

# NOW AND THEN

Who boarded the local preachers one hundred years ago, when they "boarded out" one month at one parishioner's house, and the next month at another's?

What were the preaching stations out in the county?

What did they preach about and how long did they preach?

These and many other questions were answered in the diary of Overton Bernard of Portsmouth Virginia, the entries made 118 years ago, by Edenton's youthful new Methodist pastor of 1824, and sent to The Chowan Herald by a great granddaughter, Rebecca Phillips, of Montgomery, Alabama.

Overton Bernard was born in 1798 in Portsmouth, Virginia, the son of Martha J. Thomas and Allen Bernard, a major in the Revolutionary War. He was therefore, only 26 when he wrote of attending the Conference at Petersburg, Va., as follows:

March 23, 1824: "Our conference this year was held in the town of Petersburg, Virginia, commencing on the first day of March. Good old Brother Whitehead, Allen Bernard (his brother) Brother James Moore and I boarded in the family of Mr. Peyton Lynch on Sycamore street.

"Having traveled two years, I passed my examination at this Conference and was appointed on the Board of Deacons March 21st. Samuel Harroll, William D. Goode, James Morrison and myself, of the Traveling Commission, were set apart for that office by the laying on of hands. Reverend Enoch George was one of the Bishops. After much debate, and many resolutions being passed, the conference adjourned. I was appointed this year to Edenton."

There follows an account of his return trip, on which there was much stormy weather encountered, many swollen streams forded, with a resulting case of what we would today call a "light case of flu."

March 28th: "Tarrid all night with brother James D. Edwards of Surrey County. Feeling somewhat ill, I traveled about 30 miles to Smithfield, where I remained until I could rest and recover my health."

Tuesday the 30th: "My brother accompanied me to Suffolk where we tarried all night with Brother Willis. The next morning I took leave of my brother and set out for my new appointment. Stayed Wednesday night at Brother Isaac Hunter's in Gates County, North Carolina."

Thursday April 1st: "This evening about two, I arrived at Brother Henry Holmes, on the suburbs of Edenton. After dinner I took a walk with Brother Holmes into town. I was introduced to some of the brethren and friends of my new charge and found a pleasant, cordial people. Am still somewhat unwell, with sore throat and hoarseness."

Then follows an account of his first Sunday in the pulpit, written in a very fine hand, but a hand as clear as copperplate. No such writing do we see in these hurried days. In spite of the fact that he comments on having "pushed the goose-quill" all morning, there is no trace of hurried or careless writing.

"Preached my first sermon in Edenton Sunday, April 4th, at 11 o'clock from 2nd Corinthians, Chapter 4, verse 5. Had a tolerably good congregation. They gave close attention. I felt some degree of embarrassment at making my first appearance before a strange people. This may have arisen from a tinge of diffidence irrevocably attached to my characteristics. Too hoarse to preach any more today."

April 11th 1824: "Preached three times today at the Methodist Chapel in Town."

And most of us think we have "done ourselves proud" if we have been to church and sat through one sermon.

Monday the 12th: "After remaining at Brother Holmes a few days I commenced boarding with the family of Captain Henry Flavey in Edenton, as it is intended that I shall board among the brethren a month or two at a time during my stay in this place. There are four appointments in the country, which I am expected to attend once in three weeks which will form an agreeable excursion out into the country. Except for the fact that I have to go often and lose so much time from my studies, I would think this the best part of my ministry. If I can be rendered instrumental in the hands of the Lord, of doing the people any good I shall be very happy."

Tuesday, April 13th, 1824: "Started my appointments in the country this week and preached first at the home of Zachariah Evans, one of the local brothers in Chowan County, about ten miles from Town."

Wednesday April 14th: "Was about five miles out at Center Hill, or Skinner's Meeting House. After preaching I went to old Sister Skinner's, a mother in Israel, and one of the excellent of the earth. I dined there and accompanied Brother Henry Skinner home, about nine miles from the last appointment, in Perquimans County. I preached to a small congregation in a house not much over fifteen feet square. Went to Brother Langley Billup's and tarried all night."

Friday April 16th: "Rode three and a half miles to Sandy Cross meeting

house and preached. This is about 25 miles from Edenton. Dined this evening at Mr. Reuben Nevin's."

Saturday 17th 1824: "Returned to Edenton today at noon. To an Uplander, some of the people of this country, somehow, seem swarthy, and not of so ruddy a complexion as our people at home (Portsmouth) but they are a hospitable people, and as cultured as any to be found in the Old Dominion."

Sunday the 18th: "Preached in town twice today. The congregation was tolerably good. The Lord grant that my labors may prove a blessing to His people here."

