

# Stone Marks Site of Pine Where Elder Weeks Died

By F. C. SALISBURY

One of the most unusual memorials, dedicated to the memory of an old time preacher, is that of an immense pine tree, which stood until a few years ago along the old White Oak road which runs from the Hadnot Creek section near Stella to Whitehouse Forks in the western part of Carteret County.

It was at a spot, marked by this pine, that Elder Jabez Weeks, a Primitive Baptist preacher, met his death when thrown from a gig in which he and his wife Sarah, were riding, as they journeyed along the White Oak road on a night in September 1825.

The story that is told of this accident is that the horse became frightened, either from a rattle snake crossing the road or the sensing of a bear in the thick woods bordering the sandy trail. The frightened horse, rearing and kicking, wrecked the two-wheeled vehicle, throwing the couple out.

Elder Weeks was so severely injured that his wife was obliged to leave him by the side of the road while she walked back in the dark for a mile or more to seek aid from a family living in the neighborhood. Before leaving her husband, Mrs. Weeks made him as comfortable as possible against the giant pine that later was to stand for many years as his memorial. Elder Weeks died before the return of his wife and friends.

Elder Weeks had been serving as pastor of the Primitive Baptist Church at Newport for several years. It is thought that he was on his way to attend the monthly conference of the Hadnot Creek Primitive Baptist Church when the accident occurred.

Forty years ago, heirs of Elder Weeks erected, near the large pine tree where he met his death, a large white marble marker on which the following inscription records the event:

**MEMORIAL**

"This large pine tree is Jabez's

Pine. So named because by it Elder Jabez Weeks, a Primitive Baptist preacher, died September 20, 1825, age 72 years. He and his wife Sarah were traveling on this road, when his horse, became frightened.

"As he held her, she kicked him and he fell out of the vehicle. His wife provided as good a place for him as circumstances would allow and he lay down for her to go to Mr. Buck McCaulley's to get help and to get news to their children, saying, I will be dead when you get back.

"Sure enough, when she returned he was dead. It was the desire of his grandchildren and great grandchildren to preserve this pine to his memory. The land on which this stands has been sold to the Interstate Cooperation Company.

"W. P. P. Weeks, his grandson petitioned to the said Interstate Cooperation Company, through their manager Mr. Hiland McDaniels to sell this tree, either for money or for other timber to the heirs of the said Elder Jabez Weeks. The said company refused to receive any compensation whatever but freely gave this pine to the said heirs.

"Therefore this tree is the property of the heirs of the said Elder Jabez Weeks, to be neither sold by the Interstate Cooperation Company, nor to be cut by any of their agents or assigns. To have and to hold to the said heirs and by them to be dedicated to his memory for ever.

"As will be seen it stands in the Big Laurel, on the west side of the public road right near the line of the said Interstate Cooperation Company's land. For this kind gift the aforesaid heirs do return thanks to Mr. Hiland McDaniels and the aforesaid company."

Today, the pine tree that marks the scene of this tragedy lies rotting along the roadside, having been uprooted by a storm of past years. Measurements show it to have been some 3 feet in diameter at its base, and it must have



May 28 — About seventy graduates of Ocracoke High School enjoyed their annual banquet and meeting Saturday night in the school library, which was attractively decorated in various class colors, with centerpieces of mixed spring flowers.

Albert Styron, president, welcomed special guests, the Rev. and Mrs. W. W. Clarke and the Rev. L. J. Howe, E. S. Tolson, Jesse Garrish, Ansley O'Neal, members of the local school committee, members of the teaching staff, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore

towered well over 100 feet. A magnificent giant of the forest.

The section in which this memorial stone stands with its unusual inscription is part of the Croatan National Forest. The road through the forest is a mere fire lane maintained by the Government. Other than that, the road is seldom traveled. Should you desire to visit this spot, it is a two-mile trek beyond the Hadnot Primitive Baptist Church.

In the early days of the settlement of the county, this road or trail was the main artery for pioneers working their way into the western part of the county to seek new land along the White Oak River. During the days of civil strife, 1861-65, this road was the route taken by Confederate soldiers, coming over the White Oak River from Onslow County to make forays upon the Union forces encamped about Newport and along the railroad leading to New Bern.



The writer of this article, F. C. Salisbury, and two friends hiked through brush and undergrowth for over a mile on an abandoned road before they reached this stone. Mr. Salisbury took the above picture. The stone marks the place where Elder Weeks died.



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## Good News About 4-H

## Good News About 4-H

By Harry Venters, 4-H Advisor

School is out! I hope all of you passed your grade with flying colors. There were some 4-Hers who graduated from high school, and we are going to miss them next year. Some were leaders in 4-H in their clubs for several years. But congratulations to you all and I'll be looking forward to seeing most of you back in 4-H next year.

The time for district elimination contests is almost here. The date is Wednesday, June 18. District elimination will take place in Washington, N. C.

There are several 4-Hers who are working on their demonstrations, and time is getting short for those of you who would like to en-

reports for duty at Fort Benning, Ga.

Graduation for the class of 1958, Ocracoke High School, will be held Sunday night, June 1, 8 p.m., at the Methodist Church. The Rev. W. W. Clarke will preach the baccalaureate sermon. The seniors will have parts in the evening service program. Diplomas will be presented by Tommie Gaylord, Hyde County superintendent.



one of the demonstration contests. If you would like to enter, contact Mrs. Garner or me as soon as possible. We will be glad to help you prepare your demonstration.

There are some very nice awards for district and state demonstration winners. District winners will be given an all-expense-paid trip to State 4-H Club Week at State College. The Carteret-Craven Electric Membership Corporation is making this award to all district winners from our county.

They are doing this to encourage you to participate in a program that can and will teach you things that will always benefit you. Let's not let them down. Let's have a lot of district and state winners.

Mrs. Garner and I were pleased with the number and quality of the 4-H health improvement record books that were turned in at the last club meetings. It will be a real job to pick out the best four. Junior and senior health kings and queens will be picked, though. I hope to have an announcement for you in the near future.

I hope that even more of you are working in earnest on your 4-H

project record books. Do a real good job, because the record you turn in is a record of yourself. If you want help with your project, just call or write me. I'll be glad to work with you and help you complete a successful project.

Donna Bell, president of the Camp Glenn Intermediate 4-H Club, was selected to cast the Carteret County electoral votes for district officers. She will cast the votes during the district contest in Washington. Carteret County has four candidates for district 4-H officers. They are Gordon Becton, president; Ann Davis, vice-president; Jenny Lynn Garner, secretary-treasurer; and Paul Wade, historian.

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