married Polly Moss, and Judy, who married Dr. Danny Biber; Charles, who married Virginia Roberts and had two children: Fred, who married Wanda ?; and Charlene; Marie, who married J.T. McGee, and has three children: Jody, Joyce, and Judy; Olene, who married Raymond Snider, and has two children: Bonnie, who married Alec Calaman; and Stewart.

Percy, by his first wife, had a daughter Helen, who married Jack Nance, and has two daughters: Anne, who married Clyde Shaw, Jr. and Kay who married J.E. Freeman.

Tom had one son Graham, who married Juanita Wall, and has four children: Mike, who married Therese Brandon; Gayle, who married Don Crouch; Miriam and Marshall.

Mabel Byrd has four children: Jack, who married Jean Cummins first, then Joan Hester; Brent, who married James Hanner, and has two children: Ellen, who married Steve Robbins; and Nan, who married John Medlin; Miriam, who married Jerry Campbell; and Elizabeth.

Sue Denny has three children: Flo, who married Dr. Daniel L. Durway, and has three step-children; Stephen, who married Patricia Chase; and Sue Morgan.

The John Riley Morris family lived south of Farmer in a grove near where the Handy Road intersects old Highway 49. The son of Nelson and Adeline Riley Morris, he married Mary Elizabeth Thompson, daughter of Rosetta Russell Kearns Thompson, the first time. John and Mary had five children: Flaud, who married Lucille Anderson; Mamie, who married Chisholm Bisher; Carson; Ella, who married Fulton Kearns; and Tula, who married Jefferson Ward.

The Bishers have a son Furman who has made a nationwide reputation as a sports writer for an Atlanta newspaper.

In his second marriage John was wed to Celia Ingram, the daughter of Locke and Elizabeth Steed Ingram. They had a daughter Clara, who married Hill Lassiter.



John Riley Morris and grandson, William.



Mrs. Flora Morgan's family: Tom and Mrs. Morgan in front. Back row, left to right: Mabel Byrd, Ocia, Edward, Percy, and Sue Denny.





Mary Elizabeth Thompson Morris, first wife of John Riley Morris.



Henry Nance

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## NANCE

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Henry C. Nance, one of the trustees of the Farmer School when it underwent the transition from private institution to public school in 1907, married Velna Vuncannon. To them were born nine children: Lillie, Kate, Maude, Cammie, Clay, Lewis, Byron, Raymond, and Vernon.

Lillie married Erastus Wood, once a teacher at Piney Grove, and they had 3 children: Lula, Ila, and Blanche. Kate became a teacher and married Arthur Cranford. Maude married the Rev. A.D. Shelton. The following children were born to them: J.D., Evelyn, Maxine, Helen, and Vistar. Cammie married Reid Kearns; Clay married Vennie Crump, and had one child, Bernard; Lewis married Lizzie Hamer, and had three children, William, John and Mary Hamer; and Byron married Mae Hudson.

Raymond, who operated an automobile agency in Asheboro, married Verdie White and they had 3 children: Velna, Max, and James. After Verdie died, Raymond married Katie Bell Cagle. Vernon Nance married Annie Mitchell, granddaughter of Barnum Bingham. To them were born Lucy, Barbara, Charles, and Henrietta.



Velna Vuncannon Nance.



The children of Henry and Velna Vuncannon Nance. Left to Right: Kate, Maude, Cammie, Clay, Lewis, Byron, Raymond and Vernon. (Lillie is not in photo.)

Allen Nance, (1826 — 1914), the son of Hudson Nance, Jr., and Rebecca Ivey Nance, married Sarah Ridge (1825 — 1916), the daughter of William and Serena Wood Ridge. Their children

were Elsevan Branson, who married Grace Nance; James C., who died young; Henry C., who married Velna Vuncannon; Dicey M., wed to J.M. Pickett; and Ivey C., who married Cora Lowe.



The Allen Nance home. Clarence Ridge bought it in 1914. His son, Kent owns it at present.



Elsevan Branson Nance (1856 – 1904), married Grace Nance (1858 – 1921), daughter of Henry and Martha Nance Nance. To this union were born seven children: James Cicero, who married Elsie Morris first, and then Tidy Reynolds; Cora Brown, who died young; Mattie, who married Henry Kearns; Carl Green, who married Nannie Hill; Sally, who married James Kivett; Troy, wed to Worth Kearns; and Essie, who married Raymond Crowell.

The Carl G. Nance family lived in the Salem Church Community. He married Nannie Hill, a daughter of James B. and Rachael Lambeth Hill, to whom were born eight children: Branson, who married Bruce Noah; Frances, wed to Edward Hunt; J. Van, to Helen Fields; Glee, to Roy Arnold; Ivey, to Miss Troy Jean Nance; Charles, to Marguerite Lanier; Lucille, to Ben R. Varner; and Dwight, to Earline Davis.



The Branson and Grace Nance family, Salem Church, N.C. Front row: Mattie, Troy, Grace (mother), Essie, Branson (father); Second row: Sallie, Carl, Cicero.



Leona Parrish, wife of Kearney Plummer; and Nannie Hill, wife of Carl Nance.



The Carl Nance men: Branson Nance, Carl (father), Charles, J. Van, Ivey, Dwight, and Allen Kearns, a nephew.



The Carl Nance home, built circa 1800.



Carl Nance (1893 – 1980) at his home.

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## PIERCE

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The Allie Pierce family lived on the Farmer-Tabernacle Road near Jackson's Creek. The children were Etta, Ivey, Wilbur, Beatrice, and Ruth. They moved to High Point early in this century.

Oscar Pierce, a brother to Allie, married Deborah Moore. They also lived near Jackson's Creek and had two children: Farris and Bessie. Farris married Mary Tew. Bessie married Walser Thornburg.

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## RICHEY

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J.H. Richey was a large farmer, but became the Superintendent of Streets in Asheboro. He married Sadie Moon and they had two sons: Zane, who married Frances Hall; and Don, who married Della Rush.

Mrs. Richey was a charter member of the Women's Curb Market on East Salisbury Street in Asheboro.





The J.H. Richey Family at their farm. Left to right: Sadie Moon Richey, Don, J.H. and Zane.

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## RIDGE

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Burrell B. Ridge, one of the founders of the Farmers Academy in 1882, married Mary M. Richardson. They had six children: Robert Baxter, Emma, Gertrude, Lewis J., Ernest G., and Walter S.

The only grandchildren were born to Robert Baxter who married Beulah Surratt. The children were Faedene, Baxter, Finch, Casper, Dorothy, Margaret, and William. Faedene married Richard Kirk and Gertrude married Dockery (Duck) Thornburg.

Emma and Ernest Ridge became teachers and taught in the local schools for many years. Faedene Ridge Kirk also had a teaching career.

The Ridge home was a part of the original Horney tract and was located on Jackson Creek above the bridge on the Farmer-Tabernacle Road.

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## RUSH

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Warren Rush, the son of Alson and Martisha Lewis Rush, married Della Cooper first, then Sarah Henley.

To Della Cooper Rush were born seven children: Effie, who married Ed Winfrey; James, married to Vida Cornelison; Zeb, to Ruby Ijames; Glenn, to Maggie Beasley; Richard, to Anna Burge; George, to Nellie Ring; Jessie, to Ralph Branch. To Sarah Henley Rush were born four children: Nancy, married to Edward Cagle; Robert, to Violet Brown; Alson, to Ulah Hughes; Mary Anne, to Judd Russell.

James Rush had two children, Della and Doris. Della married Don Richey and Doris married W.A. Hammond. George Rush had two, Joan and Hurley. Jessie Branch had two, Wanda and Brown. Nancy Cagle had two, Charles and Hilda. Robert Rush had one, Janice. Mary Anne Russell had five, Sarah Jane, Cathy Anne, Nancy, Teresa, and Joseph.



Warren Rush and wife Sarah at their home.

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## SNIDER

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Thomas Walter Snider was married twice: first to Ella Peacock, who bore him two children; then to Mary Leona Trotter, by whom he had ten children.

His first wife's children were Dorothy, who married Hubert White; and Thomas Dalton, who married Louise Hughes.

His second wife's children were Frances Colleen, who married Paul Edgar Apple; Gladys Elizabeth, who married Fred Routh; Dwight Eugene, who married Avaline Richardson; Ruth Leona, who married Bobby Leonard first, then David Bradshaw; John William, who married Imogene Nelson; Clyatt Lester, who married Yvonne Adams; Jack London, who married Joyce Williams; Nancy Ellen, who married Ronald Pierce; and Dewey Wayne, who married Maude Murphy.

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## SPENCER

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The Enos Spencer family lived across the fields and woods from the Moses Morgan home in Farmer for many years. Enos, the son of Michael Spencer, married Mattie Steed and to them were born six children — all girls. Lula, who became a teacher, married Tate McCurry; Edith married Ray Talley; Anna, to Joseph Steppe; and Berta, to Guy Norton. Lenora married and lived in Florida. The entire family later moved to Marion, N.C.



The Walter Snider home.

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## THORNBURG

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William Penn Thornburg lived in the Hill's Store — Rachel Post Office area and reared eight children. He was the son of Joe and Eliza Jane Hardister Thornburg, and married Middie Lee Loflin, daughter of Clark and Elizabeth Kearns Loflin. His children were Walter, who married Esther Leach; Edward Ray, wed to Ada Shaw; Clie, married to Raymond Osborne; Hal, to Ida Hampton; Rom, to Annie Johnson; Holton, to Thelma Deaton; Clark, married Grace Garner; and Val, who married Gladys Branson.



The Walter Snider family made in 1947. Front row, left to right: Dorothy White holding Jean White, Walter Snider sitting and holding Donald White, Nancy Snider, Mary Snider sitting and holding Dewey Snider, Jack Snider, Clyatt Snider, and Charles White; Second row: Hubert White, Colleen Apple, Gladys Routh, Rachael Snider, Ruth Snider. Missing from the picture were John, Dwight, and Dalton. Hubert White is a son-in-law of Walter Snider.





Mr. and Mrs. W.P. Thornburg and family at 50th Wedding Anniversary. First Row, left to right. E.W. Thornburg, William Penn Thornburg, Middie Lee Loffin Thornburg, Val Thornburg, Clark Thornburg. Second Row, left to right: Holtom Thornburg, Walter Thornburg, Clie Thornburg Osborne, Hal Thornburg, Rom Thornburg.



The Penn Thornburg Farmhouse.



The Joe Thornburg Home; later the Duckery Thornburg Home.

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## WHAM

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**J.R. Wham**, who married **Marie Ector**, farmed and was employed by the Carolina Light and Power Company in Asheboro. He had two children: **Joseph** and **Miriam**.

**Joseph** married **Nannie Welborn** and had three children: **Nancy**, who married **James Tucker**; **Sue**, who married **John Webster**; and **Peggy**, who married **Jerry Tutterow**.

**Miriam** married **Donald Ridge** and they were blessed with two children: **Julia**, married to **Jerry Callicutt**; and **John W.**, married to **Sharon Powell**.



J.R. Wham.



Joseph Wham.



Miriam Wham Ridge.



Marie Ector Wham.

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## WINSLOW

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The family of **Claude Winslow** lived on the old Highway 49 northeast of Farmer, where he and his wife **Mary Barber Winslow** reared ten children. He was the son of **William** and **Sallie Wilson Winslow**. The children were **Sandy**, who married **Gertrude Lowe**; **Allene**, married to **Jack Wright** first, then to **Mr. Boaz**; **Vera**, to **James Stewart**; **Nathan**, to **Mary Hughes**; **Leola**, to **Clifford Cashatt**; **Dorothy**, to **George McDowell**; **Clifford**, to **Dorothy Yates**; **Pauline** (never married); **Worth**, to **Dorothy O'Quinn**; and **Annie Belle**, who married **James Hoofner (?)**.



Sandy had three children, Hal Worth, Jasper, and Claude; Allene, a son by her first husband, Jacky W.; Nathan had one son William; Leola had a daughter Norma Jean; Dorothy had five, Carolyn, Kenneth, Jerry, Nolan, and Steve; Clifford had four, Neil, Beverly, Debbie, and Gregg; Worth, two children, Sylvia and Ronald; Annie Bell, six, Alvin, Melvin, Sandra, Darlene, Terry, and Fayette.

## WOOD

The Wood family, one of the earliest in the larger Farmer area, have many descendants still living in the county, although the name "Wood" is not predominant at this period. The descendants are found notably among the Kimballs and the Harrises.

Captain William Wood (born 1738 and died April 26, 1804) came from the Eastern Shore of Maryland or Virginia to settle in Randolph County in 1779, the year the county was formed from Rowan and Guilford. He secured land on Tom's Creek west of Farmer, possibly as a grant from the state for having served in the Revolutionary War. In the meantime, he had married Martha Kendrick (born Jan. 7, 1747, and died Feb. 1814) on May 28, 1764.

William Wood served in the Revolutionary War as a Captain, thus the title (Book A, N.C. Rev. War Act. Report #42).

To the Captain and his wife was born a son Jones Kendrick, on July 6, 1790 (death date uncertain). Jones married Ruth Dunn Loflin (born April 28, 1793, and died Mar. 28, 1869). Jones continued to live on his father's farm and reared his family there, where his father, Captain Wood and his wife were buried, in the plot known as the "Wood Cemetery."

Fernando Wood, whose father was William Wood (the son perhaps of Jones Kendrick Wood of Revolutionary War fame), lived about three miles west of Farmer on the Denton Road. Never married, he served as the head-of-the-household for his sisters, Cornelia, Bertha, Dora, and their children: Orville, Birdie, and Vernie. Fernando was noted for his pride in his forefathers.

William Wood was Born  
September the 11<sup>th</sup> day 1821 -  
Nancy Wood was Born  
August the 25<sup>th</sup> day 1823  
Holl Wood was Born  
April the 1<sup>st</sup> day 1825  
Dorinda Wood was Born  
July the 16<sup>th</sup> Day 1827  
Marquis Lafayette Wood was  
Born October the 23<sup>rd</sup> day 1829  
Rufus Jones Wood was Born  
July the 1<sup>st</sup> in the year 1831  
Sarah Wood was Born  
July the 13<sup>th</sup> day 1833  
John Wesley Wood was Born  
July the 14<sup>th</sup> Day 1834  
Virgil Stewart Wood was born  
September the 29<sup>th</sup> day 1836 46  
Martha Kendrick Daughter of  
William Kendrick and Sarah his  
Wife was born January 7<sup>th</sup> 1747  
Jones K. Wood was born July  
the 6<sup>th</sup> day in the year 1790  
Ruthy Loflin was born April  
the 28<sup>th</sup> day in the year 1793 -  
Sabrina Wood Daughter of the above  
was born April the 25<sup>th</sup> 1813  
Peninnah Wood Daughter of the same  
was born January 22<sup>nd</sup> 1815 -  
Gray Wood was born October  
the 8<sup>th</sup> day in the year 1816 -  
Betsey Wood was born May 31<sup>st</sup> 1818  
Hilah Wood was born February  
the 18<sup>th</sup> day in the year 1820

Book written by Jones K. Wood, May 3, 1857.

William Wood and Martha Hendrick  
Was Married May the 28<sup>th</sup> day 1765  
They lived together 38 years 10 ten  
Months and 28 days - - -

Jones K. Wood and Ruthy Loftin  
was Married the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May 1812  
By Josiah Lyndon Esqr 65 years ago  
Sabrina Wood was married to John  
Gagner October 5<sup>th</sup> 1837 by J. Nixon  
Peninnah Wood was married to Eldridge  
Carter February 17<sup>th</sup> 1842 by E. Loftin  
Gray Wood was married to Martha  
Bischoff April the 18<sup>th</sup> day 1844  
Gray Wood was married to Martha  
Cotton May the 29<sup>th</sup> day 1850 by Walsh  
Sarah Wood was married to Susan  
Farrif. August the 10<sup>th</sup> day 1857

Betsy Wood was married to Abner  
Cottrill March the 23<sup>rd</sup> day 1854  
Nancy Wood was married to John  
Shoup August the 19<sup>th</sup> 1856 by Helcher

Sponge cake  
one cup flour and  
one cup of sugar five eggs  
one tablespoonful of  
baking powder one  
half cup water  
beat up quickly  
and baked

Leather cake  
one cup of sugar one  
half cup milk one and  
one half cups of flour  
one tablespoonful of  
butter one half  
teaspoonful of soda  
one tablespoonful of  
cream tartar flavor  
with lemon

Roll cake

The recipe of fine  
one cup sugar and one cup  
rich cream one tablespoon  
with a pinch of salt  
one cup of flour beaten  
with vanilla

Lime cake

Half cup of butter one  
cup and half of white  
sugar one half cup  
milk with the white  
of five eggs one half  
teaspoonful soda one  
tablespoonful cream tartar



William Wood departed this life  
the 26<sup>th</sup> day of April 1804  
In the 67<sup>th</sup> year of his age  
his funeral was preached by Robert  
Dean on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of August 1804  
he took his text from Nahum  
1<sup>st</sup> Chapter 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Verses —  
Martha Wood lived a widow 26  
Years 9 Months and 18 days and died  
the 14<sup>th</sup> day of February 1831  
being 84 years one Month and 7  
days old. Her funeral was preached  
by Samuel Herrel on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day  
of July 1831 from Revelations  
2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter — the part of the 11<sup>th</sup> Verse  
Lewis Loftin departed this life April  
the 17<sup>th</sup> day 1810 Aged 63 Year

His funeral was preached on Sunday  
the 9<sup>th</sup> day of May 1847 by the  
Rev<sup>d</sup> John St Clair he took his text  
from the 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter of the 1<sup>st</sup> Epistle  
General of Peter 24 & 25 Verses

Hilah Wood Died April the 4<sup>th</sup> day  
In the year 1855 Being 35 Years  
1 Month and 16 days old She lived  
a harmless peaceable life and died  
the death of a Christian and is now  
in heaven without any doubt  
her funeral was preached July  
the 29<sup>th</sup> day 1855 by the Reverend  
Braxton Craven President of Normal  
College from the 10<sup>th</sup> Verse of the  
1<sup>st</sup> Chapter of 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy to a large  
and respectable Congregation

his funeral was preached by William  
Flanna from Revelations the 20<sup>th</sup>  
Chapter first part of the 6 Verse  
Mary Loftin lived a widow 32  
Years 6 Months and 23 days and  
Died November the 10<sup>th</sup> day 1842  
her age not known but supposed  
to be about 90 years old  
her funeral was preached by  
James Nicholson from Revelations  
the 7<sup>th</sup> Chapter and 14<sup>th</sup> Verse  
Reuben J. Wood died November 22<sup>nd</sup>  
day 1846 Being 15 Years 4 Months  
and 21 days old he being the first  
of 14 Children that we have lost and  
a great loss it was

Jones H. Wood his hand and  
pen wrote May the 3<sup>rd</sup> 1857  
for his Daughter Peninnah  
Carter. When this you see  
Remember me when I am in  
— Eternity —

3

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# ANNIVERSARIES

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MR. AND MRS. CARSON CRANFORD  
70TH ANNIVERSARY (MAY 28, 1981)





MR. AND MRS. GRADY CRANFORD  
50TH ANNIVERSARY (MARCH 1966)

Front Row, left to right: Tony Cranford, Mrs. Grady Cranford, Mr. Grady Cranford, Hilda Jean Sink; Back Row, left to right: Delbert Cranford, Faye Delk Cranford, Martin Cranford, Ray Carter Sink, Emogene Cranford Sink, Raymond O. Sink.



MR. AND MRS. R.L. DAVIS  
60TH ANNIVERSARY (DECEMBER 1969)

Left to right: Frances Jernigan, Lillian Bunting, R.L. (Bob) Davis, Hoyt Davis, Metta Russell Davis.





MR. AND MRS. MADISON HAMMOND  
60TH ANNIVERSARY (DECEMBER 1953)



Children of Madison Hammond at 60th Wedding Anniversary: Carl, Bob, Leah, Paul and Tom.



MR. AND MRS. A. REID KEARNS  
50TH ANNIVERSARY (DECEMBER 1973)





MR. AND MRS. HENRY NANCE  
50TH ANNIVERSARY (MAY 1933)



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM PENN THORNBURG  
50TH ANNIVERSARY (OCTOBER 1947)

First Row, left to right: E. W. Thornburg, William Penn Thornburg, Middie Lee Loflin Thornburg, Val Thornburg and Clark Thornburg. Second Row, left to right: Holton Thornburg, Walter Thornburg, Clie Thornburg Osborne, Hal Thornburg and Rom Thornburg.



# 4

## INDIVIDUALS

### BUGGY MAKING NEAR FARMER

"**Tom** Bingham, of Farmer, might well be called the "Last of the Buggy Makers."

He is the only survivor of the Bingham Buggy Co. whose products were well known and widely used throughout the counties of Randolph, Montgomery, Davidson, and Guilford during the three decades following the close of the War between the States.

Bingham, who was christened **Thomas William** 84 years ago, recalls his buggy-making days with vividness, as well as with zest.

"We made some mighty pretty buggies," he says, "especially the phaeton with the top that could be folded down. It was light but sturdily built, and equipped with shafts for a single horse or with a pole for a team. It carried five or six passengers."

The Bingham buggy industry started a long time before he was born. His father, **L.G.B. Bingham**, gave his services to the Confederate cause in the industries necessary for carrying on the battle in the field; and after peace came, he returned home to use his acquired skills in keeping the wheels of his fellowman rolling. He opened a repair shop for wagons and buggies. His skill and reputation grew, so that he soon found himself swamped with work. He hired help and concentrated his efforts on buggy repair, since the skilled and finished work required for the buggies appealed to his artistic temperament.

Manufacturing buggies with the "**Bingham**" label was a natural outgrowth. Shops and men that had been used in rebuilding wornout buggies were easily converted into shops and men that built new ones.

Bingham manufactured his buggies at the Bingham home in Randolph County, the first one being turned out in 1870 and the final one being constructed in 1897. The Bingham home, which served as the Flora post office for a number of years, was located about 16 miles west of Ashboro on one of the main roads to Davidson Coun-

ty and Lexington. It was about a mile southeast of the Canaan Methodist Church, which still flourishes today.

"I was too young to learn one of the trades before my father gave up the business," Bingham says. "Cheaper buggies, not so well made as ours, began coming in from the North. My father would not lower the quality of his buggies; therefore, we could not make them and sell them at enough profit to keep us in the business."

#### Became Family Affair

After three sons became old enough to learn the various trades, they took over the skilled work, some member of the family doing everything except the finished paint job. An expert had to be hired for that until the business closed.

The oldest son, **John Webster**, known as "**Webb**," became the expert in wood work. He fashioned the body and fitted the wood parts to the running gear. After the business closed he followed carpentry and cabinet making for the remainder of his life. He made his home near Farmer, where he died in 1927.

The second son, **Warren Lewis Greenberry**, usually called "**Green**," took over the important job of blacksmith as soon as he grew up. From the open forge with its hand operated bellows, he fashioned the iron frame for the dash, the metal strips for the body, shafts, and single trees. In later years **Green Bingham** made his home in Denton where he ran a blacksmith and repair shop until his death in 1936.

**Tom**, the youngest son, ran the farm which his father operated on the side, and served as general helper throughout the shops.

"Drilling holes through buggy tires from morning until night with a hand-operated drill press," he recalls, "was a day's work to be remembered."

He took up sawmilling after the buggy making days were over and followed that until he retired a few years ago.