Edenton, Thursday, April 22, 1824: "Have been reading today 'Memoirs of Benton'—a devout man. It is said that on occasions he preached seven times in one day."

(There is no doubt that had the good burghers of Chowan County known of their pastor's unbounded admiration for all the acts of this man Benson, they would have trembled in their shoes for fear their young preacher might have emulated his example—seven sermons per Sunday.)

He goes on to relate more of Benson: "In the latter years of his life, when alone, it is said he never heard the clock strike that he did not fall upon his knees and pray to God."

"So help me to imitate this pious, devout man, that I may become more prayerful."

"I had heard so much of Mr. Benson; had seen some of his writings and had already formed a high opinion of him, which is increased upon reading his memoirs. Great was his humility during the half century he served his people. . . I have not been as prayerful as I should have been. From henceforth I will be more devoted to His service. God grant me grace to fulfill the resolution, for without Him I can do nothing."

June 24, 1824: "The early part of this month Brother Holmes, our Presiding Elder, returned from General Conference in Baltimore, after an absence of five or six weeks. I do not suppose that he has ever been so long a time from Edenton, since he was ordained here, in 1812. The brethren and friends here were much pleased at his return."

"From Brother Holmes I learned that great diversity of sentiment prevailed at the General Conference on what is termed the Presiding Elder Question: Whether they should be elected by preachers or appointed by bishops. It seems opinion was equally divided. Some of our lay members loudly call for reform in church government. I hope the parties for and against reform will not manifest too warm a feeling on the matter."

"Lord, avert the evils that seem to threaten. And prosper Thy Church."

June 2nd: "This morning I have moved from Captain Flavey's to board in Brother Holmes' family. Through great mercy my health has been preserved in these Lowlands."

(Evidently our "uplander" was no great believer in "the lowlands," as a healthful country).

"I have preached twice, and often three times each Sabbath, in Town, and once on Wednesday nights, prayer meetings on Monday and Friday nights. And four regular appointments in the country every three weeks."

## SIGN PINE

Tom Berryman, Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Berryman, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Berryman were in Edenton Thursday.

Miss Dorothy Hoffer, of Sunbury, visited her sister, Mrs. C. A. Perry, Thursday evening.

Mrs. James F. Ward and Mrs. R. S. Hoskins called on Misses Inez and Vera Newby Perry Monday afternoon.

Miss Pauline Byrum, a student at Chowan College, Murfreesboro, is the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Byrum, for the spring holidays.

Mrs. James F. Ward had as her guests Sunday evening Misses Cortez and Lavelle Ward and Vera Newby Perry.

Mrs. Herbert Brinkley had as her guest last week her sister, Miss Bond, from near Valhalla.

Mrs. W. B. Blanchard and daughter, Miss Homer Blanchard, visited Mrs. C. W. Ward and Miss Avis Ward Friday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Berryman and children visited Mrs. Berryman's sister in Ahsokie Sunday.

Mrs. Christine Modlin and Mrs. C. M. Lawrence, of Gatesville, spent Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Perry.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Hoffer and daughter, Dorothy, were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Perry Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. George Asbell, of Edenton, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Dale.

Mrs. James F. Ward, Mrs. R. S. Hoskins, Misses Cortez and Lavelle Ward and Vera Newby Perry were in Gatesville Friday.

Mrs. R. S. Hoskins and Mrs. James F. Ward visited Mrs. J. D. Ward on Thursday afternoon.

## A Beauty!



Just one of the number of beautiful dancers who will appear in "Parisian Follies of 1937," the vaudeville program at the Taylor Theatre Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Willie Spivey and children, of Hobbsville, visited Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Blanchard Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Willie Spivey spent Thursday with Mrs. D. H. Berryman.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Webb and children, of Edenton, called on Mr. and Mrs. James F. Ward Sunday afternoon.

Thomas Davis, Misses Cortez and Lavelle Ward, Miss Vera Newby Perry, Mrs. James F. Ward and Mrs. R. S. Hoskins attended the show in Edenton Wednesday evening.

## "Groceries" Topic At Today's Rotary Meet

Earl Goodwin will have charge of the program at the weekly luncheon of the Edenton Rotary Club today in the Parish House. This being national retail grocers week, Mr. Goodwin's program will deal with his vocation, the retail grocery business, and interesting information no doubt will result from the meeting.

At last week's meeting Harry Canfield, technologist and culturist of the United States Bureau of Fisheries, who is here in the interest of studying the diminishing supply of shad, addressed the Rotarians. Mr. Canfield said it was his purpose, in cooperation with the North Carolina Board of Conservation and Development, to attempt to get a greater collection of shad eggs to be hatched and put in streams. He said that the shad had fallen from 47,000,000 pounds to 9,000,000 pounds last year, and that to increase this amount it is necessary to hatch shad artificially and turned back in the water when they will escape many of the natural enemies.

