

# Along the Way

By Emily Killeter

Many local families can be traced to Barbara Gastor Beverett Carr who is credited with discovering the spring in Kenansville. And, a poem was published in the September 16, 1949 issue of THE DUPLIN TIMES about the spring.

Barbara Gastor Beverett came to Duplin and her husband Jacob Beverett was lost at sea. She later married Duplin resident Joseph Carr. The spring in Kenansville has played an important part in the history and legends of Duplin County. It is told that the spring was discovered when Mrs. Beverett was looking for gold and later the same spring played an important part in selecting the site for the Duplin County seat. Two sites were selected for the construction of the Duplin County Courthouse and the site selection committee was evenly divided between a location at Sarecta and the present spot in Kenansville. James Kenan is said to have cast the deciding vote in favor of constructing the courthouse in Kenansville because of the cool spring. Today the spring still flows and the poem entitled "The Spring in Kenansville" written by Mrs. Addie Carr Carlton follows:

Come summer, come winter  
And sway as you may.  
Of that tree --  
Fruit you will bear--  
Watch your step, take heed  
And beware--  
The world will be affected  
How great or how small  
The kind of fruit of that tree  
You share with them all.  
Of the Carr brothers  
Durham, Robeson, Duplin;  
To adventure and trade and--  
To live their life's end.  
As a child I remember  
Hearing so well the  
Stories of Kenansville  
They did re-tell.  
How great, great grand-  
mother  
Barbara Carr  
Wife of "Captain Joe"  
Came from the lad a far.  
While journeying around  
Looking for a place to live  
Dug with her hands the  
Spring in Kenansville.  
Though a legend it's true  
As I sit here and pine

And think of the things  
With the passing of time.  
This spring--so clear  
So crystal and pure  
Can I with my life  
Be so free and so sure?  
To give to my heirs  
Something from which,  
can gain  
A confidence a patience  
A courage, a refrain.  
How well she did teach  
That the Giver of Life  
Gave to each of us  
The supreme sacrifice.  
So now as I look into  
This beautiful stream  
Which has flowed through  
the years  
Oh -- what a theme!  
It has quenched the thirst  
Of so many passing by  
The young and the old  
It has stopped a baby's  
cry.  
Yet -- material things  
Though it be  
We have a promise  
Everlasting and free.  
"Ye who are weary  
Or thirsty may be  
The water of life eternal  
I will give thee."  
The poem was written in  
memory of Mrs. Carlton's  
grandparents, Eliza  
Catherine Carr and Jacob  
Obad Carr of Kenansville.

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