#### Sold Over Wide Area

Bingham buggies, built at the rate of about 40

per year, were sold to people over a large section of Central North Carolina, even though most of the vehicles were disposed of at the plant. Some were taken, however, to places of public gatherings and displayed for sale. **Bingham** recalls the trips he made with his father to the Troy Courthouse in Montgomery County during Court week. They usually took about a half dozen of various types, put up at the George Allen Hotel, and stayed there until court adjourned or the buggies were sold. **Colonel Simmons**, of Troy, often bought the mortgages given to the **Binghams** for their buggies—evidence that that installment buying isn't entirely a child of the 20th Century.

Prices on the **Bingham** Buggy ranged from \$52.50 for the standard single seater to \$140.00 for the double seater phaeton with the folding top. If a canopy top were added to the single seater, the price increased about \$10. A folding top, a better grade of wheels, and a little extra trim called for an increase of about \$20.00.

From about 1880 to 1890, the cart became fashionable. The standard cart was cheaper than the buggy, but the deluxe model, with especially designed springs to take the jolt out of a horse's trot, ran about the same price as the standard buggy.

**Dr. Allison Fuller**, who had a wide practice in the western end of Randolph County around the turn of the century, owned at least two of the **Bingham** buggies. After making his rounds for many years on horseback, he bought a buggy and a cart from the **Binghams** and continued to use them until his death. Many people in High Point, Greensboro, and Lexington owned a **Bingham** product.

Although the six daughters of the **Binghams** did not actually take part in the construction of the buggies, they contributed their share in household and farm chores. They carded the cotton and wool, then spun them into thread, and wove them into linens and clothes. They cooked and fed and nursed.

Two sisters live to share the memory of the buggy-making days with **Tom**. They are **Mrs. T.W. Mitchell**, of Denton; and **Mrs. W.F. Talley, Sr.**, of Randleman. Other daughters were **Mrs. M.N. Morgan**, of Farmer; **Mrs. "Lum" Ridge**, of Canaan; **Mrs. Arthur Welborn**, of Farmer; and **Mrs. C.G. Loflin** of Denton.

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*From an article by Zeb Denny appearing in The High Point Enterprise Sunday, June 22, 1958.*

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## NIXON CRANFORD PUBLISHER

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At least one **Cranford** was recognized for his distinguished career in the publishing business, becoming associated with the *Journal Publishing Company* of Winston-Salem in 1910. He worked with the newspaper, the *Winston-Salem Journal-Sentinel*, for many years, rising to the presidency of the company eventually.

After taking a business course at Oak Ridge Institute, **Nixon L. Cranford** taught for two years in the local schools before going to Winston-Salem where he joined the Taylor Bros. Tobacco Company and worked five years. He then entered the clothing business but sold his store in 1913 to take a job with the United States Revenue Service, a job he held until 1918 when he took up full time duties with the newspaper.

**Nixon L. Cranford**, the son of **Martin** and **Jane Cranford Cranford**, married **Jennie P. Clingman**, the daughter of **Dr. J.J. Clingman** and his wife **Cora Hackett Clingman**, of Huntsville, Yadkin County. **Nixon** was the great-great-grandson of **William Cranford**, the first **Cranford** to appear on the Montgomery County tax list back in 1790. Presumably **John Cranford**—the father of **Joshua, Ivy, Martin, Milton, Nathan, Margaret, Mary,** and **Laura**—was the grandson of **William**.

**Martin Cranford**, the first to live in Randolph County, bought land in New Hope township, moved his family there, and lived in that place until his demise in 1911. His children, in addition to **Nixon**, were **Lewis, John, Ernest, Ivy, Grady, Martha, Keturah,** and **Bessie**.

**Nixon L. Cranford** was the past master of Salem Lodge No. 289, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and was affiliated with Winston Lodge No. 449 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

**Nixon L. Cranford** was born December 19, 1869 and died January 23, 1930.

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## MRS. OSSIE CRANFORD

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At her death, the Farmer Extension Homemakers club honored **Mrs. Grady (Ossie) Cranford** with a resolution of appreciation.

The resolution read: "A person respected and appreciated by all who knew her, always faithful and interested in her club, the best neighbor



possible, always gracious and willing to be helpful in all circumstances. A pillar of the Oak Grove Methodist Church. An inspiration to her family, her pleasant personality endeared her to the Farmer Community where she lived her entire life, as well as to those touched by her elsewhere.”

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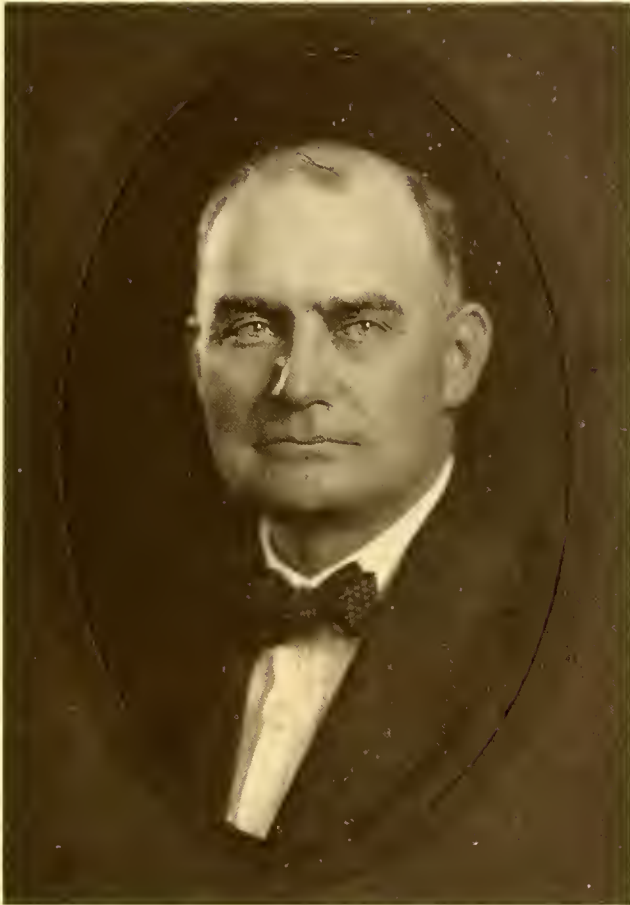
## J. HYATT HAMMOND

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**J. Hyatt Hammond**, son of **Bob Hammond** and grandson of **Madison Hammond**, has, in his 54 years, built a state-wide reputation among the architects and builders of North Carolina. He has gained that recognition from his works: the state zoo, Bryan Center north of Greensboro, Guilford Technical Institute, parts of A&T State University, renovation of downtown Greensboro, and refurbishing Montaldo's.

Since he opened his own office in Asheboro in 1957, after terminating a four-year partnership, he has seen his business grow from \$100,000 to \$20 million per year today. His brochure states the principles upon which his success is based: “Our fundamental principle in approaching a project is that the architecture is for the people. Elegance, space, style, efficiency, economy, and durability are still as important as ever, but today's most pressing need is for humane spaces in which people can happily work and play. . .”

**Hammond** lists the Bryan Park Enrichment Center as his favorite project thus far. His most interesting work has been the construction of the North Carolina Zoo near Asheboro, where he has completed habitats for elephants, rhinos, chimpanzees, lions, and baboons, and a maintenance



Nixon L. Cranford



Mrs. Grady (Ossie) Cranford.



J. Hyatt Hammond. In the background is a drawing of the African Continent at the North Carolina Zoological Park. In the foreground is a scale model of downtown Greensboro. Hammond is pointing to the Jefferson Standard Building in the center of the city.



The Home of J. Hyatt Hammond.

and operations center. His company is now working on the African veldt (pasture) and the zoo tramway.

As a young man, the distinguished looking architect says that "I always liked art and was fascinated by buildings. In the summer after I was old enough to work, you'd always find me on a construction job."

After finishing high school at Farmer at 17, he joined the U.S. Navy and spent the next four years on a minesweeper. Out of service, he entered N.C. State University at Raleigh to study architecture, receiving his degree in 1953.

Since 1957, **Hammond** and Associates has drawn the plans and supervised the construction of some 400 projects, including schools, (one with a planetarium), community and technical colleges, university buildings, libraries, business structures, renovations, and rehabilitation centers.

"The greatest satisfaction in the profession," **Hammond** says, "is to see a facility in full use, meeting every goal set for it."

**Hammond** and his wife make their home in the renovated **Molly Skeen** place on the Jackson Creek road north of Farmer.

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## SHERMAN HOOVER

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**Sherman Hoover**, who lived in the Jackson Creek Community, went to Washington, D.C., and got a job of important responsibility in the Treasury Department.

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## DR. HUBBARD

### The Guardian Angel of Farmer's Welfare

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News of the death Thursday, August 10, 1944, of **Dr. Charles Calvin Hubbard**, 76, at his home in Farmer, was received by his hundreds of friends throughout the county and state with a feeling of deep regret and sadness. Each felt a keen loss of a personal friend and counselor. While his friends generally knew he was not in robust health, his death came unexpectedly.

**Dr. Hubbard**, who was said by some to be the most outstanding man ever to live in Farmer, was a native of Wilkes County, where he was born January 14, 1868, the son of **William** and **Jane Saner Hubbard** (members of one of Wilkes' foremost families). At the age of 17 he began his





The Dr. Charles C. Hubbard home. Built in 1905 by Marvin Kearns.

studies of medicine under the late **Dr. Larry Stokes**, of Wilkesboro, and a year later entered Jefferson College, Philadelphia, completing a two-year course and receiving his diploma in April, 1888.

After practicing in Wilkes and at Worthville in Randolph County, he came to Farmer in 1908. He was married June 21, 1893, to **Frances Porter**, of Asheboro, a first cousin of **William Sidney Porter (O. Henry)**. She had been a teacher in the Randolph County schools. She preceded him in death, having died November 16, 1943. They had two children: **Dorothy**, who married **Elbert Kearns** and lived in Greensboro; and **Hope**, who lived in Farmer until her death in 1977. **Dorothy** and **Elbert Kearns** were killed in an automobile accident in 1977.

As a resident of Farmer, **Dr. Hubbard** worked unceasingly for the Sunday School program and for temperance and prohibition. He served the Randolph County Medical Society from 1892 until his death. For several years he was an honorary fellow of the North Carolina Medical Society.

**Dr. Hubbard** was a member of the Science Hill Monthly Meeting of Friends and had been an



Dr. C.C. Hubbard.

elder for many years, contributing liberally to all his church's activities.

After a funeral in the Science Hill Friends Meeting house conducted by the **Rev. Seth Hinshaw**, **Dr. Hubbard** was buried in the Asheboro City cemetery.

An excerpt from a tribute written about **Dr. Hubbard** at his death conveys something of the respect and esteem the community held for him. The writer was one who, as a child and young adult, had known the kindness of the doctor and his wife, as well as the hospitality of their home.

"He had not only carved upon the human spirit," the writer said, "but the principles he fought for so long and ably bore the double stamp of righteousness and enlightenment."

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## MY STORY: DR. CHARLES C. HUBBARD

by Sue Morgan Denny

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Never would I take anything away from modern medicine with its many new drugs, its wonderful equipment, or its highly trained specialists. But I would like to pay tribute to the skill, patience, bed-side manner and know-how of the country practitioner of yesteryear.

Once when I was three, my six year old sister and I, sat playing on the back steps of our home with an old steel strap. In trying to keep Sister from getting the trap from me, I fell backwards off the steps on some rocks.

I screamed and lay where I landed until Mother, who was watching us from the back porch, told Sister to bring me to her. Mother noticed that when she touched my left arm, I yelled louder. When she gently moved my arm, she heard the bones make a crunching sound, she said.

Papa, came in, examined my arm, and agreed that it was broken. He called **Dr. Charles C. Hubbard**, whose home and office (one and the same) were about a mile away. His wife said the doctor was on a call in the lower end of the county and that it would probably be late when he returned. He was still traveling by horse and buggy at that time.

It was dark when **Dr. Hubbard** phoned my parents, saying he would rather wait until morning to set my arm because oil lamps would not furnish him enough light. He also said he did not

want to disturb me since I had cried myself to sleep.

"Don't let her have any breakfast," he added.

Morning and the doctor came. He examined my arm carefully using only his eyes and fingers, the xray not having arrived in Randolph County at that time. After the examination, he shook his head and announced, "A crushed elbow, one of the worst places to have a break."

Someone held a chloroform mask to my nose until I was safely asleep. Then with those deft fingers of his, the doctor set the bones in the swollen elbow, which had been broken eighteen hours earlier.

After the "operation" he told my parents: "Your child may never be able to straighten her arm or carry any weight in her hand, but I have set it in such a position that she can feed herself if nothing more."

After I had worn a heavy cast for weeks, the day came when, with great anxiety and eagerness, **Dr. Hubbard** removed it. He touched my arm gently, moving it ever so slightly. His face lighted with joy.

"Time will tell," he said, "but I believe the arm is going to be all right."

From that day until I was a college student, **Dr. Hubbard** examined my arm almost everytime he saw me. Each time his face would light up with pride in his own work and with happiness over the fact that I had not been maimed for life.



Sue Morgan Denny.



*This article appeared in the Charlotte Observer in 1970. Sue Morgan Denny grew up in Farmer and finished high school there in 1928. She is a graduate of High Point College. She taught in Denton and Asheboro before her marriage to Zeb Denny. After marrying she moved to Roanoke Rapids. Since retiring, she has traveled extensively in the U.S. and Europe. She has been writing nostalgic pieces for publication.*

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## MRS. FRANCES WALKER PORTER HUBBARD

Wife and Helper of Dr. Hubbard

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Mrs. Frances Walker Porter Hubbard, wife of Dr. Charles C. Hubbard and his constant companion and helper for as long as she was able, was born in Asheboro, March 31, 1868, one of ten children of David Worth and Frances Walker Porter and a first cousin of writer William Sidney Porter (O. Henry) of Greensboro.

Mrs. Hubbard began work at the age of 15, attending school in the winter and working during the vacation. After completing school, she taught for many years, but worked in the office of the Register of Deeds for Randolph County during the summer months. She sometimes told about receiving forty cents a day for her work while men doing the same tasks drew a dollar a day.



Frances Walker Porter Hubbard.

On June 21, 1893, she was married to Dr. Hubbard and made her home in Worthville until they moved to Farmer in 1908, where they lived the remainder of their lives. At Farmer, she continued her interest in religious work, being instrumental in organizing Sunday Schools throughout the county. Throughout her life she remained interested in Sunday School and church work. She was a member of the Science Hills Friends Church, but always worked across denominational lines.

A wide circle of friends remembered her as mother, counselor, advisor, and as a warm-hearted and true friend. Her charities, her sympathies, her work for the good knew no boundaries of race, creed, nationality, or station in society. Mrs. Hubbard, herself well read, for many years corresponded with local papers and her letters about her friends and neighborhood activities were widely read.

She preceded her husband in death by some ten months, and was buried in the Asheboro Cemetery in the plot by her parents, after a funeral was held at the Science Hill Friends Meeting with the Rev. Edward Harris officiating, and the Rev. Messrs. Howard Cope and Seth Hinshaw assisting.

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## THE HUBBARDS' LIBRARY

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Farmer, May 24—This is a little world where things are always getting mixed. For instance, you wouldn't think that what a harness dealer read in Edinburg, Scotland, on a rainy morning more than half a century ago should blend with inspiration brought by the teaching of a former Greensboro Presbyterian pastor, Dr. Egbert W. Smith, and affect hundreds of lives in Randolph County.

But then, of course, you don't know Dr. Charles C. Hubbard, a Quaker country doctor, who has already practiced for more than a half century in Randolph County, nor his wife, Frances Porter Hubbard, who has walked side by side with him on a pair of crutches for most of that 50 years.

The story of the country doctor is always an entrancing one in America. The movements of intimacy between the physician and his rural-bound patient, over whom mayhap death from pneumonia or some other malady hangs like the sword of Damocles, encompasses romance not exactly equalled anywhere else. Nor has the profes-

sional life of this Randolph physician had any less thrills than those elsewhere. The challenges have brought their reward.

But **Dr. and Mrs. Hubbard** as they have come walking down the years have added a little something different to the country doctor's life: the business of lending books and handing out tracts. And that is where we get back to the harness dealer in Edinburg, and **Dr. Egbert Smith**.

**Dr. Smith** used to go to Asheboro once a month to preach. **Frances Porter**, now **Mrs. Hubbard**, who is a cousin of the late **William Sidney Porter (O. Henry)**, was a member of his congregation. The pastor found in this Asheboro girl, who was then working as a copyist for the Randolph Register of Deeds at a wage of 30 cents a day, a soul hungry for reading. He got her started on John Ruskin, Sir Walter Scott and other substantial authors, many of whose books he lent her.

Then **Miss Porter** married a young Wilkes County doctor, **Charles Hubbard**, who had come to Randolph to practice. Together they decided to do something for those who found reading matter hard to obtain. Having distributed tracts while in college in Philadelphia, **Dr. Hubbard**, with **Mrs. Hubbard's** help, founded the Worthville Tract Society in 1894. The organization was broadened into a circulating library as the two obtained more books, the **Hubbard** home becoming the base of operations.

In time **Dr. Hubbard** obtained permission to reprint the little tract "A Solitary Way," which was brought from Edinburg by **Daniel Clock**, a harness dealer. He is now in the 80th thousand of the printing and has arranged to have it published after he is gone. These tracts have gone to every state in the Union except Nevada, and constant calls are being made for them.

What kind of books? **Dr. and Mrs. Hubbard** have tried to pick good books but they have always had in mind the taste of their readers. They have books for the children who could hardly spell out the words, books of inspiration, novels, lives of missionaries, and all. One copy of **Little Lord Fauntleroy** has been lent so many times that its backs are now almost completely threadbare.

The result? Of course school and public libraries have long since so enlarged on the idea of the **Hubbards** that their pioneer efforts now seem almost infinitesimally small. But were they?

The *Daily News* correspondent sat down to a meal with **Dr. and Mrs. Hubbard** last month. At

the table was a teacher who not long ago received her life certificate.

"I was one of those little girls," she confessed over her dessert. "I used to walk back of the hogpens to Worthville and to **Miss Fannie's** house to get my book. I would bring my little bucket of beans to sell in town and of course the money had to be spent for something more essential to life than reading matter. But I knew I could get my book from '**Miss Fannie**' and I did. I don't suppose I would ever have had the courage to become a teacher had it not been for the encouragement I received at this home and the books I got here."

The faces of the lovely old couple glowed. Here was exhibit A. Here was evidence that books as well as bread cast upon the waters may return again.

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*From a Greensboro Daily News article by Reporter Cannon, May 24, 1939.*

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## HOPE HUBBARD

### The Dorcas of Farmer

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In the Book of Acts the writer said about Dorcas, "This woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did." The same words could have been applied to **Hope Hubbard**, who practically all of her adult days of eighty-three years ministered to the physical, spiritual, and cultural needs of her neighbors and their children in Farmer.

In 1908, when she was thirteen, she came to Farmer from Worthville with her parents, **Dr. and Mrs. Charles C. Hubbard**, and her younger sister, **Dorothy**. She entered the Farmer School, which underwent the transition from a private institute to a public school that year, finished high school there, and went to Guilford College, which was (and is) supported by the Friends Church to which **Hope** belonged, and to which she would remain a loyal member, and in which she would be active throughout her years, always representative of the church's doctrine of brotherly love and peace.

After obtaining her teacher's certificate, **Hope** came back home to teach, serving in the elementary schools at Farmer and Piney Grove in Randolph County. For a period, she left the community to teach in the Clarke School in Granville County. But wherever she taught, she was known to be a teacher who went about her task with an attitude of Christian charity.



When her aging parents needed her at home, she was ready to sacrifice her promising career in the field of education to become her father's chauffeur and helper. She was seen at his side constantly as he completed a thirty-seven year stint of battling wind, rain, snow, muddy roads, and swollen streams, as well as an endless chain of illnesses and epidemics, among the scattered farm homes in the Farmer area.

While "**Miss Hope**," as she became known affectionately, helped the doctor with his work, she served the community as a Sunday School teacher, at both Science Hill Friends Church and the Farmer Methodist Church in Farmer, as a scout leader for both boys and girls, and as a member (she was a charter member) of the Grange. For twenty-three years she served as clerk of Science Hill Meeting of Friends, and for twenty-five years as clerk of the Southern Quarter. She was instrumental in the foundation of the Extension Homemakers Association, which she served as secretary, then as president. She chaired the district for one period and was a member of several council committees. **Miss Hope** was an honorary member at her death.

But **Miss Hope** did not dedicate her whole being to service and charity. She enjoyed many things for their own sake. She loved flowers, birds, and trees, studying them when she had the opportunity.

**Miss Hope** also liked old things, and collected many antiques, as her many friends who attended her sale a few months after her death in 1977 were sadly aware. She has amassed a multitude of old furniture, medical trivia, and glassware, especially old bottles.

One of her friends likes to tell the following story about a particularly interesting whiskey bottle that someone had once given to **Miss Hope**, who was very strongly opposed to any alcoholic use and abuse.

"What do you think?" she asked the friend. "Will people think I condone the use of whiskey if they see this bottle in my hands?"

The friend tried to assure **Miss Hope** that no one would think that she, just because she possessed the beautiful bottle, approved or condoned the use of its contents. But the friend was not sure she convinced her, faithful Quaker that she was.

In the mid 1940's while **Tom Brenneman** hosted the "Good Neighbor for a Day" radio show, one of **Miss Hope's** former scouts nominated her for the honor and the award, an orchid.

**Miss Hope** was chosen and recognized, the orchid being sent to her. When the area newspapers picked the story up, **Miss Hope** modestly credited her parents and the good that they had done for the recognition given her.

Today, those who carry on the affairs of Farmer live on in a heritage left them by **Miss Hope**, basking in the warmth of the memory they have of her kindly face, her ever present help, and her deep concern. Surely the place was blessed because of her having been there.

(Sidelights: The **Hubbard** home, and later **Miss Hope's** after her parents died, became something like a telephone central. Messages came to the **Hubbard** phone from far and near, and the **Hubbards** delivered them faithfully to the neighbors involved.

**Miss Hope** was teaching an elementary class on the third floor of the old Farmer School building when it burned in February, 1923. Very calmly she arranged her pupils in a prepracticed fire drill and marched them out without their knowing, until they were clear of the structure, that there was an actual fire.)

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*(The majority of this essay is based on a "Memorial For Hope Hubbard," which was written by Hal T. Gallimore, and read at the Science Hill Monthly Meeting August 17, 1977 - Ed.)*



Hope Hubbard.

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## THE SKELETON IN HOPE'S CLOSET

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She sat in the rocking chair on the big porch that wrapped itself halfway around the house and looked out at the big oaks and magnolias.

**Hope Hubbard's** eyes shone even deeper from the reflections off the bright dress she had put on to go to town a few hours earlier.

She was a mite unnerved about not finding anyone at the armory in Asheboro, but she was not about to let that show through her quiet Quaker mannerisms.

May 12, her birthday, had passed, and at age 79 **Hope Hubbard** had to get her auto license renewed.

"You have 30 days afterwards to get them, and I went today to take the test and there wasn't anyone at the armory," she said. "I couldn't find where they were, so I came home."

**Miss Hope** drives a recent vintage car now, but as a teenager she drove a Model T, chauffeuring her country doctor father all over the county to his patients, winter and summer, snow and mud not withstanding.

"Oh, the muddy roads," she said reflecting the early 1900's.

**Miss Hope** is Farmer's First Citizen, and folks there'll give you a big list of her accomplishments at the drop of her name. But the Golden Randolphian has facets of her life that would astound any would-be biographer.

She and **William Sydney Porter** were kissing cousins.