"Shad is a very elusive species of fish as well as delicious," said Mr. Canfield, "there is no fish that has any greater sense as to condition of water and surroundings. The female shad is very sensitive as to where she spawns, and would rather retain eggs if conditions are not satisfactory."

Mr. Canfield very interestingly told his listeners about the habits of shad but was very frank to say that after returning to sea as fingerling nothing is known about their doings until they return in two or three years to spawn. "All is in dark about that part of their life," he said.

In telling of the many enemies of shad, aside from nets, Mr. Canfield

said other fish as well as fungus and larva of insects destroy many of the eggs. In this connection he told of 5,000 catfish being caught at Capehart's Fishery several years ago and all of them were filled with shad eggs.

According to records at the local hatchery, the shad catch should be at its peak between April 20 and May 5, and as many eggs as possible will be secured and sent to various hatcheries to be developed.

In closing his remarks Mr. Canfield, digressing from shad, said recreational facilities was one of Edenton's greatest assets.

## Reappointment of Wood Urged Upon Governor

(Continued from page One)

business men and citizens of the town.

The resolution as passed follows: "On motion duly seconded the following resolution was duly adopted by the County Commissioners of Chowan County in a meeting held April 5th, 1937.

"In view of the fact that the improvement of the road leading from the Albemarle Sound Bridge to the Town of Edenton will carry out the original idea of connecting county seat with county seat.

"And whereas the road from the Albemarle Bridge via of Poplar Neck and Moran's Store to Edenton

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# Preston's

Announcing

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## After Easter Clearance

of

### Spring Coats Suits, Hats and Dresses

New Shipment  
of

### Evening Gowns

is now a part of the State Road System, is in urgent need of improvement and will furnish to all North Bound traffic from the bridge, a route shorter by twelve miles than any other route, and, whereas, a contract has been let for a road leading from the bridge to Highway No. 17 which runs four miles outside of Edenton and whereas it would be most unjust and harmful to the Town of Edenton to have such a road leading around the town and neglect to improve the short and direct road to the town.

"Therefore, be it resolved that we

request the Highway Commission to improve and rebuild the three miles necessary to complete this road known as the Poplar Neck Road direct to Edenton at the same time that the road to No. 17 is constructed."

Apply on **One Spot Only** and kill all the fleas on the dog or cat. **SAFE - SURE GUARANTEED**  
ONE SPOT does not repel; it kills! Fleas, Lice, Ticks, etc.  
**MITCHENER'S PHARMACY**

# State Theatre

HERTFORD, N. C. "Carolina's Finest Theatre"

CLEAN — COMFORTABLE — ENTERTAINING

Today (Thursday) April 8—

Friday, April 9—

**DIANE LIVES AND LOVES IN THE ROMANCE THAT FIRES THE HEART OF THE WORLD!**

**JOAN CRAWFORD  
WILLIAM POWELL  
ROBT. MONTGOMERY**

**SIMONE SIMON  
JAMES STEWART  
'SEVENTH HEAVEN'**

JEAN HERSHOLD  
GAIL SONDERGAARD  
GREGORY RATOFF  
J. EDWARD BROMBERG  
VICTOR KILIAN  
JOHN QUALEN

Also ACT and NEWS

Also Good Comedy

Saturday, April 10—

ADMISSION  
Children.....10c Adults.....15c  
MATINEE AND NIGHT

## REDSKINS ON THE WARPATH!

**Gene ALTRY** IN "RIDE, RANGER, RIDE"

"Larkest Africa" No. 13 — Comedy  
Latest Major Bowes Act

Monday and Tuesday, April 12-13—

## ON OUR STAGE

MATINEE—4:45 NIGHT—9:00

**AMERICA'S GREATEST MYSTERY PRODUCTION**

**HERRMANN SUCCESSOR LARGE CO. ASSISTANTS**

**MYSTERIOUS SMITH CO.**  
ON THE SCREEN

**MERLE OBERON BRIAN AHERNE** in "BELOVED ENEMY"

And Comedy, Act and News

Wednesday, April 14—

## PRIZE NIGHT

**"WITHOUT ORDERS"**  
with **SALLY EILERS ROBT. ARMSTRONG**

Added  
"March of Time" — Sport Headlines of 1936 — Comedy

# Announcement . .

Mr. Mack Gregory, who for many years has been serving the public in the garage business in Edenton, is now with us as our service manager. As you know, Mr. Gregory has the reputation as being one of the best automobile mechanics in this section. You may rest assured that when you bring your car to him for repairs or service of any type he will give his personal attention to the matter in the same courteous and efficient manner as heretofore.

Mr. Gregory has under his supervision several factory trained mechanics to assist him.

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