**Porter**, of **O. Henry** fame, never got to kiss his 16-year-old cousin **Hope**, though.

"He was always in Texas, or New York, when I was a teenager. I never got to meet him," she said ruefully. But she's read his stuff over and over.

Oh, there are skeletons in **Miss Hope's** closet, all right. Some of them are real. The skulls and bones were part of her father's medical collection and they are all part of memories of her 79 years in rural Randolph County.

"Many, many years ago a young school girl came here and wanted to see her grandmother's arm. I didn't know at first what she meant. Then I recalled my father had to amputate the arm of a young woman who had been shot by her husband, and although the arm was buried, the shoulder socket part was saved for court testimony, and it stayed in my father's collection," she

said.

**Miss Hope's** eyes twinkle often and the stories she tells rivals cousin "**O. Henry's**."

Her prayerful hands arch to her lips once in awhile as she recalls things of long ago.

There is the time she was a scoutmaster, for instance.

Oh, how big her smile gets when you ask about that. Not only was she a boy scout leader, but they had the innocent nerve to ask her to go camping.

"Back in the years before World War One, I was teaching here at Farmer and we all read in the papers about the new movement for boys. They were very much interested and made me promise to get information on it.

"I did, and they wanted to have a troop, and there was no one here to lead them, and they insisted I be the leader. We had books and badges and everything. Scouts were rare in those days."

Then came the day when **Miss Hope** realized they were, perhaps, asking too much.

"Two of the boys came to the house one January day and when I asked what their visit was about, they hesitated and were bashful about answering. Finally one blurted out they wanted me to take the scouts camping!

"There it was a cold January day with a little skiff of snow on the ground, and they wanted me to take them camping!"

**Miss Hope** begged off.

Did you ever take them? I asked.

Oh, no, and it was not only the snow. It just wouldn't have been right," she said alluding to the days of strict deportment and what impropriety might have been gossiped about a 25 year old woman taking teenage boys camping in the prim and proper year of 1919.

But outdoors activities were aplenty in field and farm adjacent to town.

Then **Miss Hope** switched to forming Girl Scouts, the better to make use of her role in life. Furthermore, if the subject of camping should ever arise, she wouldn't have to make up excuses...

Somehow all the wonderful years of **Miss Hope's** life always become capsuled into front window "civic leader" which she certainly is, when she is honored. But the "real" **Miss Hope** is all those laughter and sad days when life in the country was life in the raw.

"When father would pull a tooth for someone, he'd just take his forceps and pull it. There was no





Miss Hope in her Scout Uniform.

novacaine or stuff like that back them. He even pulled one for me. It was a tusk tooth. He said it was not pretty for a girl to have. So one day after I got out of school he just went ahead and pulled it.

Miss Hope was Farmer's gain back in 1908 when her family moved there from Worthville.

"The doctor here had a bad lung and was dying, and father came to make a practice. And another reason we came, he said, was because I was finishing Worthville School, and he thought Farmer State School was the best education I could get in the county."

Miss Hope went to Guilford College and then returned to Farmer to teach. By the age of 18 she had read the Bible through three times and with her Quaker background religion was one field she wanted to excel in. As a young girl she wanted to be a missionary.

In Farmer she is known as "A living sermon," because her work with the old, the sick and the needy has been a realization, in another way of being a "missionary."

Folks talk of Miss Hope being a member of the County Board of Health, of her work as a charter member of the Farmer Home Demonstration Club, a charter member of the Farmer Subordi-

nate Grange, as a news correspondent for The Courier-Tribune, of her 40 odd years with Science Hill Friends Meeting in capacity of clerk and other positions, and activities in every facet of community life.

The community once honored her with a "This is Your Life" program, and Miss Hope wished they hadn't bragged on her so much.

Humility is her personality mark.

But the woman with the twinkling eyes shines through.

Would you believe she's sent or given out nearly a half million copies of the anonymous poem, "A Solitary Way?"

If you press her for details, she'll admit having had 400,000 copies printed at her own expense.

"It was Father's favorite," she explains.

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*From an article "Farmer - May 1973", by Henry King.*

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## NANCY JEAN KEARNS

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In 1957, Nancy Jean Kearns, daughter of Forrest and Herbert Kearns, went to Israel as an International Farm Youth Exchange Student. An outstanding 4-H Club member, she applied for the trip and was accepted because of her 4-H work. In Israel she visited the farms and shared her experiences on the farm in Randolph County with the Israeli youth, while learning about the life on farms in Israel. When she returned home, she spoke to over a hundred different groups about her experiences.



Nancy Jean Kearns

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## JACK AND HIS MULES

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Jack Lowe's hands were thick with dust as he heaved on a steel cable and bolted it to the back of his tractor, and he looked up, not too anxious to take time out with a stranger.

"I'm fixin' to pull up some little trees over there," he said gesturing across to the woods.

Jack Lowe will be 85 on May 19, but that's no reason or excuse to stop work everytime some confounded body wants to stop and waste the day a-talking.

Jack was tightening the bolt on the cable when I drove into his yard between Caraway and Jackson Creek down near Farmer.

He looked up and lowed as how it might be time for a chew of his Red Man tobacco, but he never got around to putting a wad in his mouth, instead he fingered his snuff can while talking.

He laughed about that.

"Old Doc Hunter up in Asheboro put me on tobacco years ago when I had some trouble with indigestion. Told me to use it once in a while, so I do."

It takes more than a casual glance at Jack Lowe to come up with the startling knowledge that he's been a world traveler and although retired from that aspect of life, still does the work of two men each day on his vast acreage along the bottomlands of the creeks here.

Jack's an example of those highly energy charged men who have been places, done things, and then came home, not to roost, but to work up a storm of such proportions even young men shake their heads in disbelief.

And he's done it all dragging a bum knee around.

When he was just 14 he left home to get a job of his own.

"For a long time they didn't know where I was," he said. "But I was down at Monk's Corner, working for the Atlantic Coast Line Lumber Company. They had a 27 million board feet tract to saw up, and I took a job with them."

The work was tough, but 14 year old Jack knew all about hard work. As a child he helped the family on the farm and could work a mule as well as any man.

But Jack and his mules had an understanding at a very tender age.

When he was 15 a mule kicked him in the left knee, shattering the kneecap beyond repair, and

leaving him to limp the rest of his life.

"It's been something, at times, to get along with a bad knee," he said, shaking his head.

But there was not a mule alive that was going to keep Jack from doing a man's work, and he became a mule-skinner of such reputation that he was in demand all over the southeast in road building ventures.

"A lot of highway building was done by hand back then, and 'drag pans' pulled by mules did most of it," he said.

From dragging logs in the woods to hitching a mule to a drag pan was easy for Jack, and his appetite for work became such a legend he was hired by the Southern Bonding Company of New York to finish many road projects which contractors had defaulted upon.

"The bonding company had to see the roads got finished, and our crews worked all over—even down in Florida to finish contracts," he said.

Summers hot enough to make men fall with heat exhaustion and winters cold enough to cause frostbitten toes are all part of the hard life road builders suffered in the early 20's, he recalled.

And there were distractions of other sorts.

"Once, up around Stuart, Virginia, there was a crew that got there before us, and they weren't doing any good. They were all the time drinking moonshine and we had to do something. We found out who the bootlegger was, and went to see him. We made 'arrangements' for him not to sell liquor to the highway crew except on pay days every two weeks. We got work done after that..."

Jack Lowe and his mule prowess had such a reputation that when the Cuban government had a 350 mile road to build all the way across the island he got the nod to go down and help with the project.

Jack took his new bride, Mary "Clete" Kearns, to Cuba and they struggled along with their new Spanish tongue all of 1927 and 1928.

Most of the time, though Jack spoke "mule" urging the big animals to heave and pull dirt, mud and rocks, all the while fighting mosquitos and gnats.

The pay was good and Jack didn't mind the sweaty brow as the road went across hill and swamp, each day edging toward the 350 milepost.

He didn't know it at the time, but his image of a master muleskinner didn't escape Cuba's President Gerardo Machado.

When the project was over President Machado



asked him to stay over in Cuba long enough to acquaint his two sons-in-law in the art of mule psychology and train some workers to handle animals as well as Jack could.

Jack didn't keep up with politics very well, and didn't realize at the time that some Cubans thought of Machado as a monster in human disguise, a cruel tyrant who operated in torture and bloodshed.

On the other hand, others figured Machado was the cleverest politician ever produced on the island, although somewhat greedy, revengeful and unscrupulous — a man who was the result of the system of government rather than creator of a dictatorship.

All Jack cared about was demonstrating the prowess of his mules, politics could hang. So he stayed with the president and his sons-in-law in the royal manor, a guest of some months standing.

But satin sheets and servants are alien to the man who yearns for hard work, so Jack Lowe left, came back to the states and finally left most of his road building work in 1931 to settle down nearer the old homeplace near Farmer.

The city of Asheboro sought his services and he became superintendent of streets for several years, but living in town didn't suit him.

Grandpa's 500 acres along the creek in southwest Randolph was waiting for his talents and he put his hands to farming.

For all his later years he's farmed, although selling off some land, and going to tending land for others too.

"Look at the 76 acres, all in wheat. Ain't that a sight!" he said, pointing to one solid field of grain in the bottomland.



Jack and Mary "Clete" Lowe.

At 86 Jack Lowe still does all the work.

Each morning at sun-up Jack drags that limping leg out of bed, climbs on the big Ferguson tractor and heads out across the fields.

At sun-down he has to be called to supper.

*From an article by Henry King, Courier-Tribune Staff Writer, May 9, 1974.*

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## GRADY MILLER MUSICIAN

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Grady Miller, a Farmer boy who grew up to win many laurels in the music world, died Dec. 23, 1980, in Winston-Salem at the age of 90. Called "Greensboro's First Music Man," he began his career on the stage in New York, but returned to Greensboro to direct school bands, orchestras, and glee clubs in the schools for about a decade after 1925. Thereafter he became North Carolina's first minister of music, and the church claimed his services until his retirement a few years ago.

Never married, he came to know many musicians across the nation, and counted Beverly Sills among his personal friends.

He left Farmer with his family when he was five, moving to Asheboro where he finished high school.

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## GRADY MILLER Could Make Music 'Come To Life'

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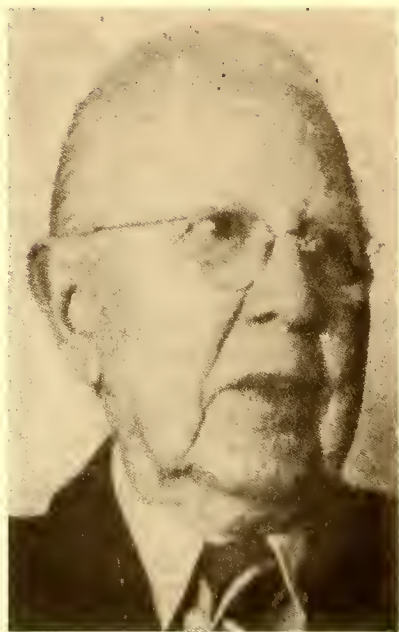
When we explained to our nine year-old son that our good friend Grady Miller had died, he wanted to know if Mr. Miller had lived in the time of Bach. Although he had been around almost 91 years, he was contemporary and kept abreast with all worthy musical events in North Carolina as well as in New York City.

At retirement, less than a decade ago, he educated himself to every opera staged both at the Metropolitan and New York City Opera where he was a personal friend of Beverly Sills. There he spent his mornings in his hotel, studying the libretto, and then took his full score to the performance in the afternoon or evening. A visit to New York consisted of a series of well-chosen operas. He knew them all!

His first influence upon my life reaches back 30 years or more, as a student in junior high (grade school, then) when he taught a church music course at Mill Home Church (at Thomasville Baptist Orphanage), which was coordinated with Gardner-Webb College and Liberty Baptist Association for credits. I can see the stately musician, white haired, but young in body and spirit, strong, as he imparted his great musical skills and his faith in a most effective way to both rural and city Baptists. His marching around the class, stressing the importance of rhythm, "the soul of music," to the hymn "Onward, Christian Soldiers," and the anthems he taught us remain in my memory so vividly. For you see, he made music "come to life."

I thought that his interpretation of Beethoven's "The Heavens Resound" was perfect, so perfect that I still see "his interpretation" with my church choirs today!

Grady Miller was the first fulltime church minister of music in North Carolina, and it was widely known that his music at First Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, was second to none and the last word in finest! So, as a young aspiring church musician, I never missed his musical programs there, even though it meant traveling from Thomasville to the Twin City, a good distance back 25 years ago. His programs were always inspiring, thrilling and the most beautiful in sacred music. And, my, how he knew how to effectively "pull out all stops" for such a musical and spiritual experience, one did not soon forget!



Henry Grady Miller

Grady, in introducing me to his host of friends, would say, "this is **Dick Conrad**, and I brought him up." That was always an honor and had a special musical ring in it for me — proud to be one of **Grady Miller's!** It was my privilege to sing under his direction in special groups such as the High Point Men's Chorus, First Methodist Choir there as well as taking him to countless concerts in the Piedmont area. He always made the plans and it was my duty to carry out those plans. When driving, he made only right turns (no left-handed motoring), so it was more convenient for me to drive. And it was always another chapter in one's education to be with the grand old gentleman of music as he further imparted his musical knowledge! I never heard him criticize another musician (or anyone). Once he said on the subject of criticism, "**Dick**, there is room for all. What is accomplished by cutting down another? Remember there's room!"

I never was in the presence of **Grady Miller** that I didn't feel great and good about our visit, him, and myself! Every remark was a positive note! He once said, do you realize that all my friends are dead I grew up with, but I have continued to make new ones and try to cultivate friendships. This was so evident when he invited 50 of his friends to "The Tales of Hoffmann" by Offenbach at Reynolds Auditorium Sept. 26, 1980, presenting each with a ticket and an engraved invitation to a social afterwards. The opera was tremendous, but afterwards, **Grady** took his Women's Chorus out of the room for a short rehearsal and quickly taught them his manuscript arrangement of the theme of the opera for two soprano and two alto voices, which turned into a songfest with everyone singing. **Grady**, in all his glory, directing, inspiring each with that unique glow on his countenance!

He introduced each at the social hour and called every name, telling something about that person. We all marvelled at his sharpness of mind (which excels those of us half his age). And then, without hesitation, reciting a humorous prose of some 25 verses, "The Little Bug Will Get You, If You Don't Watch Out." He kept all of us in stitches, and I wanted so much to get that down before. . .

We all left the occasion, the richer, the happier, and blessed by the Lover of Music, the Arts and Mankind. My remark at the end, "**Grady**, I'm never in your presence that you don't make me feel like a better person." His reply: "You've



made my day!" And it was then another day — past 1 a.m., not late for him.

Once he said, probably the biggest mistake I ever made was not marrying, but he mused, "I'd made a poor husband — away from home all the time."

On Monday before his death, a certain urge or intuition prompted that a trip had to be made that day to Moravian Home to get **Grady's** Christmas gift to him, and not wait until Christmas Eve. I'm ever so glad I went! It was after church office hours, about 5 p.m. when I found **Grady** dressed up, as he always was, spick and span, prepared to go out for the evening meal with **Joe King**, his longtime friend. He was so happy to see me as usual and was most delighted with the cross-stitched musical lyre my wife, **Carolyn**, had made for him. "She's a real artist" was his remark as he admired it and treasured. . . as he always was so grateful for anything one did for him. We talked as musician to musician, man to man, friend to friend. It was great. . . as usual to be with **Grady**. And in departing, I told him of plans, we at Knollwood Church had (Associate **John Totten** and staff members) of a "**Grady Miller Day**" in January when he would be 91, inviting everyone who had ever sung or played under his gifted conducting to assemble under his directing, to sing anthems and hymns he would select. And he quickly said with a twinkle in his eye, "Oh, I wouldn't do that. . . let's just think about it," and with a smile I'll long remember. And with that, somehow, my Christmas was more complete — in visiting once again the Master Minister of Music, Musician, to all Musicians, their friend. A friend of Music!

**Grady**, you are very alive in all our hearts and memories, treasured and pleasant with much affection and love. And we feel sure that your wish must surely be granted this Christmas to be singing all four parts in heaven and busily conducting. You truly blessed the world, leaving behind your rich legacy and wealth of your fine quality and quantity of music, with that perfect harmony you taught to all! May He, whom you served and adored grant peace eternal and rejoicing forevermore! You are now unlimited by time or space. *Dona nobis pacem!*

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*This tribute to Henry Grady Miller, a Farmer native, former Broadway musician and active in North Carolina church and school music, was written by Richard L. Conrad, minister of music at Knollwood Baptist Church in Winston-Salem. Mr. Miller, 90, died Dec. 23 in Winston-Salem. By Richard L. Conrad, January 11, 1981*

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## MICHAEL MORGAN

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**Michael Morgan**, great grandson of **Moses Morgan**, is the first stringed bass in the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. His wife **Therese** is an operatic performer, a native of Australia.

**Mike** is the grandson of **Tom** and **Esta Horney Morgan**, the son of **M. Graham Morgan**.

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## PERCY MORGAN THE FARMER MISSIONARY

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Because he has always made it a practice to be wherever help is needed, **Miss Hope Hubbard** once called **Percy Morgan** "The Farmer Missionary." The term can be taken in either of two ways. On the one hand, he has spent a great deal of his life looking after the welfare of his neighbors in the Farmer community. On the other hand, he has used his farm — the products from his cows, chickens, woods, fields, and garden — through the years to alleviate the hardships of his neighbors in need.

For more than a half century his lean figure, forever going at a half trot, has been a familiar sight to those who have made Farmer their home. He has been, besides running his farm, the postmaster, the mail carrier, the village's only barber ever, a storekeeper, a Sunday school teacher, a deacon in the Methodist Church, a member of the Grange, a Mason, and an avid fan of the school's sporting events through the years.

Born to **Moses N.** and **Flora Bingham Morgan** in 1895 on the **Isom Luther** place in the upper Tom's Creek community, **Percy** came to Farmer when his family moved to the **Ivy Johnson** place in 1912.

**Moses Morgan**, himself a schoolmaster throughout his life, brought his family with its eight children to the Farmer area in order for them to receive the benefits offered by the Farmer High School, known over a broad area for its excellence. **Percy** attended high school until he was about 20 years old, working off all requirements except for a unit in Latin. Failing to obtain that, he joined the ranks of about ninety per cent of the young men in his day who left school without a diploma.

When Uncle Sam called for the nation's young men to check the German aggression in 1917, **Percy**, who was 22 at the time, answered the call

and went to Camp Jackson to take his training as a soldier. But he was back home in a few days! The army doctors had declared him unfit physically for military duty—a decision that he looks back upon today from his 85 years of good health with some disbelief and amusement.

The only work venture **Percy** ever made outside Farmer came after the war when he and **Bunkster Bingham** went to Winston-Salem where their friends **Clarence** and **Wood Russell** and **Jeff Horney** were already working. They got jobs in the Forsyth Furniture Factory, making dining room sets, until “corn planting time.” When time to plant came, they returned home, **Percy** to make his home at Farmer. **Bunkster** in later years operated a store near Asheboro.

In 1922 **Moses Morgan** died, leaving **Percy**, then 27, as the head man for the household, although for as long as she lived, **Percy** looked to his mother for help and advice, always respecting the authority her seniority carried. Having assumed much of the farming responsibilities while his father was away during the winter months teaching, **Percy** took over the reins, managed the farm, and helped rear his younger sisters—**Ocia** and **Sue**, as well as furnish a part-time home for the sons of his brother **Walter**, who had died at 31 leaving his widow and five children.

In the meantime, the young farmer, a trim figure always and with a seasoned look that his constant exposure to the wind and sun gave him, paid court to many of the girls in the community and seemed to be a favorite among the young women who came to teach in the Farmer School. During those years, he drove a beautiful gray mare named **Dora** to a buggy that he kept clean and shiny, in spite of the red mud and dust that typified the Randolph County countryside.

It was only after 1923 that he bought a Ford touring car that was for his family as much as himself. The buggy was stored in a shed only to be used thereafter when inclement weather made automobile travel hazardous. But at 28, **Percy** had become somewhat “set” in his ways and found the transition from driving a horse to driving a car difficult, never achieving the skills at driving, according to his younger sisters, that made him a “good” driver. One tale that they still tell on him is that when he wanted to stop, instead of pushing the gas lever up and applying the brakes, he simply yelled “Whoa!” But he eventually mastered the machine sufficiently for it to become part and parcel of his life, as it did in the lives of

everyone in that horse-to-machine transitional period. And **Percy** has driven now for some 58 years without a serious mishap.

Whether or not his family responsibilities influenced his matrimonial plans is not known, but it was only when his youngest sister was finishing her freshman year in college that the marriage bug bit him. In March of 1929 he took as his bride a petite brunette, **Annie Johnson**, a Thomsville girl that he had met through some of her relatives that lived in the Farmer area. For her, he built a home in the edge of his mother’s front yard. **Annie** bore him two children, a daughter and a son, the latter dying in infancy. A few months thereafter **Annie** followed her son into death. **Helen**, the daughter, (now **Mrs. Jack Nance** of Asheboro), a lovely child with many of her mother’s features, grew into womanhood, the pride of her father and the favorite of many friends and relatives.



Percy Morgan picking up limbs from the churchyard.



Percy began his service as the Farmer postmaster in 1927 and continued at that post until he retired in 1963. He started barbering as a young man, working at home. Then in the 1920's, he set up a shop in the back of Lineberry Hill's store.

In 1927, he and Bunkster Bingham bought the Hill store, and ran it for a number of years, operating the post office within the store. The post office remained there until 1946 when it was moved to its present location.

Even after retirement from the post office, Percy has continued his barbering (his shop being in the post office building) on a limited scale (1981).

As the natives of Farmer know, Percy has worked hard and lived frugally. People may say that he has never spent a dollar that he did not have to, but they would also say that he never failed to give a dollar when one was needed.

In his quiet way (however, he loves to tell a good, clean story as well as anyone), he has lived a

life dedicated to other people, his church, and his community. For years he carried a quotation in his pocket that gave the gist of his philosophy of life: "Happiness is like a perfume—if you sprinkle enough of it on someone else, you are bound to get some of it on yourself."

Percy took for his second wife Eunice Setzer on June 16, 1937.

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## RUSSELL FUNERAL HOME

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Whitfield Russell, a coffin-maker by trade, once operated a funeral home in Farmer, Percy Morgan and Herbert (Hub) Kearns, remember. It was located in the Calier Kearns place. Russell later ran funeral homes in Denton and Thomasville.

While in Farmer, he used a horse-drawn hearse similar to the one used by the Emory B. Kearns undertakers in Asheboro (See picture).



The Emory B. Kearns funeral directors used the above horse-drawn hearse to serve their customers at their Asheboro mortuary, which was opened about 1857. It later became the Pugh Funeral Home, still in operation. Emory B. Kearns was a native of Farmer and one of the builders of Salem United Methodist Church in 1881.

## AGRICULTURE TEACHERS

-----E. B. KEARNS-----

*Funeral Director, Furniture Dealer.*

-----AND DEALER IN-----

ALL KINDS OF UNDERTAKER'S SUPPLIES,

Room Sets, Chairs, Tables, Etc.

Abbeville, N. C., March 13<sup>th</sup>, 1906.

*Received of E. B. Kearns  
Admin of Ivy Kearns deceased  
ninety seven & 3/100 dollars in  
full payment for board & nursing,  
funeral expenses & bill  
of said deceased*

*E. B. Kearns*

Receipt for payment of funeral expenses for Ivy Kearns.

-----E. B. KEARNS-----

*Funeral Director, Furniture Dealer.*

-----AND DEALER IN-----

ALL KINDS OF UNDERTAKER'S SUPPLIES,

Room Sets, Chairs, Tables, Etc.

Abbeville, N. C., \_\_\_\_\_, 1900.

*Burial expense of Ivy Kearns  
decd.*

Casket	\$ 22.00
Shirt 1.00 Hygiene 475 =	.275
Embalming	2.50
Hearse & team	5.50
Funeral & grave	7.00
Telegraph notice	.36
Barber bill	1.00
Board & nursing unpaid	10.00
Dr Moore	10.00
Shaving unpaid	1.28
Bottle Paper	1.00
	\$ 97.39

*E. B. Kearns*

Invoice for funeral expenses for Ivy Kearns.

Since it became a part of the high school curriculum in 1924, the Agriculture Department has played an outstanding role in the Farmer school district. Three reasons might be considered for the department's success: 1. The area, at least when the department was organized, was devoted almost entirely to farming; 2. the participating students came from hardworking, ambitious, intelligent parents who supported the program; 3. the superior quality of the men who have served as agriculture teachers.

The man who initiated the program was **W.F. Bracken**, who laid a good foundation for the work to follow. Another outstanding man was **Sam Cooper**. It was **Cooper** who persuaded the farmers through the Ag Program to plant lespedeza as a cover crop, a move that has proved to be of inestimable value to the croplands of the area. He also did a good job of getting the boys interested in chicken and hog production, both being farm products that have added substantially to the farm income. Following **Mr. Cooper**, **Edgar McCleod** made his mark by teaching the boys about and impressing them with the need for soil erosion control.

For the past thirty-four years, **R.C. Adams** has been a godsend in the form of an Ag teacher. He has been keenly aware of many of the farmer's problems and has made himself available for help in every aspect of farming from cow doctoring to gardening to sod-planting to what-have-you. Not only has this affable but unobtrusive man been the farmer's friend, but he has been a leader in the community: active in the Grange, a willing servant in the church, a first-rate participant in all the village's civic activities. His daughter served the Farmer Methodist church as a pianist for many years before she married and left the community.

"**Mr. Adams**," one Farmer citizen said, "does outstanding work in the local, county, and state organizations of the Grange. He has received an award yearly for at least ten years for his excellent programs that he plans and presents."

The 1961 yearbook of the Farmer High School was dedicated to **Mr. Adams** with the following notation:

"We the Senior Class of 1961 present this edition of *Far Echoes* to **Mr. R.C. Adams**. His able leadership and wise counseling will remain with us long after we have grown into





R.C. Adams

manhood and womanhood. Above all, we appreciate the fine Christian example he has set before us, because we feel very strongly the importance of this example if our lives are to be successful in the future."

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## MERCHANTS

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(WHO HAVE SERVED FARMER AND  
ITS OUTLYING COMMUNITIES  
OVER THE YEARS)

### AT FARMER

Lineberry Hill	Guy Ridge
N.W. Newby	Farris & Mary Pierce
Madison Hammond	Carl Garner
Bob Hammond	Jube Horney
Gid Macon	Devereau Russell
Bob Dorsett	Bunkster Bingham
Percy Morgan	

### AT JACKSON'S CREEK

Allen Nance	Wyatt Nance
Henry Nance	Clarence Ridge
Maiven Yates	John Ridge
Mrs. Maiven (Roxanna) Yates	Worthy Andrews

### AT PINEY GROVE

Moses and Joshua Morgan

### AT CEDAR GROVE

Van Lanier

### AT LASSITER'S MILL

Jonathan and Micajah Lassiter

### AT OAK GROVE

Lloyd Elliott

### AT MARTHA

Ivey Nance	Bob Johnson
Clay Johnson	Wade Bingham

(Wade Bingham later built and operated a store closer to Farmer on old Highway 49)

Other stores operating in the same area: near Farmer—

Garner and Harris, Yates Food and Service;  
at Mechanic—Howard's and Pickett's;  
at Gravel Hill—Hogan's and Jack Lanier's;  
at Salem Church Community—Beckerdite's

### SOME MILLERS IN THE FARMER AREA

J. Watson Birkhead	Silas K. Kearns
Bob Johnson	Isaac Kearns
Branson Elliott	Vick Parker
Perry Johnson	Henry Parker
Winbourne Johnson	(Vick's father)
Colonel Loflin	Ivy Kearns
Jonathan Lassiter	Marvin Gearren
Micajah Lassiter	Jake Thornburg
Jeremiah Johnson	

---

## PROFESSIONAL MEN

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SOME FARMER SCHOOL GRADUATES WHO  
HAVE SERVED WITH DISTINCTION

College Professor: **Thomas Garner,**  
Clemson College  
State Representative: **Henry Ingram,**  
**Roby Garner,**  
**Donald Bingham**  
County Commissioners: **Tom Bingham,**  
**Clegg Garner,**  
**Ira McDowell,**  
**Wallace Garner**

**MINISTERS FROM FARMER COMMUNITY**

**Charles E. Ridge**            **Walter Lee Stutts**  
**De Von Cranford**        **Joe Luther**  
**George McDowell**        **Robert Varner**  
**Clarence Russell**        **Hubert Jackson**  
**Gerald Lanier**

**DOCTORS FROM FARMER COMMUNITY**

**John Varner**  
**Edwin Plummer**  
**Harvey Adams**  
**Tony Cranford (eye)**  
**Robert Johnson**

**DOCTORS WHO HAVE SERVED FARMER**

**Alson Fuller**  
**Claude Lewis**  
**Charles C. Hubbard**

**FARMERS OF FARMER**

**GENERAL**

<b>Charles Elliott</b>	<b>Jimmy Garner</b>
<b>Clifford Elliott</b>	<b>Odell Lanier</b>
<b>Johnny Henson</b>	<b>Harold Gallimore</b>
<b>Kent Ridge</b>	<b>Curtis Kearns</b>
<b>Alvin McDowell</b>	<b>Terry Johnson</b>
<b>Dolan Loffin</b>	<b>Wallace Garner</b>
<b>Martin Cranford</b>	<b>Henry Loffin</b>

**SPECIAL**

**Kenneth Shaw** – beef  
**R.C. Millikan** – beef  
**Joey Henson** – nursery & dairy  
**Elizabeth F. Patton** – horses  
**Elsie & Roger Waynick** – poultry  
**Glenn Bingham** – beef  
**Alton Wall** – beef  
**Steve Nance** – strawberries  
**Clay Yates** – quail  
**Clark Thornburg** – quail  
**Alton Kearns** – poultry

**LUMBER**

**Tony McDowell, Stan and Steve Bingham**

**COUNTRY CLUB**

**Ray Cummings**



# V — BIBLE EXCERPTS

IVY KEARNS

ESTELLA ELLIOTT KEARNS

ALLEN KEARNS

SAMUEL ARNOLD

WILLIAM T. KEARNS





# I

---

## IVY KEARNS

---

Ivy Kearns born November 16, 1809,  
died Feb. 27, 1901

Diza Arnold, his wife, daughter of  
Wood Arnold — born September 7, 1812;  
died Jan. 22, 1892

Mary E. Kearns, Feb. 8, 1833

Julia A. Kearns, June 10, 1835

Sallie B. Kearns, March, 17, 1838 —  
October 17, 1866

Abigail E. Kearns, March 21, 1842 —  
March 1889

Nancy L. Kearns, March 19, 1845

Eliza V. Kearns, May 3, 1847

Samuel W. Kearns, November 28, 1849

Martha E. Kearns, Dec. 1853 — Aug. 16, 1854

Diza Rebecca Kearns, Nov. 10, 1857 —  
Dec. 30, 1858

Thomas Kearns, son of John Kearns was born  
Jan. 19, 1776 and died Nov. 12, 1847

Rebecca Kearns, daughter of Benjamin Ivey was  
born Jan. 1, 1786 and died May 11, 1845

### CHILDREN OF

#### THOMAS AND REBECCA KEARNS

Nancy Kearns, July 12, 1801 — Fall 1828,  
Age 27 years.

Mary Kearns, May 27, 1805 — Dec. 14, 1836

Sallie Kearns, August 15, 1807 — Dec. 15, 1892

Ivy Kearns, November 16, 1809 —  
Feb. 27, 1901

Anna Kearns, Feb. 21, 1812 — July 1, 1887

Silas Kearns, March 7, 1814 — May 5, 1885

Hannah Kearns, September 1, 1816 —  
January 25, 1861

John Kearns, September 20, 1818 —  
April 11, 1901

Elizabeth Kearns, January 29, 1821 —  
July 22, 1899

Martha Kearns, September 13, 1823 and died

Wood Arnold, October 4, 1788 —  
October 17, 1844

Mary Arnold, daughter of Jacob Hoover  
July 6, 1791 — July 29, 1873

Diza Arnold, September 7, 1812 —  
January 21, 1892

John Arnold, April 14, 1814 — Nov. 17, 1896

Larkin Arnold, Feb. 4, 1816 — Nov. 1, 1891

Elizabeth Arnold, December 29, 1818 —  
November 21, 1907

Penuel Arnold, January 29, 1821 — July 1889

Samuel Arnold, January 30, 1823 —

# 2

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## ESTELLA ELLIOTT KEARNS

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### MARRIAGES

Silas W. Kearns and R.A. Carter,  
May 29, 1866

Charles R. Kearns and Estella Elliott,  
Aug. 3, 1898

John N. Kearns and Genie Kearns,  
Nov. 7, 1897

Anna Metta Kearns and Lorenza Wood,  
July 4, 1895

Elmer Kearns and Tura Cranford, Oct. 16, 1898

### BIRTHS

Isaac Keeran Jan. 16, 1792

Mary Keeran June 1, 1799

Eli C. Keeran March 11, 1818

Lyndon S. Keeran April 20, 1820

Henry H. Keeran June 12, 1822

Martha J. Keeran June 11, 1823

Emiley M. Keeran Jan. 27, 1829

Isaac N. Keerans Sept. 1, 1834

Silas W. Keeran May 7, 1840

R.A. wife of Silas W. Jan. 18, 1846

Charles R. Kearns	Sept. 20, 1867
John N. Kearns	July 9, 1869
Elmer O. Kearns	Jan. 19, 1872
Shuby W. Kearns	Nov. 2, 1873
Anner M. Kearns	Jan. 14, 1875
Whitman F. Kearns	Sept. 4, 1878
Ruth A. Kearns	Aug. 14, 1898
Charlie Reese Kearns	Sept. 16, 1899
Thomas Gray Kearns	May 11, 1902

Sarah Keeran	May 4, 1857
(wife of Lyndon S. Keeran)	
Silas Whitman K	Dec. 11, 1878
Ruth Adeline K	Mar. 10, 1896
Whitman F. Kearns	Oct. 21, 1905
Chas. Reid Kearns	Sept. 7, 1906

#### DEATHS

Isaac Keeran	Jan. 4, 1861
Mary Keerans	Dec. 21, 1877
Martha J. Ingram	Sept. 7, 1875
(wife of Uriah Ingram)	
Silas Whitman Keerans	Dec. 11, 1878
Henry H. Keerans	June 13, 1886
R.A. Kearns	Mar. 10, 1896

NOTE: The information above was copied on 8 April 1980 by **Whitman C. Kearns** from the Bible (as indicated) that is now in the possession of **Mrs. C.R. Kearns** of Lynchburg, VA. **Mrs. Kearns (Selma)** is the widow of **Charlie Reese Kearns**.

I attest that information herewith is correct as entered to the best of my ability to interpret the letters as written.

Whitman Carter Kearns

# 3

## ALLEN KEARNS

#### MARRIAGES:

Allen Keeran was married to Nancy Wood the 1st day of Feb. AD 1821.

#### BIRTHS:

Penuel Wood was born Jan. 22, 1772.  
 Allen Kearns was born the 16th day of April A.D. 1798.  
 Nancy Wood was born the 25th day of Sept. A.D. 1800.

#### Allen and Nancy Keeran's Children:

1. Alson Jones Keeran born 9 Jan. 1822
2. Priscilla Lundy Keeran born 19 of March A.D. 1824
3. Penuel Keeran born 6 Oct. A.D. 1826
4. Isaac Franklin Keeran born 11 Aug. A.D. 1829
5. Charlotte Jane Keeran born 2 Jan. A.D. 1832
6. William Penn Keeran born 14 Sept. A.D. 1834
7. John Thomas Keeran born 27 July A.D. 1837
8. Henry Clay Keeran born 22 April A.D. 1840

#### DEATHS:

Penuel Wood departed this life Jan. 8, A.D. 1841  
 Allen Keeran departed this life Oct. 22nd A.D. 1849  
 Nancy Keeran departed this life July 6th A.D. 1878

Names spelled as in the Bible.

This was a note book page attached to the Bible Record.

**William Penn Kearns** was born Sept. 14, 1834, died 8th, Dec. 1895, aged 61 years 2 mos. and 24 days. He joined the Methodist Episcopal Church South while yet a boy. He lived an acceptable and consistent member of that church during his life. He devoted his power and energies for the good of his family of his neighborhood and of his Church.



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# SAMUEL ARNOLD

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“Wood Arnold, son of Whitlock and Dizey Wood Arnold, his wife, was born 4th day of October 1788, and Mary Hoover Arnold, his wife, was born July 6th day, 1791.

“Wood Arnold departed this life October 17th day A.D. 1844, being 56 years and 13 days old. His funeral was preached by the Rev. Micajah Hill at Salem Meeting House on Sunday, the 4th of May, 1845, from the first verse of the 40th Chapter of Isaiah.

“Diza Arnold was born Sept. 7th 1812.

“John Arnold, 1st son, was born April 14th, 1814.

“Larken Arnold, 2nd son, was born Feb. 4th, 1816.

“Elizabeth Arnold, 2nd daughter, was born Dec. 29th, 1818.

“Penuel Arnold, 3rd son, was born Jan. 29th, 1820.

“Samuel Arnold, 4th son, was born Jan. 30th, 1822.

## DEATHS and BIRTHS

“Mary Arnold departed this life July 29th day, 1873, and her funeral was preached by the Rev. Charles Phillips on the 3rd day of June, 1874, from the 3, 4, and 5th verses of First Epistle of Peter.

“Larken Arnold departed this life on the 1st day of Nov., 1891.

“John Arnold departed this life Nov. 17th, 1896.

“Margaret B. Arnold, wife of Samuel Arnold, was born Feb. 9th, 1836.

“Louella E. Arnold, wife of A.C. Arnold, was born the 18th day of July, 1857.

“A.C. Arnold, son of Samuel Arnold, was born Dec. 3rd, 1853.

John O.W. Arnold son of Samuel Arnold, was born Nov. 24th, 1857.

“Martha J. Arnold, daughter of Samuel Arnold, was born Nov. 28th, 1859.

“W.B. Yarborough was born Dec. 2nd, 1856.

“James W. Arnold was born Aug. 31, 1880.

“Freda E. Arnold, his wife, was born Dec. 19th, 1888.

“Nancy Louella Arnold, daughter of James W. and Fred Arnold, was born July 20th, 1908.

“Samuel Clay Arnold was born Aug. 10th, 1911.

“Margie Pauline Arnold was born Aug. 31th, 1913.

“Mary Edna Arnold was born Dec. 27th, 1915.

## MARRIAGES

“James W. Arnold and Freda E. Hughes were married Jan. 2nd, 1907.”

(This material was secured through the graciousness of Pauline Arnold Grice, who has the Arnold Bible in her care, and copied for this book by Charles Lester Cranford, Route 2, Denton).

---

 WILLIAM T. KEARNS
 

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Randolph Co  
N.C. July the 2 1900  
Bunch Co

Silas Kearns was born  
December the 24 1813

Larkin Kearns was born  
April the 4<sup>th</sup> 1814

Hubbard Kearns was born  
November the 14 1818

Elizabeth Kearns was born  
April the 17 1819

Alexander Kearns was born  
April the 14 1821

Martha Kearns was born  
August the 17 1823

John C. Kearns was born  
June the 10 1825-

Rebecca Kearns was born  
March the 10 1831

~~James T. Brannon~~ Kearns  
was born January the 1 1833  
died May the 26 1883



William J. Kearns was  
born June 11 1838 - died  
July 21 1895 -

Margrett Kearns was born  
March 10 1838 & married  
Mathew Coggin September  
13 1855 - Mathew born  
May 26 1832 died Dec 18 -  
of October 1863

Margrett Coggin married  
W W Sanford December  
2 1864 & died November  
27 1899

This written by a  
relative

M. Cecilia Sanford





# VI — VETERANS

THE CIVIL WAR (THE UWHARRIE BOYS)

CIVIL WAR STORY

WORLD WAR I

WORLD WAR II





# I

## THE CIVIL WAR

### THE UWHARRIE BOYS

**M**en (boys, some of them perhaps) of the **Kearns** family shouldered their full share of the Confederate Cause during the Civil War. Twelve of them served, all in the infantry. One became a First Lieutenant (promoted after being wounded and captured at Gettysburg); one was a Corporal, and the others Privates.

Six of the men belonged to Company H, Regiment 38, which was evidently made up of men from the Uwharrie region of North Carolina, a company that found itself frequently in the "thick" of some of the hottest battles: Falling Waters, Mechanicsville, and Gettysburg. The regiment was known as the "Uwharrie Boys."

Three of the **Kearns** men died in service — one after the Gettysburg Battle, another at Charlottesville (in a hospital, perhaps). The place of death of the third is not given. Two others received wounds — one at Mechanicsville, the other at the Battle of Falling Waters. Two suffered capture, both at Gettysburg.

Four signed up, apparently together, in '61;



Iron cooking pot carried in Civil War by Calier Kearns.

three in '62; and five in '63.

Following is a list taken from the "Roster of Confederate Troops" found in the North Carolina Archives:

name	rank	date enlisted	company	regi.	bat.
<b>E.T. Kearns</b> (Wounded at Mechanicsville and Gettysburg)	Cpl.	11- 4-61	H	38	
<b>Isaac N. Kearns</b> (Died as prisoner at Gettysburg)	Lt.	11- 4-61	H	38	
<b>J.H. Kearns</b>	Pvt.	11- 4-61	H	38	
<b>W.O. Kearns</b> (Died, place not given)	Pvt.	11- 4-61	H	38	
<b>Isaac Kearns</b>	Pvt.	3- 7-62	B	52	
<b>John Kearns</b>	Pvt.	3-18-62	L	22	
<b>Benjamin N. Kearns</b> (Died at Charlottesville)	Pvt.	3- 5-63	H	38	
<b>B.G. Kearns</b> (Taken prisoner at Gettysburg)	Pvt.	4-15-63	H	38	
<b>Erasmus Kearns</b>	Pvt.	8- 1-63	B		7th Bat.
<b>H. Kearns</b>	Pvt.	9-12-63	H	65	
<b>J.F. Kearns</b>	Pvt.	12-16-63	H	38	





(Confederate.)

38

N. C.

*E. W. Walker*

*Co. H*, { 38 Reg't North Carolina  
Infantry (State Troops).

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

of the organization named above,

for *July & Aug.*, 1864.

Enlisted:

When *Aug. 19*, 1864.

Where *Camp Homes*

By whom *Maj. Mallett*

Period *3 mos.*

Last paid:

By whom *no pay*

To what time \_\_\_\_\_, 1864.

Present or absent *Present*

Remarks:

Book mark:

(612)

Copyist

Elizer W. Walker's Company Muster Roll, July - August 1864.

(Confederate.)

38

N. C.

*E. W. Walker*

*Co. H*, { 38 Reg't North Carolina  
Infantry (State Troops).

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

of the organization named above,

for *Sept. & Oct.*, 1864.

Enlisted:

When *Aug. 19*, 1864.

Where *Camp Homes*

By whom *Maj. Mallett*

Period *3 mos.*

Last paid:

By whom \_\_\_\_\_

To what time \_\_\_\_\_, 1864.

Present or absent *Present*

Remarks: *Due pay from*  
*date of enrollment!*

Book mark:

(612)

Copyist

Elizer W. Walker's Company Muster Roll, September - October 1864.

(CONFEDERATE.)

E. W. Walker

Co. H 38 N. C. T. (Inf.)

Appears on a RECEIPT ROLL

for clothing,

for ..... 1864 .

Date of issue..... Oct 15....., 1864 .

Signature.....

Remarks:.....

Roll No. ....

Copyist.

(CONFEDERATE.)

E. W. Walker

Co. H 38 N. C. T. (Inf.)

Appears on a RECEIPT ROLL

for clothing,

for ..... 1864 .

Date of issue..... Nov 5....., 1864 .

Signature.....

Remarks:.....

Roll No. ....

→ 1037 Copyist.

Clothing Issue for Elizer W. Walker, October 15, 1864.

Clothing Issue for Elizer W. Walker, November 5, 1864.



(CONFEDERATE.)

E. W Walker

Co H 33 N. C. T. (Int.)

Appears on a RECEIPT ROLL

for clothing,

for ..... 1864

Date of issue Nov 14, 1864

Signature

Remarks:

Roll No.

CS Copyist.

(Confederate.)

W 38 N.C.

+ Elizer W. Walker

Pvt., Co. H, 38 Reg't N. C.

Appears on a roll of

Prisoners of War

at Point Lookout, Md.

Date of arrival City Point Va  
Apr 13, 1865

Where captured Petersburg

When captured Apr 3, 1865

Remarks: Released June 22  
1865

Point Lookout, Md., Register No. 2; page 774

F. E. Burke

(597)

Copyist.

Clothing Issue for Elizer W. Walker, November 14, 1864.

Record showing Elizer W. Walker listed as a prisoner of war, April 3, 1865.

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## CIVIL WAR STORY

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**L**yndon Kearns, son of Isaac and Mary Steed Kearns, was 41 when the Civil War began. In spite of his eight motherless children (his wife who was Sarah Jane Hammond had died in 1857), he joined the Confederate forces and fought through the four-year conflict only to be killed as it was winding down—on April 17, 1867, after Lee had already surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia. Johnson, whose army was fighting Sherman up through North Carolina about that time did not surrender until April 26. The conclusion is that Lyndon at least died fighting on his own state's soil.

Since his wife had died previously, the eight children were left orphans. Seven of them went to Indiana, leaving Nathan Virden (Vird), the youngest, with his uncle Silas Whitman Kearns, and his wife Ruth Adeline Carter Kearns. The other children were Emily Abigail, who married John Randolph Redwine, Sr.; Claudius Franklin; John Thomas; Mary Jane; Isaac Alpheus; Artimisa Antinett (Anne), who married Thomas Farout; and Martha Lewaner.

Abigail and her husband lived for many years in Indiana but moved to Fort Smith, Ark., and are buried in the Forest Park Cemetery there. Anne Farout lived in Greenfield, Ind. Isaac lived in Minnesota.

Vird Kearns, who stayed in the Farmer Community married Willie Shaw first, then Nannie Bingham Welborn. He later bought the home-



Viriden Kearns and Emily Kearns Redwine.

stead of the first Kearns that settled in the area, living in the same house, which had been remodeled, the logs having been covered with weather-boarding.

Abigail and John Randolph Redwine had the following children: R.L., John R. Jr., Lilly, Laura, Cooper, and David.

Reid Kearns, the son of Vird, remembered that his father and his brothers and sisters who moved to Indiana did keep in touch with each other and that there was some visiting back and forth.

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## WORLD WAR I

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**W**hen World War I came, eleven men from Farmer answered the call. They were Bob Hammond, Walter R. Cranford, John Devon Cranford, Austin Elliott,

Sr., Van Cranford, Virgil Loffin, Fred Kearns, Sr., John Edgar (Bud) Kearns, Ernest Cranford, Jesse Garner, and Reid Kearns. Tom Morgan trained at Camp Sevier but did not go overseas.



# The American Legion



## DIAMOND JUBILEE CERTIFICATE

PRESENTED

FOR FAITHFUL AND DEDICATED ALLEGIANCE TO THE IDEALS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

BE IT KNOWN THAT

### A REID KEARNS

HAS BEEN A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING CONTINUOUSLY FOR

## 62

YEARS

BE IT FURTHER KNOWN THAT THIS MEMBER IS HEREBY ACCORDED THIS RECOGNITION IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION FROM THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF THIS TESTIMONIAL OF PERSONAL GRATITUDE IS GIVEN UNDER THE HAND OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER, AND DULY ATTESTED BY THE NATIONAL ADJUTANT AT INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, THIS 11th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1980.

ATTEST:

NATIONAL ADJUTANT

NATIONAL COMMANDER

Certificate awarded to Reid Kearns in honor of his 62-year membership in the American Legion.



Fred Kearns, Sr. 322 Infantry 81st Division.



Robert (Bob) A. Hammond, Army.



Jesse Garner.



Reid Kearns.





John De Von Cranford.



Austin Elliott, Sr.



Walter Ray Cranford.



Ernest Cranford.

ENLISTMENT RECORD.

Name: Alphus Reid Kearns Grade: Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class

Enlisted, or inducted, March 5, 1918, at Asheboro, N. C.

Seeing in First enlistment period at date of discharge.

Prior service: \* None

Noncommissioned officer: Sgt. 8/31/18 Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Cl. 10/5/18

Marksmanship, gunner qualification or rating: † None

Horsemanship: None

Battles, engagements, skirmishes, expeditions: None

Knowledge of any vocation: Salesman

Wounds received in service: None

Physical condition when discharged: Good

Typhoid prophylaxis completed March 26 - 1918

Paratyphoid prophylaxis completed March 26 - 1918

Married or single: Single

Character: Excellent

Remarks: Service Honest and Faithful.  
No. A Co. C. L. No absence from duty under  
GC #15 - 1918

Signature of soldier: Alphus R. Kearns

John D. Labitt  
1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. 2<sup>nd</sup> Regt. 101<sup>st</sup> Inf.

ISSUED TICKET, FORM NO. 10  
FROM Transportation issued  
DATE N. J. Keckum

Commanding Guard and Sec. Co. 3<sup>rd</sup>

\* Give company and regiment or corps or department, with inclusive dates of service in each enlistment.  
† Give date of qualification or rating and number, date, and source of order announcing same.

I hereby certify that this is a true and accurate copy which appears on record in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Guilford County, N. C. in Book 39 Page 139  
Witness my hand and seal this the 25 day of April 1961

J. B. CARPENTER, Register of Deeds, Guilford County, N. C.  
By [Signature]  
A. [Signature] Register of Deeds



# Honorable Discharge from The United States Army



Filed for registration on the 23 day of Aug 1918 at 9:30 o'clock A.M., and duly recorded in Office of Register of Deeds of Guilford County, N. C. in Book No. \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_ Etc.

**J. B. CARPENTER**  
Register of Deeds

By J. B. Carpenter  
Adj. Register of Deeds

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to Certify, That Alpheus Reid Kearns  
† 1879 Sgt 1st Class U.S. Army Co. 2nd Regt. 1st Div. 1st Inf.

THE UNITED STATES ARMY, as a TESTIMONIAL OF HONEST AND FAITHFUL

SERVICE, is hereby HONORABLY DISCHARGED from the military service of the UNITED STATES by reason of 1. Discharge at Newport News, Va dated Nov. 8, 1918

Said Alpheus Reid Kearns was born in New Hope, in the State of Pa.

When enlisted he was 17 years of age and by occupation a Student. He had blue eyes, light hair, fair complexion, and was 5 feet 11 inches in height.

Given under my hand at Newport News, Va this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, one thousand nine hundred and eighteen.

Witnessed Dec 14 1918.  
Entitled to Travel, and expenses under act of March 3rd 1902, and act of March 3rd 1909, and act of March 3rd 1915, and act of March 3rd 1917, and act of March 3rd 1918, and act of March 3rd 1919, and act of March 3rd 1920, and act of March 3rd 1921, and act of March 3rd 1922, and act of March 3rd 1923, and act of March 3rd 1924, and act of March 3rd 1925, and act of March 3rd 1926, and act of March 3rd 1927, and act of March 3rd 1928, and act of March 3rd 1929, and act of March 3rd 1930, and act of March 3rd 1931, and act of March 3rd 1932, and act of March 3rd 1933, and act of March 3rd 1934, and act of March 3rd 1935, and act of March 3rd 1936, and act of March 3rd 1937, and act of March 3rd 1938, and act of March 3rd 1939, and act of March 3rd 1940, and act of March 3rd 1941, and act of March 3rd 1942, and act of March 3rd 1943, and act of March 3rd 1944, and act of March 3rd 1945, and act of March 3rd 1946, and act of March 3rd 1947, and act of March 3rd 1948, and act of March 3rd 1949, and act of March 3rd 1950, and act of March 3rd 1951, and act of March 3rd 1952, and act of March 3rd 1953, and act of March 3rd 1954, and act of March 3rd 1955, and act of March 3rd 1956, and act of March 3rd 1957, and act of March 3rd 1958, and act of March 3rd 1959, and act of March 3rd 1960, and act of March 3rd 1961, and act of March 3rd 1962, and act of March 3rd 1963, and act of March 3rd 1964, and act of March 3rd 1965, and act of March 3rd 1966, and act of March 3rd 1967, and act of March 3rd 1968, and act of March 3rd 1969, and act of March 3rd 1970, and act of March 3rd 1971, and act of March 3rd 1972, and act of March 3rd 1973, and act of March 3rd 1974, and act of March 3rd 1975, and act of March 3rd 1976, and act of March 3rd 1977, and act of March 3rd 1978, and act of March 3rd 1979, and act of March 3rd 1980, and act of March 3rd 1981, and act of March 3rd 1982, and act of March 3rd 1983, and act of March 3rd 1984, and act of March 3rd 1985, and act of March 3rd 1986, and act of March 3rd 1987, and act of March 3rd 1988, and act of March 3rd 1989, and act of March 3rd 1990, and act of March 3rd 1991, and act of March 3rd 1992, and act of March 3rd 1993, and act of March 3rd 1994, and act of March 3rd 1995, and act of March 3rd 1996, and act of March 3rd 1997, and act of March 3rd 1998, and act of March 3rd 1999, and act of March 3rd 2000, and act of March 3rd 2001, and act of March 3rd 2002, and act of March 3rd 2003, and act of March 3rd 2004, and act of March 3rd 2005, and act of March 3rd 2006, and act of March 3rd 2007, and act of March 3rd 2008, and act of March 3rd 2009, and act of March 3rd 2010, and act of March 3rd 2011, and act of March 3rd 2012, and act of March 3rd 2013, and act of March 3rd 2014, and act of March 3rd 2015, and act of March 3rd 2016, and act of March 3rd 2017, and act of March 3rd 2018, and act of March 3rd 2019, and act of March 3rd 2020, and act of March 3rd 2021, and act of March 3rd 2022, and act of March 3rd 2023, and act of March 3rd 2024, and act of March 3rd 2025.

Form No. 525, A. G. O.  
Oct. 6-12

\* Insert name, last name first, e. g., "John Doe."  
† Insert Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast and Geodetic Survey and regiment or arm or corps or department; e. g., "1,620,302"; "Corporal, Company 1, 1st Infantry"; "Sergeant, Quartermaster Corps"; "Sergeant, First Class, Medical Department."  
‡ If discharged prior to expiration of service, give number, date, and source of order or full description of authority therefor.

# WORLD WAR II

Sixteen men and one woman served in the armed forces during World War II, three of them giving their all for the cause. They were Robert W. Fuller, Charles L. Cranford, Claude Stafford (a Marine killed in action), H.L. Byrd (a Navy man lost at sea), Keith Hammond,

Hyatt Hammond, Whitman C. Kearns, Dwight Morgan, J.D. Crowell (died of pneumonia in Mississippi), Thomas F. Kearns, Catherine Crowell, William Hoyt Davis, Ivey Wyatt Nance, Charles Nance, James Nance, Max Nance, and John F. Cagle.



William Hoyt Davis  
U.S. Navy.



Hyatt Hammond  
U.S. Navy.



Warrant Officer Robert W. Fuller, Jr.  
U.S. Army.



Catherine Crowell  
U.S. Army Nurses Corps.





Private Thomas F. Kearns  
U.S. Army.



Sergeant Charles L. Cranford  
Army Air Force.



Corporal Ivey Wyatt Nance  
U.S. Army.



Keith Hammond  
Army Air Force.



Ensign Whitman Kearns  
(later promoted to Captain)  
U.S. Navy.



Private First Class James Nance  
U.S. Army.



Seaman First Class Max Nance  
U.S. Navy.



Corporal Claude Stafford  
U.S. Marines.





Captain Dwight Morgan  
U.S. Navy.



Private J.D. Crowell  
U.S. Army.



Charles Nance  
U.S. Army, September 1943 – December 1945.



Lieutenant Colonel John F. Cagle  
Chaplain, U.S. Army.





# VII — CEMETERIES

KEARNS CEMETERY

FARMER CEMETERY

SALEM METHODIST CEMETERY

HOOVER CEMETERY

DEATH DATES





# I

## KEARNS CEMETERY

Several members of the Kearns Clan succumbed to the call of the past in 1979, and on a Saturday in October of that year, made a safari, by foot and jeep, to the burial ground of their ancestors, who settled on Second Creek in the Salem Church community southwest of Farmer about 1760. They fought their way from behind the Negro Salem United Church of Christ for a mile and a quarter through second-growth bushes and trees to find the Kearns Cemetery that, in the days of different roads and settlements, was probably a very public place.

The group was made up of Charles Lester Cranford, Branson Nance, Wilbur and Neale Kearns, Wade Walker, Leah Hammond, Reece Crouse, and Nancy Kearns Crouse Jeffries, all fifth and sixth generations of William and Mary King Kearns (Keerans) who first came to the area about 1760. From their lives filled with activities remote from those who barehanded first carved their homes out of the wilderness, these Kearns and relatives sought to establish a new relationship with their pioneering forefathers.



The group that laid the old Kearns Cemetery Memorial Stone October 11, 1980. Front row, left to right: Jack Cameron, Wilbur Kearns, Martin Cranford, Carl Kearns. Back row, left to right: Whitman Kearns, Lester Cranford, Lester Kearns, Wade Walker, Glenn Kearns. Photograph was taken by Neale Kearns.

According to Nancy K.C. Jeffries: “Lester Cranford, who lives in the vicinity of the cemetery, saw the cemetery to the left, and when I looked where he was pointing, I felt a lump in my throat for these people that I did not know, people that I had read about, the people that were just everyday people, but they had made my life possible. The tiny slate stones appeared to grow out of the ground! The roots were growing into some of the stones. . . We traced the writing with chalk and recorded what we found. . . I was not ready to leave. . .”

That day the group decided the cemetery needed a new stone, since the old slate headpieces would ultimately deteriorate to the point that their story would be lost, Lester Cranford reports the remainder of the event:

“Saturday afternoon, October 11, 1980, the stone was placed at the old Kearns Cemetery, as a memorial to our Kearns ancestors. The sun was shining bright and the weather could not have been more beautiful.

“The stone had been waiting in the Carson Cranford barn until the Kearns relatives could get together to take it to the cemetery. Martin Cranford hauled the marker with a front-end loader, as it was too heavy for four men to carry. Wade Walker furnished a four-wheel-drive pickup to carry the personnel and the tools used to place the stone.



The Old Kearns Cemetery, which lies in the Second Creek Community. Started in the late 1700's.

“The work was accomplished successfully with the expertise and skill of **Whitman Kearns**, **Carl Kearns**, **Wilbur Kearns**, **Neale Kearns**, **Lester Kearns**, **Glenn Kearns**, **Jack Cameron**, **Martin Cranford**, **Charles Lester Cranford**, and **Wade Walker**. (An honorary **Kearns** degree was bestowed upon **Wade Walker** that day by **Charles L. Cranford**. **Wade** has made that trip, up and down hill, over field and stream, taking the **Kearns Clan** to the old cemetery, until he has earned the **Kearns** title).

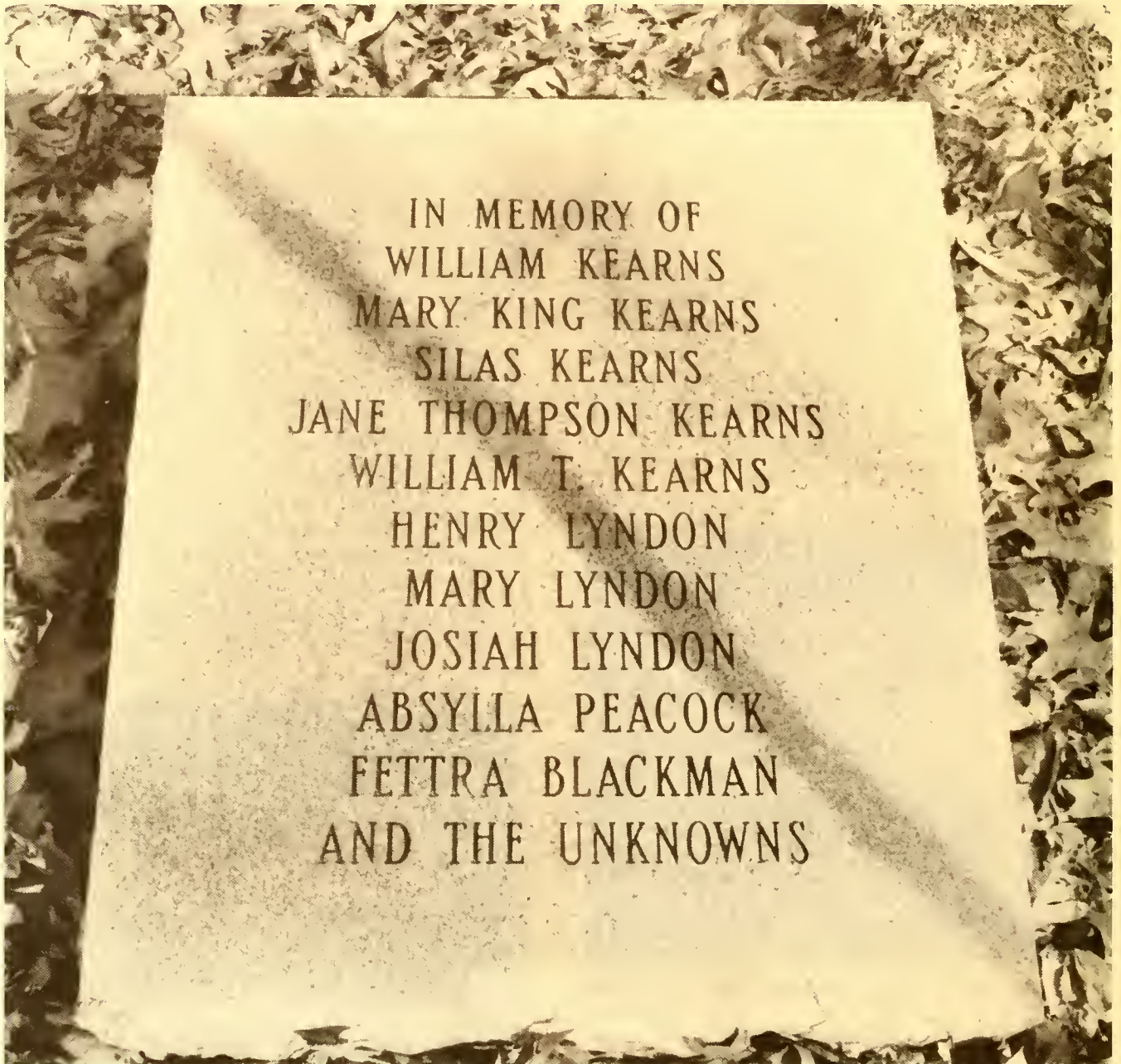
“After the stone was cemented into its place, **Neale Kearns** made a few remarks in regard to our

ancestors and prayed a prayer (of thanks) for our forefathers who had the foresight to come to America.

“The new stone will tell us for all generations to come who lived, worked, and died in this lovely community of rolling hills in Randolph County, North Carolina.”

Contributing to the expenses of the stone were **Kearns-Wood-Johnson** relatives, the **Kearns Davidson County group**, and the **Kearns** clan in **High Point**.

**Whitman Kearns** lives in Nevada and **Jack Cameron** resides in Smithfield, N.C.



Marker placed by the **Kearns** and **Lyndon** relatives and friends to commemorate the first settlers of the land, the **Kearns** and **Lyndons** having come to **Second Creek** sometime in the latter part of the 18th Century.



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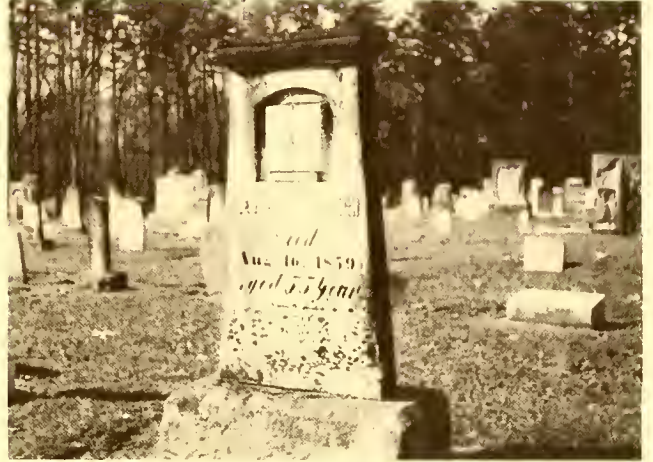
# FARMER CEMETERY

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The Farmer Cemetery was started as early as 1848 when Edwin Sneed was buried there. (Some of the Farmer citizens placed a marker at his grave in 1980.) The first tombstone was erected for a Mr. Thornburg in 1859, 122 years ago. It still stands.

The cemetery contains 455 marked graves, and possibly some others that have lost their markings. The Kearns name appears most frequently.

Although the grounds have no official caretaker, Percy Morgan, one of Farmer's elder citizens has assumed that role. He keeps the lanes mowed, the weeds cut from the graves, and the stones erect.



The Farmer Cemetery. The first headstone was erected for Jesse Thornburg August 16, 1859.



An overview of the Farmer Cemetery, started in 1848.



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## SALEM METHODIST CEMETERY

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**T**he Salem Methodist Cemetery is one of the oldest in the area. In a grove back of the main cemetery covered with periwinkle (known as grave vine), is an area covered with slate rocks. People, including Carl Nance and Carson Cranford have always said these were slave graves.

This cemetery was in existence many years before Farmer Cemetery. Therefore many of the Kearns from the Farmer area and even some from Davidson County were buried here. Many grandsons and great-grandsons of William and Mary King Kearns were buried in this cemetery along

with the Johnsons, Steeds and Thompsons. Several of those who built the present building at Salem in 1881 are buried there.

Some of the older dates on stones are as follows:

John C. Kearns, 1858  
 Branson E. Kearns, 1854  
 Priscilla Johnson Elliott, 1843  
 Josiah Kearns, 1856  
 John C. Kearns, (father of John C. and Branson E. above) 1858  
 Jessie Kearns, 1863



Salem United Methodist Church Cemetery



# 4

## HOOVER CEMETERY

The Hoover Cemetery in western Randolph County contains the graves of **Andrew Hoover**, the great great great grandfather of ex-President Herbert Clark Hoover, and other ancestry of the 31st President of the United States.

Located a mile or so off the main road in the Hoover's Grove Church community, between Parker's Mill site on the Uwharrie and Jackson's Creek, the cemetery lay unkept and virtually unknown for more than a century before **Victor Parker**, operator of Parker's Mill for 33 years before it closed in 1945, became interested in the burial ground in 1928. He contacted **Theodore J. Hoover**, Dean of Engineering at Stanford University in California and the President's brother, and

they collaborated in the restoration project, cleaning up the grounds and erecting a large stone marking the grave of **Andrew Hoover**.

In addition to the **Andrew Hoover** grave, the cemetery contains twenty-three others. Some of the slate rock markers include the names of **A. Hoover, Amy Johnson, Mart Johnson, Lewis Johnson, Rachel Hoover, and Nancy Yats**. Some of the **Hoover** family migrated to Ohio and Indiana in the mid 1800's, Herbert Hoover's ancestors among them.

Other members of the **Hoover** family of that period were buried at Hoover's Grove Wesleyan Methodist Church and at the Pleasant Union Christian Church.

# 5

## DEATH DATES

### Hammonds —

Garland . . . . . May 8, 1909  
 Madison . . . . . January 4, 1954  
 Nepsie Vetura . . . . . June 21, 1958  
 Carl Harris . . . . . August 15, 1960  
 John Robert (Bob) . . . . . September 27, 1960  
 Edith Parrish . . . . . May 8, 1969  
 Thomas Winborne . . . . . April 2, 1973  
 Carrie Cranford . . . . . November 11, 1974

### Others —

T. W. Bingham . . . . . December, 1958  
 Conrad Horney . . . . . August, 1963  
 Mrs. George Hulin . . . . . October, 1975  
 Mrs. Spillman . . . . . October, 1875  
 Ina Harris . . . . . October, 1975  
 Mitty Harris . . . . . September, 1975  
 Lula Bisher . . . . . May, 1975  
 Edward Morgan . . . . . March, 1975  
 Fred Hunt . . . . . March, 1975  
 Lucille Gregg . . . . . February, 1975  
 Sarah Rush . . . . . June, 1976  
 Richard Garner . . . . . June, 1976

Gowan Hulin . . . . . January, 1976  
 Gale Hussey . . . . . January, 1976  
 Worth Garner . . . . . March, 1976  
 Tom Morgan . . . . . May, 1976  
 Sam Morgan . . . . . May, 1977  
 Mrs. Cameron Morgan . . . . . May, 1977  
 Mrs. Ben Morgan . . . . . May, 1977  
 C. Elbert Kearns . . . . . May, 1977  
 Mrs. Elbert Kearns . . . . . May, 1977  
 Hope Hubbard . . . . . July, 1977  
 Troy Trotter . . . . . July, 1977  
 Faedene Ridge Kirk . . . . . July, 1977  
 Nellie T. Bingham . . . . . August, 1977  
 H. Moodie Hunt . . . . . August, 1977  
 Charles L. Harris . . . . . November, 1977  
 Ellen Opal McDowell . . . . . December, 1977  
 Joseph Clay Delk . . . . . January, 1978  
 Elzie Hulin . . . . . February, 1978  
 Reggie McDowell . . . . . February, 1978  
 Homer Lanier . . . . . February, 1978  
 Mary Bingham Tedder . . . . . March, 1978  
 Walter Waynick . . . . . December, 1978  
 R.R. Bracken . . . . . March, 1979





# VIII — POST OFFICES

FARMER

READING THE MAIL AT FARMER

OTHER POST OFFICES OF THE PAST



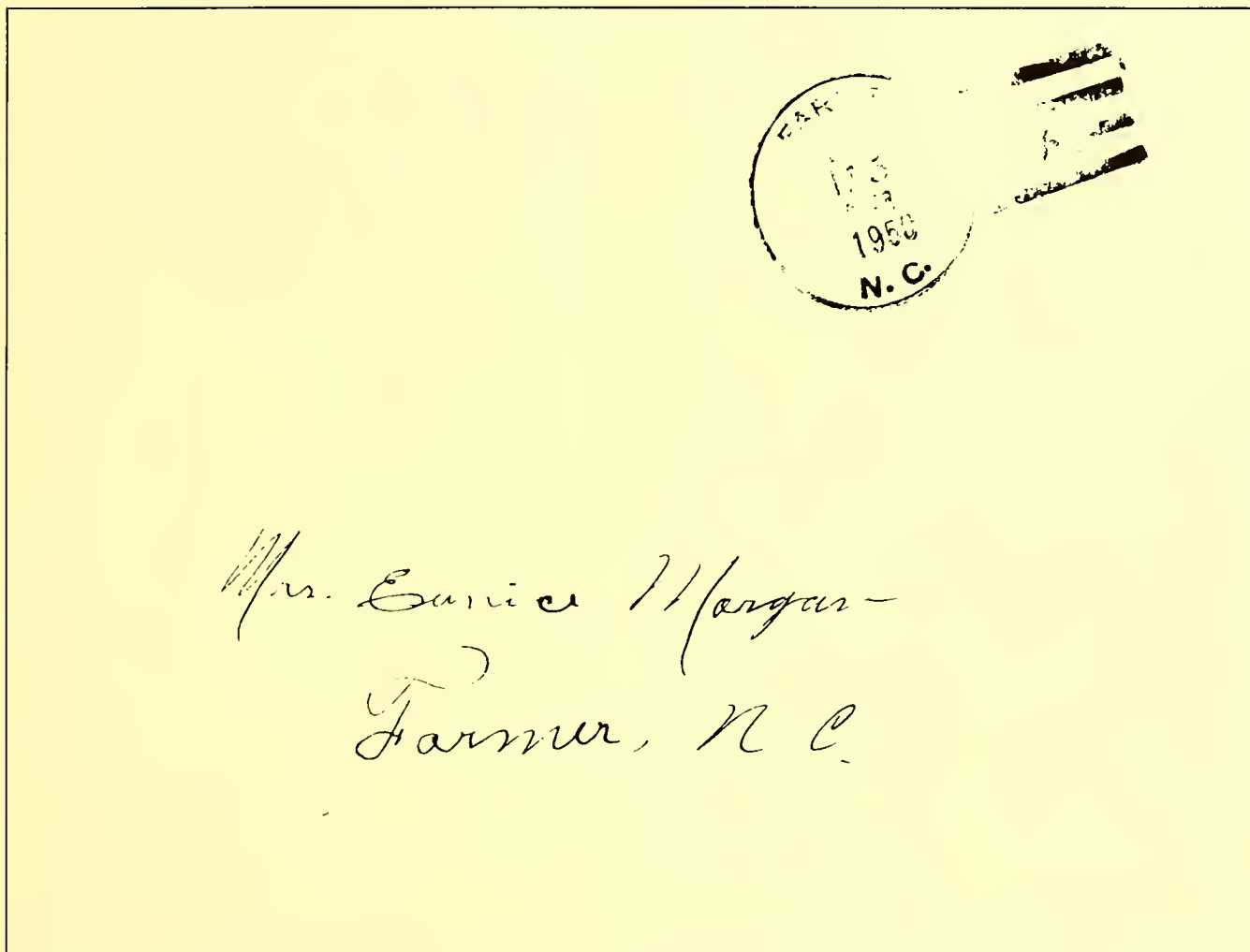


# I

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## FARMER POST OFFICE

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An envelope bearing the Farmer postmark.

**A** post office was established at Farmers in 1875. It operated as a fourth class office until 1956, when it was changed to a contract "Station" (an office which is operated by someone under contract as opposed to working in the Civil Service). It maintains that status today (1981).

The first office was located in a building which stood in the area occupied by the Dr. Hubbard home today, and Mrs. Jimmy Skeen served as the

first postmistress. George Gallimore had the contract to carry the mail to Thomasville once a week. He or one of his hired men took the mail by buggy on the two-day trip. Their going and coming became a familiar scene to the residents of Farmers.

Following Mrs. Skeen as postmasters at Farmers (the name was changed to Farmer sometime around the turn of the century) were N.W. Newby, Gid Macon, and Bob Dorsett.

At some date early in the Twentieth Century, **Lineberry Hill**, who also operated a grist mill near where the **Fred Bingham** house now stands, and ran a store where **Lawson Lowe** lives, served as postmaster until 1927, keeping the office in his store.

In 1927, **Percy Morgan** became the postmaster and he and **Bunkster Bingham**, Percy's cousin, bought the Hill store. In 1930, they moved the store a hundred or so yards west to the side of the new Highway 62, where the post office remained until 1946 when it was moved into a building of its own adjoining the **Bob Hammond** store. It remains at that location at the present.

Through the years, the office has been served by a civil service carrier out of Asheboro and a star route (a contract carrier) from Denton.

During the century the Post Office has served the people of Farmer, it has become part and parcel of their lives, as much so as eating ham biscuits and blackberry cobbler, or getting up at dawn to feed the pigs and chickens. So, it came as a shock in the spring of 1980, when, because of a shift in priorities, the Postal Department announced that the Farmer Station would be discontinued at a given date. The news upset the Farmer folk about as much as the announcement of an impending earthquake might have.

Coincidentally, the announced change came on the heels of a request of a raise by the current postmistress (station manager), **Ocia Morgan** — a raise from \$100 to \$125 per month, out of which she pays rent on the station, the fuel-for-heating bill, and the electrical bill. The announcement incensed and infuriated the Farmer populace who had come to look upon the office (and barber shop) as an indispensable part of their lives and a cherished bit of their peculiar heritage.

In anger the Farmer citizens again became "regulators," taking up arms in the form of pens and typewriters — with sympathetic help from newspapers, radio and television stations — and went after the bureaucrats in Washington. They wrote letters, gave interviews, talked (and maybe cursed a little here and there) — gave the situation the "works" in so far as publicity was concerned.

And they "saved" the station from its bureaucratic demise. **Jean Kenyon**, who works in the store next door, was one of those who helped save

it. She says, "People don't like the idea of closing the station. It's always been here. It's a natural part of the community.

Perhaps **Doug Clark**, writing in the *High Point Enterprise*, summed up the situation most succinctly:

"Farmer — it's more than a crossroads, really. It's an intersection of life, wonderfully, richly preserved. Much as it has always been. Its name tells the story: Farmer. It evokes images of simple, hardworking, close-knit people. They're scattered around a meeting of state roads in southwestern Randolph County. One way goes to Denton, another to Asheboro. There's a school, a seed cleaning company, a couple of churches, some dwellings, a store, and above all, the Farmer Rural Post Office."

The quantity of service fluctuates somewhat from year to year, but the customers today are about as numerous as ever. The station has twenty boxholders, including the Garner Seed Company, the school, and a community of people who buy stamps and money orders and mail packages when it's inconvenient for them to meet the rural carrier.

In lieu of the raise **Ms. Morgan** asked for last spring, the Postal Department offered her an alternative, which to her was unthinkable: shorter hours.

Because "farmers get out early," she says, she opens the station at 7:15, takes two hours for lunch, and closes at 5. "I've always done this," she says. "The patrons wouldn't like it if I didn't come in but four hours every day. I'd rather leave it like this. I feel like I have to work to serve the people the best I can."

But unlike the time **Ms. Morgan**, who had substituted for her brother **Percy** when he was postmaster, became the station manager, there is no one to carry on when she retires. The office, with its barber chair, the neighbors (more neighbors than customers) sitting around the coal-burning stove swapping family and community news, and the quiet, unhurried atmosphere of the rural crossroads, will, unless someone else is willing to shoulder the long-hour, little-pay burden — like the once famous Farmers Institute — become a fading memory.





Percy Morgan, postmaster from 1927 – 1963, in front of the Farmer Post Office.

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## READING THE MAIL AT FARMER

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Anyone in the community of Farmer who wants to read their mail in comfort, merely has to sit down in the barber's chair in the post office.

That's what "Postmaster" Miss Ocia Morgan was doing the other day.

She was sitting back and reading her newspaper, oblivious to the fact that visitors are surprised to find a good old tonsorial chair in the place.

Farmer is a rural postal station now, but it still retains all the vestiges of a small town post office. Posters and pigeon-holes for mail still predominate the small space and because the tiny lobby was once a barbershop, the chair is still there too.

Miss Morgan has been "postmaster" for the past five years, but her brother, Percy preceded her. "My brother was both postmaster and barber,"

she said, "and his shop and post office were one and the same.

"He was postmaster until 1956 when Farmer became a rural station under Asheboro. He became station clerk then, and operated it until 1963, when I became clerk," she explained.

Brother Percy's part-time barbershop is still intact, including the small iron stove with an iron kettle perched upon it.

Miss Morgan chatted awhile and even divulged the origin of her musical sounding name Ocia.

"My father was a teacher," she related "and he had one student whom he thought outstanding. Her name was Ocia Redding; he admired her scholastic abilities and he named me after her," she related.

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*From a newspaper article by Henry King.*



Ocia Morgan, present postmaster at Farmer.



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# POST OFFICES IN THE FARMER AREA

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Lassiter's Mill .....	1848-1917
Science Hill .....	1854-1905
New Hope Academy .....	1859-1935
Jackson's Creek .....	1859-1953
*Flora .....	1883-1914
Mechanic .....	1884-1931
Bombay .....	1889-1917
Martha .....	1894-1916
*Pipe .....	1912-1920
*Sol .....	1906-1917

\*Flora was located in the home of **Barnum Bingham**, who lived in the Canaan Church Community.

\*Pipe was located in the home of **Mrs. Florence Luther** who lived near Lassiter's Mill, then moved to the home of **Colonel M. Loflin**, who ran it until it closed.

\*Sol was located in **Bob Johnson's** store on Second Creek.



Pipe Post Office, operated by Mrs. Elsa Luther, circa 1912. Present owner is Carl Loflin.

# Confederate States of America.

## POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

### APPOINTMENT BUREAU.

*Richmond Va  
Montgomery, Ala.,*

*Dec. 6. 1861*

SIR:

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL has appointed you POSTMASTER at *Hill's Store*  
County of *Randolph* State of *N. C.*

in which capacity you will be authorized to act upon complying with the following requirements:

1st. To execute the enclosed bond and cause it to be executed by two sufficient sureties, in the presence of suitable witnesses; and the sufficiency of the sureties, and their oath or affirmation, to be certified by a qualified magistrate.

2d. To take and subscribe the oath or affirmation of office enclosed, before a magistrate, who will certify the same, and deposit them in the mail, *under an envelope*, addressed to me.

After the receipt, at this Department, of your bond and qualification, duly executed and certified, and the approval of the same by the Postmaster General, a commission will, *in due course of business*, be sent to you.

You will then be entitled to enter upon the duties of the office, and to take charge of the public property belonging to the Post Office, aforesaid, such as desks, cases, boxes, tables of the Post Office, laws and instructions, mail keys, blanks, letters and papers on hand, and stationery.

If you accept the appointment, the bond and oath must be executed and returned without delay. If you decline, notice thereof should be immediately given to this office.

It will be your duty to continue in the charge of the office, either personally or by assistant, until you are relieved from it by the consent of the Department, which will be signified by the discontinuance of your office, or the appointment of your successor.

Respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

*P. M. Clement*  
CHIEF OF APPOINTMENT BUREAU.

*M. L. R. Adderton*

N. B.—The quarters expire on the 31st of March, 30th June, 30th September, and 31st December. Accounts must be rendered for each quarter within two days after its close.

Postmasters are not authorized to give credit for postage. Want of funds, therefore, is no excuse for failure of payment.

A Postmaster must not change the name by which his office is designated on the books of the Department, without the order of the Postmaster General.

Be careful in mailing letters and transient newspapers, to post-mark each one, in all cases, with the name of your office and State; and in all communications to the Department, to embrace the date, the name of your Post Office, county, (or district,) and State.

In stamping letters, great care should be observed to render the impression distinct and legible.





Mrs. Rachel Hill, postmistress, Rachel, N.C.



Martha Post Office in Bob Johnson's Store. Shown in front are, left to right, Emogene Cranford and Ruth Johnson. In back are, left to right, Carl Kearns and Allen Kearns.



Hill's Store Post Office, operated by George Adderton in 1861. Present owner is Marshall Thornburg.





# IX — RECENT CHANGES

FARMER FIRE DEPARTMENT

NEW HOPE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

NEW INDUSTRIES

A STATISTICAL CAPSULE





# I

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## FARMER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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A need for fire protection was realized in Farmer more acutely on March 9, 1969, after the home of **R.L. Davis** was completely destroyed.

Shortly thereafter, during a meeting of interested people, **Thomas Spencer** was authorized to apply for a charter. The charter was approved on May 29th of that same year.

A group of seven men were the first firemen: **Charlie Harris, Gene Harris, Joe Elliott, Jerry Elliott, Homer Hughes, Whitman Garner** and **John Owens**.

The first equipment was a 1951 Ford Fire Truck purchased shortly after the department was chartered, costing twenty-five hundred dollars. This created a need for money, and it was borrowed. Shortly afterwards a 1952 gas truck was donated. The firemen and interested people converted it into a tanker for hauling water. Later, a jeep was purchased from army surplus in Raleigh to fight wood fires. This had to be repaired, a tank installed and pump attached.

Land for the fire station was donated by **Mr. and Mrs. R.L. Davis**. The building consisted of 3 bays for trucks, office, two baths and a small room for four bunk beds. It was constructed and furnished through the joint efforts of the firemen and community. The roof was installed in September 1970.

The first official board was made up of **W.A. Hammond, Alton Wall, Thomas Spencer, Dolan**

**Surratt, Ocia Morgan, Astor Delk, Jack Lanier** and **Dallas McDowell**.

The first fire chief was **Charlie Harris**. Then came the following in order named: **Gene Harris, Homer Hughes, Clifford Elliott, Joe Elliott, and Roger King**.

The first treasurer was **Thomas Spencer**. Then came the following in order named: **Charles Elliott, Clifford Elliott, Jerry Elliott, and Reid Craig**.

A fee of ten dollars was asked from all home owners, but this was not nearly enough to finance the department. Several means of raising money were tried, but bar-b-que has been most successful. A pit was built behind the fire station and all firemen are responsible for cooking. This is done mostly for holidays. Also a fee of twenty dollars was asked in 1980 for each home owner.

In 1974 the department began replacing old equipment. A 1961 Ford Pumper, a new 1976 Chevrolet (four wheel drive) Pick Up Truck with 250 gal. skid tank with gas powered pump for fighting wood fires and a new 1978 F-700 Ford Pumper-Tanker has been purchased. The 1952 Ford Tanker is still in use. Other equipment includes a ten horse-power siren, base radio station, twenty-one pagers, three mobile radios, and a drop tank.

Today, (March 19, 1981), the following are fire fighters: **W.A. Hammond, Robert Skeen, Hoyt Davis, Homer Hughes, Whitman Garner,**



Farmer Volunteer Fire Department.

Dwayne Garner, Ricky Leonard, Reid Craig, Joe Elliott, Kent Elliott, Clifford Elliott, Gene Harris, Jerry Elliott, Terry Gardner, John Owens, Roy Smith, Elbert Leviner, Steve Nance, Michael Yates, Roger King, Chief, Doris Hammond, Collette Skeen, Peggy Hughes, Shelby Harris, Barbara McDowell and Eulah Davis.

In 1981 the department has four licensed Emergency Medical Technicians. They are Doris Hammond, Roger King, Dwayne Garner and Steve Nance.

A new official board elected July 1980 consists of Delbert Cranford—President, Hoyt Davis, Robert Skeen, Carson Parker, Max Lanier, Gene Harris, Kermit Hancock, W.A. Hammond, Roger Greene and Lawson Lowe.

A small rock and base for flag pole has been erected by firemen as a memorial for deceased firemen. Two names have been placed on the marker:

Johnny Gordon—September 1971

Charlie Harris—November 1977

## 2

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# NEW HOPE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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**T**he New Hope Volunteer Fire Department was organized March 21, 1976, with the following officers elected: Alvin Hogan, president; Roy Cranford, vice president; Jeanette Hopkins, secretary; and Baxter Surratt, treasurer. The board of directors consisted of Wiley Hurley, Arnold Russell, Wiley J. Hurley, Herman Hogan, and Daniel Earnhart.

The first Fire Chief was Harold Cagle. He was followed by Herman Hogan. Leslie Hogan serves at present (1981).

For the station and a community building that was added to it, the board bought two acres of land from Buren and Mada Luther. A truck was

the first item of equipment purchased, with two additional trucks and equipment being secured later. Many people in the community donated building material and labor to the construction of the building complex.

A supper is held every third Saturday night to help with the expenses. Along with the department, a Ladies Auxiliary was formed in 1976. The auxiliary's function is to help raise money for the operation of the department. The following officers were elected to the auxiliary: Judith Surratt, president; Connie Hogan, vice president; Carolyn Brown, secretary; and Nancy Hogan, treasurer.



New Hope Volunteer Fire Department.



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## NEW INDUSTRIES

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**T**wo new companies have been established in recent years in the New Hope area: the Hogan Dimension Mill, Inc., and the Surratt Plumbing and Heating Company.

An outgrowth of the Hogan Lumber and Chip Company, the Hogan Dimension Mill builds furniture frames and dimensions. They began operations on August 16, 1979, and at present (1981) employ thirty people. With **Treece Hogan** president, the company is in the process of expanding, doubling its floor space. It is located on N.C. State Road 1103, R#2, Denton.

The other recently formed enterprise, the Surratt Plumbing and Heating Company, is operated by the brothers **Charles** and **Baxter Surratt**. It is also located on R#2, Denton, and serves a large area in New Hope and Concord townships.



J.H. Henson, operator of Tom's Creek Nursery.



Mr. and Mrs. Treece Hogan, operators of Hogan Dimension Mill.



Wallace Garner, operator of Garner Seed Company.



Charles Surratt (left) and Baxter Surratt (right). Owners of Surratt Plumbing and Heating Company.

## 4

# A STATISTICAL CAPSULE

No Indians remain in the Farmer area.

Six Black families make their homes in Concord Township.

Tobacco, which was once grown on a small scale in the community, has been phased out until none is being produced at this time.

Sixty percent of the land is still in forest, but "saw" timber is becoming scarce.

Corn is the leading crop; small grains (wheat, oats, rye) are second; soybeans, third.

Corn yields about 100 bushels per acre average; wheat, 35 bushels; soybeans, 28 bushels.

Cropland in the Farmer area is valued at \$800 to \$1,000 per acre, with "development" land much higher.



Aerial view of Uwharrie Golf Course operated by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cummings.



# X — MEMORABILIA

UWHARRIE RIVER FLOORS

MOVING IN 1912

JUBE HORNEY'S BACK PORCH STORE

JOHN DUNBAR'S BALKY HORSE

SALTPETER BRANCH

FARMER PARTICIPATES IN PAGEANT

JACKSON CREEK BRIDGE

THE JESSE PHILLIPS STORY

A HOOVER STORY

GABRIEL BLOWS HIS HORN

BLACK PEOPLE OF FARMER

U. WINSTON "DUMP" LASSITER

LASSITER'S MILL

HOPE HUBBARD'S MUSEUM

A REID KEARNS STORY

A LESSON IN COLLECTING

"I'LL BE THERE. . ."

FREDERICK FARMER'S WILL

THE MADISON HAMMOND HOUSE

AN ASSORTMENT OF MEMORIES





# I

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## UWHARRIE RIVER FLOODS

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**I**n addition to some historical records about floods on the Uwharrie, some of the Farmer natives remember at least one that devastated the fields along its banks.

Elizabeth Fuller Patton, who operates a horse farm on the old Fuller place on the river north of Farmer, says that her mother, Mrs. Mabel Kearns Fuller and her grandmother, Mrs. Lenora Lassiter Kearns, used to talk about one of the freshets. In 1916 the waters rose so high that people could stand on the Dunbar Bridge and pick up watermelons from the river as the waters swept them

downstream.

Percy Morgan says that one of the most exciting events in his memory is the time the river rose to cover its banks and the bottom lands until the waters reached from hill to hill.

It has also been remembered by Clark Thornburg that the river rose to push water into the Lassiter mill in 1945—the biggest flood in the memory of those living today. That 1945 flood was followed by another, not quite so high, in 1947.



The Dunbar Bridge during the 1918 flood.

## MOVING IN 1912

**W**hen **Moses Morgan** moved his family from Piney Grove in 1912 to the **Ivy Johnson** place in Farmer, approximately five miles over the ungraded, red-rutted roads of the period, the task seen in the light of modern roads and automated vehicles is almost incredible.

**Percy Morgan**, the second son of **Moses**, remembers the event vividly. He was seventeen at the time. They had, besides their household goods and furniture, the products of the past summer's crop to take from barn and stack, haul it across the miles and repack, restack, and rehouse everything: corn, wheat, tops and fodder (from the corn), and the hay.

To add to their woes, one of their draft animals

became sick and they had to borrow a big bay horse from **Mrs. Morgan's** father, **Barnum Bingham**, to work with Mack, their mule. They also borrowed a team and wagon from **Webb Bingham**, **Mrs. Morgan's** brother. The **Webb Bingham** mules were small but spirited, one of them ready to kick a man if he got careless.

After two harrowing days of getting the house fit to live in, they took the borrowed mules home, but continued to haul odds and ends from the old house at Piney Grove through the next several weeks, using Saturdays (when **Mr. Morgan** was home from his school), and Christmas holidays.

"Before it was all over, we'd had all the moving we ever wanted," **Percy** recalls.



The Moses Morgan family about 1913. Front: Sue, Ocia, and Ila; Percy is on the horse, Mabel, Moses, Flora, Tom, and Edward. The other son, Walter, was absent.



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## JUBE HORNEY'S BACK PORCH STORE

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**M**ozelle Horney lives in a house that once had in its back porch a Farmers' Alliance Store. The House, **Mozelle's** home since the death of her parents—**Conrad** (1963) and **Mittie** (1975)—is located one mile west of the Farmer Post Office. The original log structure (weather boarded now) was erected by **Jared Horney**, **Mozelle's** great grandfather, on the land of his father **Jeffrey Horney** about 1838. **Jared's** son, **Julius (Jube) Philmore Horney** remodeled the structure and added the two-story front part about 1900.

The evident progressiveness of **Jube Horney**, who educated four of his children to become teachers, was undoubtedly the primary factor in the establishment of the store in his home in 1890, as the Farmers' Alliance was founded in 1887, to a class almost forgotten socially, ignored politically, and denied economically—the farming class.

**Jube** and the other farmers of the state and nation were bearing the brunt of the national tax burden. Yet the banks, the railroads, and the government discriminated against them. The banks charged them the highest interest, the railroads exacted bigger tolls from farm commodities, the government refused to give them the tax breaks that it granted shipping and manufacturing. The farmers seemed fair game for taking.

But **Jube Horney**, and millions of farmers like him and with some help from men like **L.L. Polk**, publisher of the *Progressive Farmer* in those years, formed the Alliance to fight back. To attract members, the Alliance held picnics and barbecues, to which it invited outstanding speakers, to rally the farmers behind the cause. It set up a chain of cooperative stores where members could buy their needs—groceries, clothes, horse and mule gear, tools, seed, salt, and fertilizer—at wholesale prices. Thus it was that **Jube** became a merchant. He opened a cooperative store in the

back porch of his home and operated it until the movement began to wane about the turn of the century.

After the Alliance store had to be discontinued, **Horney** built a small structure in front of his house and operated a store there in conjunction with **Ivy Johnson** until **Horney's** death in 1910.

**Horney's** daughter, **Esta Horney Morgan**, who makes her home in High Point now, remembers that her father stocked calicoes, sheeting, horse-shoes, nails, coffee, sugar, candy, and molasses. He secured his “black-strap” molasses from Louisiana and sold it in competition with a home-grown product made by **Bob Steed**, who was known in the neighborhood as the “Molasses Maker.” The store kept a number of grain barrels in which corn, wheat, oats, and rye that customers bartered for merchandise were stored.



Jube Horney's back porch store.

# 4

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## JOHN DUNBAR'S BALKY HORSE

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One story remains about Great Grandfather John Dunbar, who owned land on each side of the river in the vicinity of the bridge. Once, in the days before he built the bridge, when he was hauling corn from his fields on the west side of the river to his home on the other side, one of his horses balked as they started up the ford's steep bank. After Dunbar had tried to make the horse go and couldn't get it

to budge, he tied it to a tree that stood by the water's edge, unhitched the other one and rode it home, leaving the balky animal to stand there in the water all night. The next day he went back, hitched the other horse up again, got on his load of corn, and clucked to them. The balky horse pulled his part of the load up the steep bank without any hesitation.



Robert (Bob) Hammond watering horses.

# 5

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## SALTPETER BRANCH

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Water used by the crowds camping around the Farmer Church (Concord Church at that time) during the big camp meeting days in the 1870's and 80's came from a spring across the road from the camping site. The spring is the head of a branch that flows

into the Uwharrie River about three fourths of a mile away, and is called the "Saltpeter" Branch. The site was used during the Civil War by Confederate soldiers to obtain the mineral for use in making gunpowder.



# 6

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## FARMER PARTICIPATES IN PAGEANT

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**F**armer folk — adults and children — played an important role in a historical pageant of North Carolina, “Children of Old Carolina,” during the Randolph County fair in 1932. The presentation, sponsored by the Randolph chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, was staged at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 23.

The following people from Farmer served on various committees: the executive committee — W.H. Dewar, school principal; casting — Mesdames Claude Dorset, W.H. Dewar, Misses Myrtle Scarboro, Edna Walker, Juanita Kearns, Connie Cagle, Edith Seaboch, Leah Hammond, Messrs. S.A. Cooper, T.W. Ward, and John

Wagnor; music — Marvin Sexton.

Part IV of the pageant, titled “Westward Ho!” was performed by the Farmer children with Dwight Morgan playing the role of Daniel Boone.

Others performing in the pageant were Charles Kearns, Wade Walker, Ruby Jean Vuncannon, Vivian Lowe, Hyatt Hammond, Kathleen Lowe, David Williams, Paul Vuncannon, Lindsay Walker, Bruce Luther, Emogene Cranford, Gilbert Cooper, J.C. Ridge, Grace Garner, Esther Garner, Christine Ashworth, Oberia Ashworth, Claude Williams, Keith Hammond, Eva Lambeth, Lawson Lowe, Harvey Lambeth, Onita Cooper, Mozelle Lambeth, and Clegg Garner.

# 7

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## JACKSON CREEK BRIDGE

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**S**ometime after 1915 the county built a covered bridge across Jackson’s Creek to take the place of the ford on the Farmer-to-Tabernacle Road. **Sue Morgan Denny**, a daughter of **Moses Morgan**, remembers crossing the ford

once when the water rose into the foot of the buggy. She and some other members of the family were on their way to see their mother who was in a hospital in High Point. The covered bridge was replaced about 1940.



Jackson Creek Bridge.

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## THE JESSE PHILLIPS STORY

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**T**he Jesse Phillips family lived a few miles east of Farmers—in the area where the Southwest High School is now located. The Phillips home, which was painted white, became the post office of the community in 1849 and operated until 1908. The office was named “Whitehouse Post Office.”

Mr. Phillips served as postmaster until he and his family left the area in 1874. Levi Branson, father of Mrs. Worth Garner (Mary) who remembered this story, served as postmaster from 1874 until the office closed in 1908.

Being a man who wanted his children educated, Mr. Phillips moved his family to Trinity, where his sons Charles and Guy, and his

daughters Carrie and Maude, could have the advantages of the educational facilities available there—especially Trinity College.

Charles became an educational and religious leader, known over the state as a teacher and public speaker. Guy became a college professor and taught at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Carrie Phillips became a leader in educational circles, and was honored by having a Guilford County School named for her.

Craig Phillips, the present Superintendent of Public Instruction (1981), is the son of Guy Phillips and the grandson of Jesse Phillips who once served as postmaster at the Whitehouse Post Office in Randolph County.



Whitehouse Post Office, Hopewell County. Home of Jesse Phillips.



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## A HOOVER STORY

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**J**oseph Hoover, known as “Squire Joe,” owned a farm on the Uwharrie River in the Parker’s Mill vicinity, where the original Hoover (**Andrew**) immigrant from Germany settled in 1774 at the age of 51. He evidently brought with him a family consisting of several boys, from whom **Joseph** descended.

Once **Joseph**, who died in 1837 and was buried in the Hoover Cemetery, was driving a blind horse to the top of a hill to get a cart load of pine knots. The cart wheel rolled over a rock, and cracked it open. **John Sinjong**, a half Indian who was with Hoover, recognized gold in the broken stone.

Squire Hoover began mining operations, found good “paydirt,” and later sold the mine to the Buncombe Mining Company for \$20,000. He then brought the **Julian** farm on the river where

he engaged in farming and merchandizing until his death. History has pictured him as a man of great influence, always ready to help his neighbors, and do his duty as a citizen. His family was one of high morality and widely respected.

In the late 1700’s **Jacob Hoover**’s house was washed away by a Uwharrie flood. Floods in 1795 and 1798 caused some of the Hoovers to “pull up stakes” and move to the Northwest Territory, now Ohio, where **Herbert Hoover** was born. However, the Hoover records show, according to genealogist **Victor Parker of Parker’s Mill**, **John Hoover**, the great-great grandfather of **Herbert**, migrated from Maryland to Ohio.

At least one old record shows that the Hoover mill dams (how many did they have?) were washed out twice by Uwharrie freshets.

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## IO

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## GABRIEL BLOWS HIS HORN

(AND OTHER STORIES OUT OF THE PAST)

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**O**range Pinckey Cranford — who married **Betty Haltom** — got **John N. Kearns**, who did “custom” work for his neighbors, to thresh his wheat one year. Out of the event came a story that **John Kearns** told with relish for many years. The story is related here through **Austin Elliott, Sr.**, and **Lester Cranford**.

**Kearns** was using a steam-powered engine to run his threshing gin with in those days and when darkness caught him at **Pink Cranford**’s barnlot, he left the rig there for the night. Sometime later, **Pink** waked to a howling scream that not only mystified him but almost scared him out of his wits. But being a man of enduring faith, he concluded that the Angel **Gabriel** had decided that “time will be no more,” as the song says, and had proceeded to sound the final alarm. Having concluded, he forthwith roused his family and demanded that they all pray in that final hour, the

end of the world being at hand.

The praying went on until someone of the family realized that the noise was coming from the steam engine that **Kearns** had left at the barn. It, like all steam engines of the day, whistled automatically when its boiler cooled down.



Harvesting Wheat for Threshing.



The "Pink" Cranford House in Davidson County with Aunt Betty Cranford on the porch.

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Another story attributed to **John Kearns** is about **Milby Hill**. At a Bombay commencement, **Kearns** was selling ice cream, and **Milby Hill**, who had never tasted ice cream before, was gobbling his first dish up as if it might get away from him. So, **Kearns** decided to have some fun. He dished **Hill** some more and said, "Eat it in a hurry now, or it'll melt." **Hill** went at it with gusto, but in a minute or two he came back to **Kearns**. "Oooh," he said. "The top of my head is about to blow off."

Then **Kearns** had his laugh.



John N. Kearns.

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**Carl Nance** had a story he used to tell when he wanted to illustrate a seemingly impossible situation.

A frog fell into a well. Then a terrapin came along and spoke to the frog.

"How are you going to get out of there?"

"I won't ever get out," the frog said in despair.

But a few days later the terrapin met the frog out on high ground. The terrapin said,

"I thought you told me that you could never get out of that well."

"Aah," the frog answered, "it was this way. A snake fell in and I had to get out."



Carl Nance.



## II

# BLACK PEOPLE OF FARMER

**F**ar Echoes, the Farmer School Yearbook, revealed no black faces among its pupils or teachers in its 1950 edition. However, the 1969 edition, four years after desegregation, pictured 19 black students and one teacher in the elementary school. (1969-70 was the final year that the high school remained at Farmer.)

The senior class had two blacks, but the junior, sophomore, and freshman classes had none. The eighth grade showed four, seventh one, sixth one, fifth one, fourth two, third zero, second two, first two. The special education class had four.

These statistics suggest two circumstances:

1. the ancestors of the Farmer people owned few slaves;
2. the developing social and economic structure in the area after the Civil War did not entice black families to move into the region.

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**Solomon J. Kearns**, the son of the slaves of **Ivy Kearns**, is buried in the Salem Congregational Church cemetery in lower Concord Township. During the summer of 1980, white friends of **Solomon**, who was born in 1853 and died in 1942, bought a marker for his grave, which is beside the graves of his wife **Adelaide** and daughter **Mary**. **Lester Cranford** remembers that he and **Joseph Wham** used to go to his cabin and listen to his stories about the "old days." **Lester** also remembers that the walls of **Solomon's** cabin were pretty. The old man had newspapers glued to them to keep out the cold.

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**Birch** and **Daisy Cross** lived near **Bob Johnson's** store and mill on Second Creek. They had six children: **Jesse**, **Clyde**, **Australia**, **Connie**, **Ruth**, and **Wayne**. They attended the Salem Church of Christ on Highway 49. **Daisy** taught school in the church, walking the three miles to and from unless the weather was extremely bad.

The **Cotton** women — **Harriett** and **Rena** — lived in that community also, as did **Peter Cotton**.

**Bessie Cotton Holt**, who lived east of Science Hill Church at one time spent her weekdays in the home of **Dr. C.C. Hubbard**. All the black

people of the community carried on their own affairs but often helped the white people with housework and on the farms.



Bessie Bell and Jennie Long.



The **Solomon J. Kearns** home. Present owner, **C.R. Johnson**.

## I2

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# U. WINSTON “DUMP” LASSITER

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**U.** Winston “Dump” Lassiter married Ora Kearns. They had thirteen children, one of whom died in infancy. Most of the children grew up in the community and attended Strieby Church School. Some of them attended Peabody Academy in Troy. Others went to Bennett College.

Charles Lassiter, a son, was a graduate of Hampton Institute in Virginia and received a master’s degree from Columbia University in New York. Leonard and Harold attended A & T College in Greensboro. Harold graduated and went on to get a master’s degree from New York University.

Kate, a daughter, earned a degree from more than one college. She went to Japan and Hong-kong to help educate victims of drug addiction. She served as Dean of Women at A & T College. Vella became a teacher and Mabel married and reared a family of five children. Lovell completed a business administration course in beauty culture in a New York school.

In later years, the children got together to build a new home for their parents at the old home place. They brought in brick-making experts, who made three kilos of brick for the house. Will, one of the older sons, returned to “keep the home fires burning.”



“Dump” Lassiter’s home. Bricks made of clay dug from the farm. Charles Lassiter, a son, drew the plans and supervised construction.

## I3

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# LASSITER’S MILL

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**L**assiter’s Mill — one of the oldest landmarks in the larger Farmer community, being seven miles downriver from the Dunbar Bridge — was the homesite of the first Lassiters to

live in Randolph County. The family, which had its roots in England, came to the county by way of Nansemond County, Virginia, to Chowan County, North Carolina, thence to upper Rowan



County, a section of which later became a part of Randolph County.

The genealogical record of the **Lassiters** shows that **Josiah** and **Sarah Hill Lassiter** bought 620 acres of land lying on both sides of the Uwharrie River at Walker Creek, on which the mill was built. The land purchase from **Richard Shackelford**, who had received the land as a grant from the state under Gov. Alex Martin, was made in 1782, three years after the territory was incorporated into Randolph County, indicating that the **Lassiters** had made their home elsewhere in Rowan before moving to the Uwharrie tract.

(The historical map of Randolph for the year 1779 shows the "Lassiter" mill already in place, a fact that suggests the mill had been established before the **Lassiters** arrived, and that the mill took the name of the new owners, not of its builder. That is, unless the map maker erred in placing the mill there when it was built later.)

Sidelight: Near Lassiter's Mill during the years from 1912 to about 1920 a post office called "Pipe" operated. It was located in the home of **Mrs. Florence Luther**, who served as postmistress. A "Star Route" was maintained between Farmer

and Pipe. **Ocia Morgan**, 19-year old daughter of **Mrs. Flora Morgan**, served as "carrier" of the mail, usually delivering it by buggy. After the "big snow" that fell on March 4, 1927, dumping 30 inches on level ground and piling up drifts four to five feet, **Ocia** decided to make the trip on horseback. She saddled the big mare Bess and set out about noon for the fifteen-mile round trip journey, a ride that usually took about three hours.

By the time the big-footed mare had fought through the snow to Pipe and got halfway back home, the afternoon had sped away, dusk had settled over the white and weird world, and the roadway almost disappeared in the gloom. Still confronting the tired and frightened girl and the exhausted horse was over two miles of crusting snow, growing more and more difficult to make any headway in. Fighting panic, she gave the horse a free rein, urging her gently along. Eventually the floundering horse carried her into the yard, where her family anxiously awaited her return. She didn't dismount with her usual agility, but half slid off into the waiting arms of her brothers and sisters.



Lassiter's Mill.

## HOPE HUBBARD'S MUSEUM

One of the state's most interesting private museums, according to Charles Manning writing in the *Greensboro Daily News* in 1962, was one that belonged to Hope Hubbard. The owner and curator, Miss Hope kept the museum in the upper story of her home, which had been the dwelling of her father, the late Dr. C.C. Hubbard.

The museum pieces came in large measure from the practice of her father, who had been a country doctor in Randolph County for 36 years, and had practiced in Wilkes County before that. The items were gathered by Miss Hope while she accompanied him on his rounds as a girl, then as a chauffeur and aide when she grew to womanhood.

There was a pill tile, used for mixing and cutting pills; unique bottles with stoppers of cork and glass; hundreds of medicine vials; bottles that

today are collectors' items. Some still had medicine in them.

On the table in the large rooms lay the skeleton of a man hanged in 1847, a memento of the doctor's college days at Jefferson Medical School in Philadelphia.

Her father, Miss Hope said, had been a picker-up of things: odd roots, rocks, turtle backs, bullet molds, a hammer stone from an ancient Indian culture, spear heads that he encouraged the neighborhood boys to search out and bring him, a brick from Asheboro's first courthouse — built in 1837, a bear's tusk, a blacksmith-made tooth puller, sterling silver hat pins, a tailor's goose for pressing pants, candle makers, a spike from the Coggins gold mine in Montgomery County.

Miss Hope's museum was simply another way this benefactor found to enhance the lives of her neighbors and friends.



The C.C. Hubbard Home.



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## A REID KEARNS STORY

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**R**odney Stover, son of the Rev. F.T. Stover who served the Uwharrie Circuit in 1911-12, had a pet goat that followed him to school at Farmer one day. Some of the boys, probably bored with the daily routine, coaxed it up the steps to the second floor. They got it into a room, then tried to catch it for some reason. But it did not take kindly to their advances and took the only route it saw to freedom: through the large front window, crashing to the ground below in a shower of glass. The prolonged "blaaaat!" it gave forth as it scrambled to its feet and struck out for home supplied the boys with their "kick" for the day.



Reid Kearns.

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## A LESSON IN COLLECTING

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**I**vey Nance (son of Allen and Sarah Ridge Nance) once had a store at Martha, near the Concord and New Hope township line. He directed his bill-writer to send a particular customer, who had not been in the store for a year or more, a bill for some purchases he had made and had not paid for. But, Ivey told the clerk to add an ax and a handle to the itemized list of purchases.

In a day or so, the ex-customer came in, complaining about Ivey's billing him for something that he had not bought, making it plain that he wouldn't pay for them.

"All right, then," Ivey said. "You just pay me for those things you did buy, and I'll forget the ax and handle."

Ivey got his money. In later years he moved to Troy where he operated a large hardware business.

(Percy Morgan remembered the above story)



Ivey C. Nance

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## “I’LL BE THERE. . .”

(TOLD BY “HUB” KEARNS)

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**D**uring the sawmill days in the Burkhead Mountains, a steam engine was about to blow its boiler. Word was passed around for all hands, if they wished to get home in one piece, to vacate the place, but quick. Now **Jim Hoover**, one of the black hired men, rode a mule to work every day and tied it to a tree some

distance above the millyard.

When the word came that day that the boiler was about to go, **Jim** began the evacuation right then and there, yelling to the Bossman **Will Briles** to turn “Old Zeb” loose. “Tell him,” **Jim** added, “that I’ll be there when he gets there!”



“Hub” Kearns.



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## FREDERICK FARMER'S WILL

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“**I**n the name of God, Amen,” **Frederick Farmer** began his will in 1808. “I, **Frederick Farmer** of the State of North Carolina and the County of Randolph, being of sound and perfect mind and memory, do on this 15th day of October in the year of our Lord, in 1808, make and publish this my last will and testament in the following manner, that is to say — First, I give and bequeath my beloved wife **Mary** the plantation whereon I now live, together with the farming utensils consisting of plows, hoes, axes, etc., and my best waggon and the following Negro slaves, to wit: **Adam**, **Pat**, and **Dallah**, and two of my best horses and four head of cows and calves, six head of sheep, a good killing of hogs sufficient for the family consumption for one year, and three sows and pigs, four feather beds and furniture, one desk, and the best of the kitchen furniture consisting of pots and pans sufficient for her to house keep —

The above property to be kept by her for her use and support during her natural life, and at her decease, to be returned to the personal estate of the above named **Frederick Farmer** (\*A Negro **Millah** excepted who is to be left to my daughter **Mary**) and all to be sold agreeable to the law and

the money arising from such sale to be equally divided between my four daughters, to wit: **Leah**, **Martha**, **Mary**, and **Tabitha**. 2. I give unto my daughter **Leah** my Negro woman **Dollah** and her increase, my Negro boy **Isaac** and my girl **Doll** — 3. I give unto my daughter **Martha** my Negro girl **Becha** and her increase, my Negro boy **Ned** and my Negro girl **Dahhna** — 4. I give my daughter **Mary** 200 acres of land and my Negro fellow **Minter** and Negro girl **Millah** (at the decease of her mother) and her increase — 5. I give to my daughter **Tabitha** 180 acres of land whereon **Mark Steed** now lives, and my Negro girl **Taines** and my Negro girl **Darkes**.

Lastly I hereby ordain and make my worthy friends **Benjamin Steed** and **Colin Steed** Executors of my last will and testament. In witness whereof I the said **Frederick Farmer** have to my last will and testament set in my hand and seal the day and year above written, signed, sealed, published, and declared in the presence of us —

**Wm. Thornburg**

**Ed. Bingham**

**Frederick Farmer**

(**Frederick Farmer** is believed by historians to be the source for the name “Farmers,” which the village of Farmer was first called — Ed.)

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## THE MADISON HAMMOND HOUSE

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**T**he **Madison Hammond** house, a large white structure that stood just north of where the Farmer School building stands today, became one of the village’s outstanding landmarks for many years, and was memorialized in an article written by **Hope Hubbard** for the *Courier-Tribune* and published in 1958. Writing shortly after **S.D. Lowe**, with the help of his “grandsons and some other boys in the neighbor-

hood,” razed the house to make room for more classrooms in the high school, “**Miss Hope**” (as she was affectionately known) said: “The rooms are complete and classes have moved in, and now the trees have been removed, the lot leveled, and the entire landscape changed.”

Then “**Miss Hope**” gave the history of the **Hammond House**, described by some who remember it as being big — big to the point that it

seemed to dominate the rural scene. She consulted the county records and went to **J. Warren Rush**, then 92, for her information.

In June, 1877 ("Miss Hope" wrote), **James C. Skeen (Jimmy)** and his wife **Emily** and **Mrs. Skeen's** mother, **Lucy Thornburg**, deeded one acre of land to **Nathan W. Newby**. In August, 1877, **Gideon Macon, Sr.**, deeded two acres to **N.W. and B.F. Newby**. In 1880 three quarters of an acre more was deeded to the **Newbys** by **Macon**. Within the period, a store was being built facing Moore's road — the road running north and south through the village and crossing the Farmer-Mechanic Road (known also as the Dunbar Bridge Road) at right angles. Moore's Road ran from the Old Plank Road near Sophia to Troy and was an important north-south thoroughfare.

(Moore's Road, which ran north from Farmer by the **Orpheus Kearns** home, was abandoned in 1930 when the new highway number 62 — later 49 — was built along a route a few rods to the west — ed.)

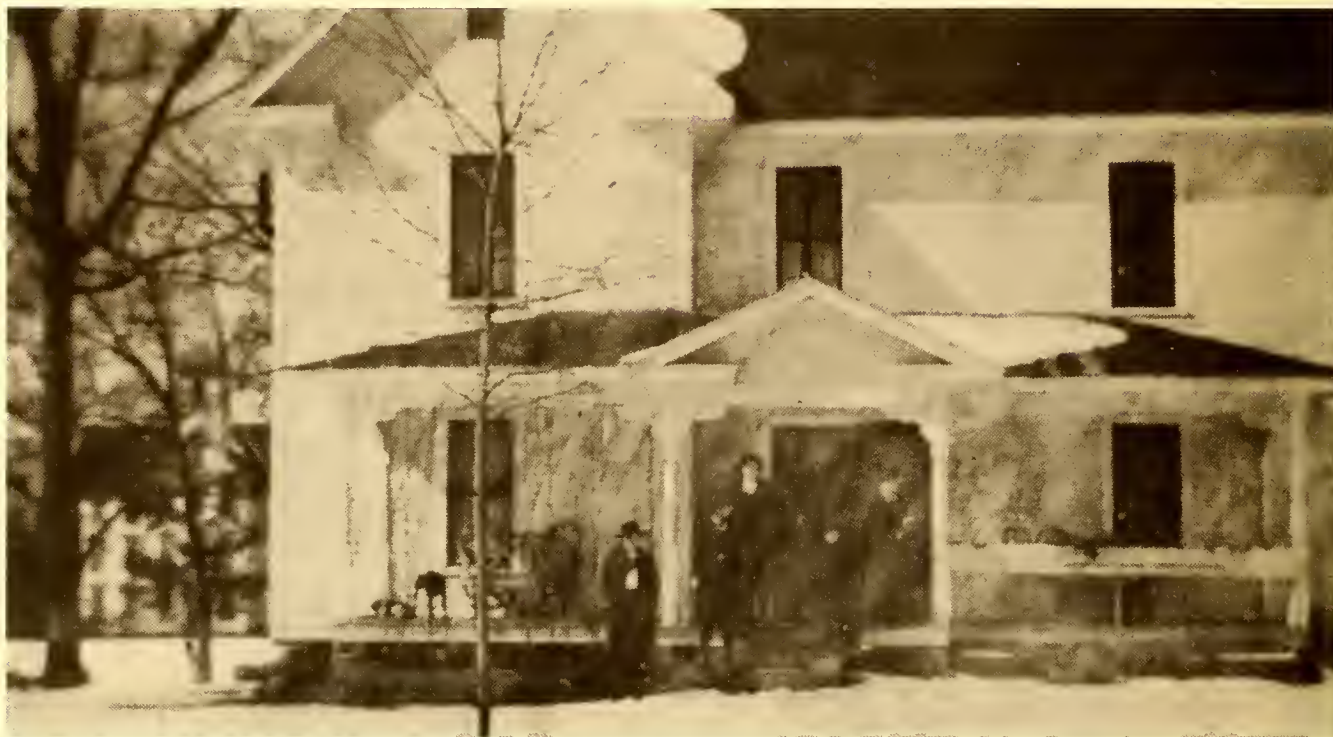
**N.W. Newby** built and lived in the house now owned by **C.C. Allred**, and **B.F. Newby** lived in the house that stood between the school and the road. This was torn down in the early thirties. It was the home of **Mrs. Rosa Kearns**, and for a number of years many high school students had rooms there.

The **Newby** brothers ran a general store. **B. Frank Newby** married a daughter of **Jimmy Skeen**, who lived where **Hope Hubbard** now lives. The house was built by his father-in-law **Jesse Thornburg**. **B. Frank Newby** moved to Iredell County and **N.W.** continued to operate the store for a time. He built and moved into the house now owned by **Paul Skeen**. There his wife, who was **Nannie Lewis**, died. Later he sold the store to **Orpheus** and **Ed Kearns**, who operated it for a few years.

In January, 1908, the **Kearnses** sold the store stock to **J.F. Delk** and **J.F. Cameron**, and **Pearl Cameron** served as clerk for a short while. The Farmer-Denton Telephone Company, which was organized in 1903, had its central office in the rear of the store for a time, but gave no service at nights or on Sunday. The central office was moved to the home of **Gideon Macon, Jr.**, and night service became available if the operator could be wakened.

**Delk** and **Cameron** sold the store to **Hendrix Skeen** and **Henry Moffitt**, who ran it for some time.

In the meantime, **Irvin Kearns** had erected a large two-story building between the store and the Farmer-Mechanic Road. The second story of the new building was used by the Junior Order of the United American Mechanics. The post office



Newby Store remodeled into a dwelling. Residents: **J.R. Hammond**, then **Madison Hammond**. In the back, on the left is old Farmer School.



was also moved from **G.T. Macon's** store to the **Kearns Building**.

**Delk and Cameron** deeded the store building and lot to **Joe S. Presnell** in September, 1913, and **Presnell** used the store and new materials to build a nine-room house—the house recently torn away. He and his family lived there until 1918, when he sold the house to **Madison Hammond**, who rented it to **Harris Hill** first, then to the **Milton Skeen** family. In 1922, **Bob Hammond**, **Madison Hammond's** son, moved into the house and occupied it for fifteen years. When **Bob** built

his home and moved into it, **Madison**, who had been living on his farm on the **Uwharrie River**, moved into the big white house and lived there until he built a more modern home immediately across the old **Moore's Road**.

A number of other families made the big white house their home after the **Hammonds** moved out, maintaining it as a landmark and link between the past and present until progress demanded its removal. Thus a link with the past has been obliterated.

## 20

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# AN ASSORTMENT OF MEMORIES

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The old Martha Arnold home.



Dorothy Hubbard Kearns discusses details of the 1963 Farmer High School Homecoming with her sister Hope Hubbard, as Gertrude Ridge Thornburg listens.



Mrs. Jim Morris, Bell Hussey, Mrs. Lee Briles, Louie Lowe, Stella Johnson, Annie Brown Lowe, honored on her birthday in 1955.

Laurie G. Canyon  
 " " " "

Ruth J. Skon  
 " " " "

Eugene Kassis  
 " " " "

Kate J. Thornburg

W. P. Baxter, Alfred

Penmanship by Marvin Kearns.





The Madison Hammond home, built in 1907.



Back row: Hope Hubbard, Captain, Faye Kearns, Berta Spencer, Dallas Loflin, Ocia Morgan, Hazel Kearns, Sue Morgan, Elizabeth Cheatham; front row: Mozelle Johnson, Mary L. Skeen, Lenora Spencer, Mildred Thompson, Janet McMasters, Madge Johnson. (Taken about 1922).



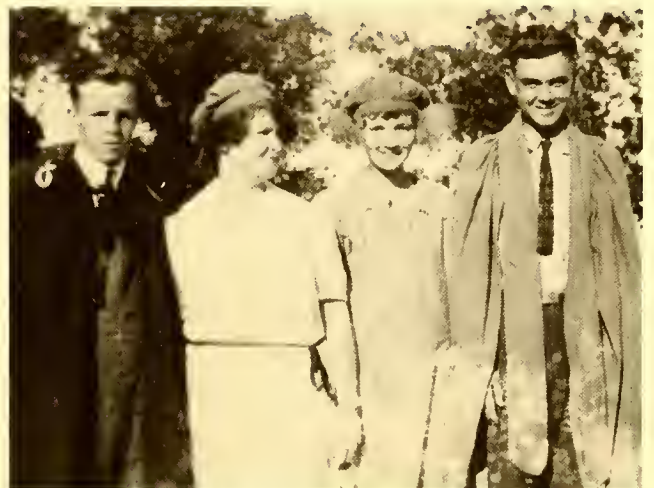
Left to right: Frances Lanier, Juanita Coltrane, Kate Lanier, Mozelle Lanier. In back: Emogene Cranford.



Left to right: Cletus Kearns, Baxter Elliott, Allie Lambeth at Farmer School, April 19, 1922.



Special order cross-cut saw to cut large oak tree near Second Creek. Pictured are, left to right: Fulton Kearns, John N. Kearns, Earl Kearns, Carl Nance, Ben Crowell. On log: Whitman Kearns.



Left to right: Hill Loflin, Pauline Haggerty, Allie Kearns, and Alvin Shaw.

# PIANO RECITAL

BY PUPILS OF

MISS CLYDE L. KEARNS

AT THE

FARMER HIGH SCHOOL

FARMER, N. C.

Friday Evening, April 21, 1922

8:30 O'CLOCK

Please Do Not Whisper While the Numbers Are Being Rendered.

- DUET—"Anitra's Dance" Op. 46 No. 3 ..... Grieg  
First Part ..... Hazel Kearns  
Second Part ..... Vivian Kearns
- SOLO—"Flying Leaves" ..... Koelling  
Madge Johnson
- SOLO—"Bagpipe Waltz" ..... G. W. Bryant  
Mary Lewis Skeen
- SOLO—"Intermezzo" ..... Mrs. A. M. Virgil  
Janie Cranford
- TRIO—"Galop" ..... Streabbog  
First Part ..... Sue Morgan  
Second Part ..... Leah Hammond  
Third Part ..... Elizabeth Fuller
- TWO-PART CHORUS—"Welcome, Pretty Primrose Flower"..... Pinsuti  
Sopranos: Rosa Elliott, Dallas Elliott, Madge Kearns, Dora Kearns  
Altos: Clara Kearns, Kate Thornburg
- SOLO—"The Glisando Waltz" ..... Sidus  
Elizabeth Fuller
- SOLO—"Silver Spring" ..... Heins  
Fay Kearns
- DUET—"Maid of Beauty Waltz" ..... Latour  
First Part ..... Janie Cranford  
Second Part ..... Ocia Morgan
- SOLO—"Dancing Dewdrops" ..... Mrs. A. M. Virgil  
Robert Fuller
- SOLO—"The Mocking Echo" ..... Schnall  
Ocia Morgan
- SOLO—"Rose Petals" ..... Lawson  
Pauline Elliott
- VOCAL QUARTET—"Mammy's Li'l Pigeon" ..... Fearis  
First Tenor ..... Byron Nance  
Second Tenor ..... Lewis Kearns  
First Bass ..... Fred Kearns  
Second Bass ..... Neal Kearns
- SOLO—"Poupee Valsante" ..... Poldini  
Vivian Kearns
- SOLO—"The Nightingale in the Garden" ..... Kullok  
Sue Morgan
- SOLO—"Rustic Ball" ..... Kaiser  
Leah Hammond
- SOLO—"Impromptu Mazurka" ..... Laek
- TRIO—"Morceaux Brilliants" ..... Streabbog  
First Part ..... Madge Johnson  
Second Part ..... Pauline Elliott  
Third Part ..... Robert Fuller





Miss Clyde Kearns at the piano. She taught music in the Farmer area for many years.



The Reverend and Mrs. Y.D. Poole, pastor 1942 – 1948, Farmer charge.



The Eli Branson Family. Left to right: Lillie Anne Branson, Levi Thomas Branson, Mary Ellen Branson, Ellen Vuncannon Branson, Sallie Elma Branson, Roscoe Wade Branson, Ruby Lychen Branson, Richard Clarkson Branson, James Eli Branson, John Dunbar Branson.



**CORNERSTONE LAYING**  
—of—  
**FARMER METHODIST CHURCH**  
FARMER, N. C.

SUNDAY, MAY 16th, 1948 11:00 A. M.  
Clare Purcell, D. D. Charlotte, N. C. Bishop  
Geo. B. Clemmer, Asheboro, N. C. District Superintendent  
Y. D. Poole, Farmer, N. C. Pastor

*Prelude*

*Announcements*

*Hymn No. 81*

Our help is in the name of the Lord, Who made heaven and earth;  
Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.  
Dearly beloved, We are assembled to lay the cornerstone of a new  
house for the Worship of the God of our fathers. Let us not doubt  
that He will favorably approve our godly purpose, and let us now  
devoutly invoke His blessing on this our undertaking.

*Prayer*

*Responsive Reading*

The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

*For He hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.*

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in His holy place?

*He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.*

He shall receive the blessing for the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

*This is the generation of them that seek Him, that seek thy face.*

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors.

*And the King of glory shall come in.*

Who is this King of glory?

*The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.*

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting door.

*And the King of glory shall come in.*

Who is this King of glory?

*The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory.*

Who is this King of glory?

*The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory.*

*Gloria Patri*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

For a church that shall fulfill a social service and be a blessing unto man.

*We lay this cornerstone.*

For a church that shall be a renewing and cleansing power in the community, and that loves every other communion that exalts Christ in the service of man.

*We lay this cornerstone.*

For a church with an open door for all people, rich or poor, homeless or desolate, who need the help of God through us.

*We lay this cornerstone.*

For a church that shall gather the children in its arms and hold them close to Christ, that they may grow up in the Church and never be lost from the fold.

*We lay this cornerstone.*

For a church which stands for the sacramental truth: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

*We lay this cornerstone.*

For a church which takes hold on two worlds, and stands for the unseen and eternal, and which offers to men the abundant life which now is and which is to come.

*We lay this cornerstone in the name of Almighty God.*

In loving memory of those who have gone from us, whose hearts and hands have served in this church; with gratitude for all whose faith and consecrated gifts make this house possible, for all who may share this spiritual adventure; and with hope for all who shall worship in this house in years to come.

*We lay this cornerstone in the name of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, unto the ages of ages, world without end. Amen.*

*Present Box and Articles*

*Stone is placed by Minister*

*Hymn No.*

*Benediction*

*Postlude*

*Scripture Lesson*

*Solo*

*Sermon*

*Hymn No.*

*Scripture Sentences*

The Lord hath chosen thee to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it. Fear not, nor be dismayed; for the Lord God, even my God, will be with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord.

Therefore thus said the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation.

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation.

Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

*Prayer of Consecration*

Almighty God, the Rock of Ages; on Thee we build all our hopes for this life and that which is to come. Other foundation we would not seek to lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ; and we are to build upon this cornerstone a holy temple to the living God. Accept the act by which we lay this cornerstone. Bless those whose offerings enable us to build this house of worship. Graciously guard and direct those who labor in erecting it, shielding them from accident and peril. May the walls of this building rise in security and in beauty; and may the hearts of these Thy people be fitly joined together into a living temple, builded upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone. *Amen*

*The Litany*

To the glory of God our Father, to the service of our dear Master and His Church, and to the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit.

*We lay the cornerstone of this church.*

For a building of which Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone, the pillar and ground of the truth.

*We lay this cornerstone.*

For a building that shall stand as a symbol of the Church Universal, the cornerstone of which is truth, the creed of which is love, and its towers, eternal hope.

*We lay this cornerstone.*

For a church that shall exalt not a religion of creed or of authority, but a religion of saving grace, of personal experience, and of spiritual power.

*We lay this cornerstone.*

For a church that shall exalt the ministry of the open Bible, with its faithful record of human life, its unfolding of the redeeming grace of God through Jesus Christ, its message of warning, inspiration, comfort, and hope.

*We lay this cornerstone.*

For a church that shall teach and incarnate the doctrine of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

*We lay this cornerstone.*



**CORNERSTONE LAYING**  
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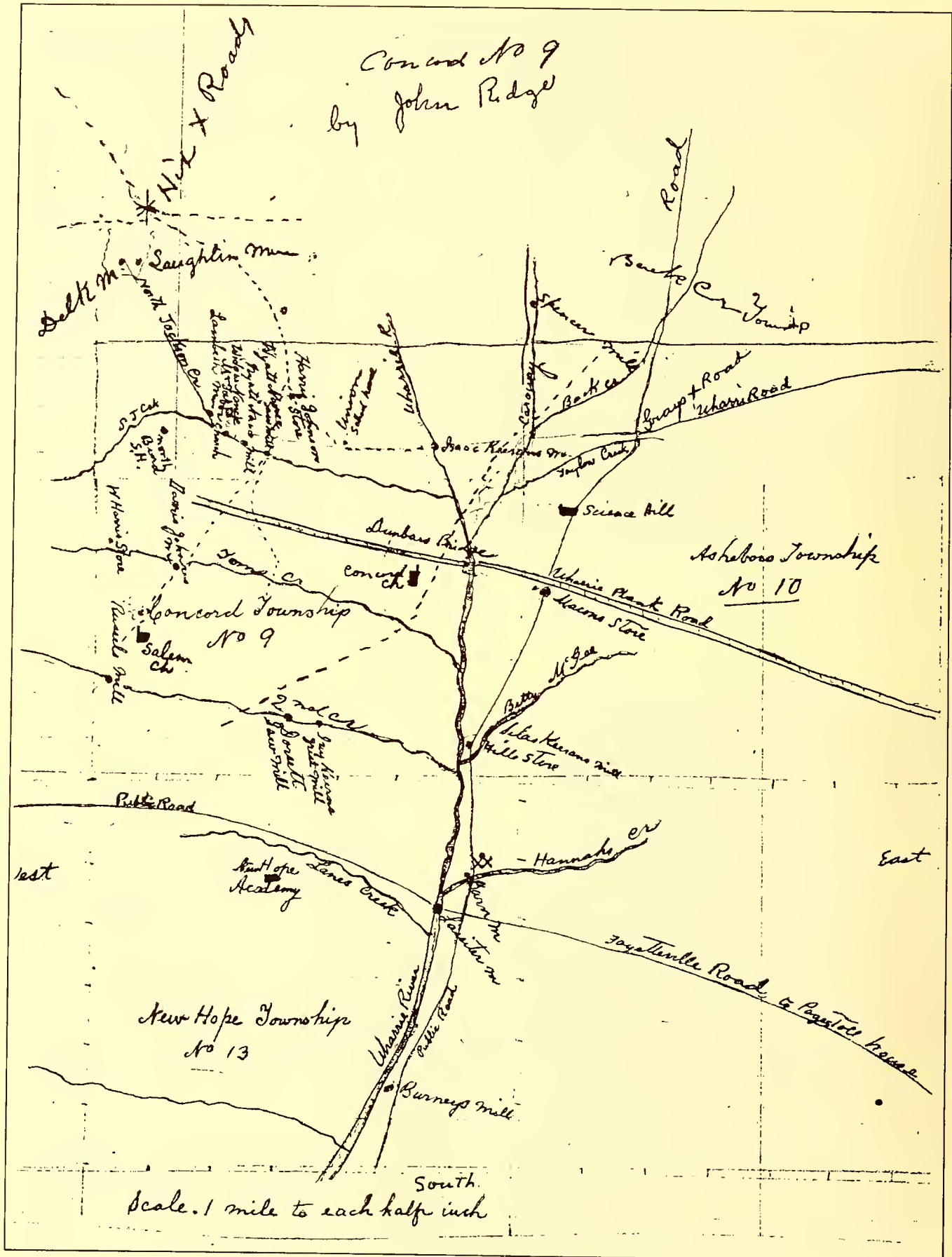




Crowell – Steed Families: Front Row, left to right: Nancy Carol Crowell, Lucy Crowell, Anna Jean Crowell, William Crowell, George Crowell. Second Row, left to right: Ruth Crowell, Essie Crowell, Lyda Mae Crowell, Virginia Steed, Elmer Steed, Adolpheus Crowell. Third Row, left to right: Myrtle Steed, Bruce Steed, George Steed, Ben Crowell, Raymond Crowell.



Alfred Hoover's sawmill. Alfred is in the center of the picture beside the engine.



Concord and New Hope Townships, 1872.





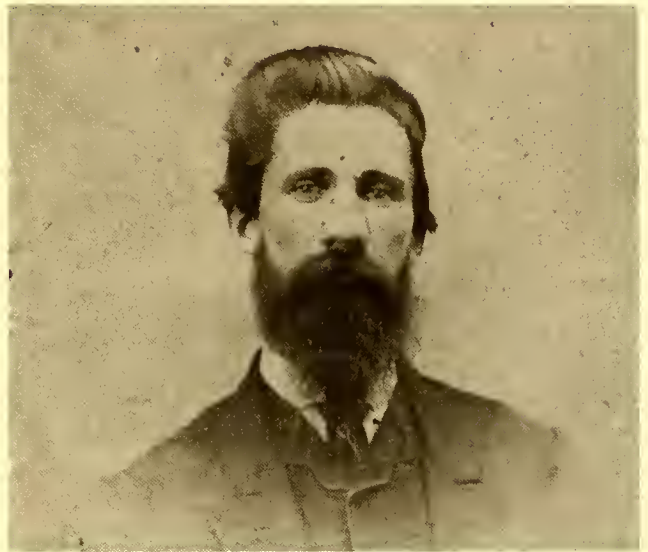
Victor and Sallie Parker, who ran Parker's Mill for 33 years.



Van Cranford and Linnie Dorsett. The third person is unknown.



Hunters of yesteryear: Bid Kearns, Clifford Plummer, and Orph Kearns with shouldered guns.



Dr. Alson Fuller.



Alfred Hoover pulling his steam engine with a Model-T truck.



Gathered before the Bob Hammond store: Alton Kearns, Hoyt Davis, Paul Skeen, Hub Kearns, J.H. Richey, and Robert W. Fuller, Sr.





Captain Harry Clark, Chief Pilot of American Airlines, presenting Captain's wings to Whitman Kearns.



Van Lanier's Store on old Highway 49.



Elliott's Store. Lloyd Elliott, proprietor.



Benjamin Franklin Newby, (1850 – 1934), who with his brother, Nathan W., ran a general store in Farmer. He built the house known as Junius and Rosa Kearns' home.



Ila Cranford wrapping a cake. She attended the Homemakers Club for 39 years without missing a meeting.





Tony Johnson (left) and Virden Kearns (right).



The bridge at Parker's Mill. At left, excavation for a new dam to store water for the City of Asheboro.



Left to right: Vivian Kearns, Lena Cashatt, Cletus Kearns, Allie Kearns, Velon Kearns.

#### A FAMILY REUNION.

A family reunion was held at Mr. A. H. Johnson's, on Saturday Sept. 5. It will long be remembered by those present. Mr. Johnson is in his eightieth year and his wife in her seventy sixth year. They have been married sixty years on Sept. 1st, 1896. They have eight children, all living, the oldest son now in his sixtieth year. These old people have been highly blessed, never having had a death in their family their descendants now number as follows: Eight children, forty two grand children and twenty great grand children a total of seventy all living, with five grand children dead. The reunion was unknown to the old people and the crowd took them by surprise. The number present counting the wives of the children was as follows: 10 children 38 grand children and 8 great grand children, and a few friends, a few minutes after 12 o'clock a table over 25 feet long was spread well loaded with good things to eat which was prepared by the party and brought with them, for the occasion. We all assembled around the table and feasted for nearly one hour in regular picnic style. Later in the day before we departed to our several homes a prayer service was held, led by Mr. Johnson himself. Mr. Johnson spoke with feeling for sometime exhorting us all to be ready for the last great family reunion where parting will be no more.

T. J. FAULK.

Newspaper Account of Johnson Family Reunion.



William Crowell, son of Ben Crowell.

North Carolina, Randolph County  
 Concord Township,

In the matter of,  
 Grace A. Nance, } Report of Commissioners  
 Widow &c. }

The undersigned J. G. McMaster,  
 Justice of the Peace in S. C. Crawford  
 & J. I. Kearns Commissioners duly  
 summoned and sworn do hereby  
 assign and allot to Grace A. Nance  
 widow of E. B. Nance deceased the follow-  
 ing articles of personal property of the  
 value annexed, to-wit,

One iron grey mule	75.00	One small fan	1.00
One wagon & harness	20.00	Churn	7.50
One buggy and harness	5.00	five head of cattle	42.50
one blind horse	5.00	Thirteen head hogs	30.00
one mowing machine	25.10	Smith tools	5.00
Plow gear	1.00	one roller	.25
A small lot of feed	2.00	Drill	8.00
one hay harrow	75	Cross cut saw	.75
two horse plow	2.00	lot of mixing	2.00
one horse plow	1.00	Ten bu outst	3.00
one disc harrow	8.00	One small lot potatoe	2.00
Hoe matto, & shovel	75	Carpenter tools	3.00
three blue stocks	2.50	Seythe and cradle	1.00
One McCormick reaper	40.00	Scales	.50

Dowry laid off for one year's allotment for Grace Nance.



Stone & contents	1. 00	One grined stone	2 50
one lot of land	2. 50	Eight stands of bus	5. 00
Sofa	. 50	one lot of bacon	40. 00
four tables	1. 00	Syrup & barrels.	7. 00
one clock	70.	One bed and contents	6. 00
sewing machine	3. 00	one bureau	1. 50
<del>four</del> more portable	2. 00	One cotton bed & shade	2. 50
two guns	2. 00	" " "	2. 00
Corn	24. 00	" old fashion bed	1. 00
Flour	8. 00	two pr bed shade & content	16. 00
Wheat	45. 00	Fifteen chairs	2. 00
Corn	49. 15		
Total	500. 00		

We also find upon

We also find upon examination that the number of the family of the said widow & children of herself is two.

There being found by us five hundred dollars, it being all the personal property found by us we allotted to the widow

This 5<sup>th</sup> day of Nov 1904

J. M. Masters, J. P.  
 S. C. Crawford  
 H. L. Kearns } Com



Adrian Garner (left) and Herbert Kearns (right) fox hunting about 1925.



W.A. Hammond home. Other owners of this homestead have been Hamon Miller, Jr., Jesse Thornburg, Gideon Macon, sons, Ed and Frank Macon, Fred Bingham, and William Miller.



Home Demonstration Women. Charter members of Home Makers Club (Farmer). Front row: Ila Cranford, Hope Hubbard, Ovie Henson; back row: Lula Bescher, Ossie Cranford, Edith Hammond, Forrest Kearns. (Picture made at Edith Hammond's Home, 1960).





FFA Boys standing in front of Farmer Subordinate Grange. They made the mailpost that the Grange used in the "Better Mailbox" Campaign.



Dr. and Mrs. Marvin S. Kincheloe, Pastor of Farmer Methodist Charge 1930. Dr. Kincheloe was the guest speaker at the 100th Anniversary of Salem United Methodist Church, May, 1981.















