

# Mrs. Edna Reaves Elected Chairman Home Ec Teachers

## Group Meets at Central High and Considers Work For Year

Home Economics teachers from Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Gates and Currituck Counties met Thursday, August 11, at Central High School to plan their work for the coming school year.

Mrs. Edna W. Reaves of Chowan High School was elected chairman of the group. Miss Ann Atkinson of Hertford was elected vice chairman; Mrs. Miriam Scott of Edenton, secretary; Mrs. Annette Carter of Gatesville, reporter, and Miss Mary Humphrey of Central High, F. H. A. sponsor.

The group meets each month of the school year in one of the Home Economics Departments. Programs were planned for each of these meetings which will include: Joint program with agriculture or industrial arts teacher; adult units to be used in adult classes; audiovisual needs; Future Homemakers of America programs.

Miss Mary Humphrey, Central High School Home Economics teacher, was hostess to the group.

### HEALTH FOR ALL

#### TB AND DANGER SIGNALS

People who refuse to "keep tabs" on their health with regular physical examinations, even though they think they are well, are unwise. But those who ignore definite signals that something is wrong take a foolish chance and invite serious illness and even death.

During summer months, people who seemed tired all the time, lose weight, and never seem hungry at mealtime frequently blame the summer heat and insist there is nothing they can do about it. It's true that intense heat and humidity can interfere with "pep" and appetite, but the loss of energy can also be the sign of such a serious disease as tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis has no obvious symptoms when it first strikes, but is frequently accompanied by fatigue, loss of appetite and loss of weight. Hence, while a person who has these complaints is busy blaming it all on the weather, he may be losing valuable time in fighting his disease.

There are other danger signals of tuberculosis, which usually come later, including a cough that hangs on, pain in the chest, and spitting up of blood. When these accompany fatigue and poor appetite, tuberculosis may

have taken serious hold.

If people would get chest X-rays regularly—at least once a year—tuberculosis could be found in an early stage, before it became more advanced and more difficult to cure.

Hot summer days are frequently responsible for bringing out the lazy streak in some of us. The weather might be responsible for making a person feel "dragged out" all the time—and again it may not. But a constant feeling of exhaustion might mean tuberculosis. Those who suffer from such fatigue should see the doctor promptly and find out what is wrong.

#### BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. and Mrs. J. Sidney Hollowell announce the birth of a daughter, Janet Elizabeth, born Friday night in Chowan Hospital. The newborn weighed seven pounds, nine ounces.

### Penelope Barker's House A Mystery

(Continued from Page One) gett Hodgson, the widow of John Hodgson, for on February 2, 1752, she sold it back to James Craven, whom she was soon to marry. When he died in October, 1755, he left all this property to his wife Penelope. On July 10, 1756, she repeated the procedure and sold it to Thomas Barker, whom she was to marry within two months. When Thomas died, twenty-one years later, she again inherited the same property, and she continued to hold it until she died, in October, 1794. She left no will, but her nephew, Henry Eelbeck, was her administrator, and he and his brother William and his sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Dickenson, were the only heirs. In November, 1798, they sold the property to Dr. John Beasley, a cousin of theirs who had come to Edenton to practice medicine. By December, 1814, only sixteen years later, both John Beasley and his wife were dead, and all his property had to be sold to provide for his four young children. In January, 1817, his executors, Ebenezer Pettigrew, Clement Hall Blount and James Iredell, sold his house and the square on which it stood to James Rice Creecy. It was James Rice Creecy who in 1818 sold the southern two-fifths of the square to Henry Holmes, and in 1829 mortgaged all the rest to Augustus Moore.

James Rice Creecy did not build the old house now known by Augustus Moore's name. When the latter acquired it, it was already considered old, this fact was stated by Miss

Hiby Moore, who lived in it all her eighty-three years and is still remembered by most of the older inhabitants of Edenton. It consisted, in 1829, of two rooms on each floor, with a side hall and one attic room, like many other old houses in Edenton. The new owner built the five rooms on the south side, rebuilt the chimneys, and added the double-deck porch in front. The small building which was later known as the "Judge Shop" (from the number of Judge Moore's law pupils who became judges themselves) was already there; John Beasley had used it for his office and may have built it. But what about the house? It was certainly not built by John Beasley's executors, for they could not legally have used his money for such a purpose. The Eelbeck brothers, as heirs, had a legal right to enhance the value of their property by building a second house on it, but they were not men of sufficient wealth to have built one of the hand-somest houses in town. John Beasley, then, and Thomas and Penelope Barker remain as the only possible builders.

John Beasley was not a rich man. He owned about a thousand acres in the county, and two or three lots around town, as well as the square on which he lived. His will shows small bequests to five relatives and close friends, and mourning rings to ten other relatives and friends. More significantly, it contains specific directions as to how his clothing was to be divided among relatives, as if this were a matter of real importance.

Thomas Barker, on the other hand, was a wealthy man. He had a good law practice and held very responsible positions in the colonial government. He had married first a rich young widow in Bertie County and at the time of his death still owned two large plantations there. He left bequests amounting to 900 pounds, to his relatives and one friend, Governor Samuel Johnston. His will mentions his carriage, his silver, his books, and fifty slaves left to his wife. Penelope Barker herself was well-to-do. She and her sister, Mrs. Eelbeck, were the only surviving heirs of their father, Samuel Pagett; for most of the property inherited by the children of

their elder sister, Elizabeth Hodgson, came back to them as one after another of the Hodgson children died. Penelope Barker inherited property from her first husband, John Hodgson, and later inherited what he left to their children, both of whom died before her. Her second husband, James Craven, left her the whole square under discussion, as well as slaves, all his silver and furniture and books, and a horse and side saddle specially for her.

From the wills and deeds in Edenton, and the newspapers and letters in the state archives in Raleigh, it is impossible to assign a date for the construction of the house, except to set as outside limits 1767 and 1814. On the basis of the facts already reviewed, it seems at least possible that Thomas and Penelope Barker, rather than John Beasley, built it. There is one other fact to strengthen that possibility: Tax lists for the town of Edenton, from 1782 on, show that the sales value of a given piece of property was usually two and a third to three times as great as the tax value. But they do not show any significant increase in the tax value of at least seven old places in Edenton between 1782 and 1832. That would indicate that all of them were older than 1782. And the 1782 tax list shows that Thomas Barker's square

was valued for taxation at a figure two and a half times as much as he had paid for it; in other words, the sales value was from five and three-fourths to more than seven times as great as when he bought it. This would indicate great improvement of some kind.

How does it happen that Penelope Barker's name has not been connected with a piece of property which was hers for fifty years? On the other hand, how many other facts about her are known? She was not famous until long after her death. When Col. R. B. Creecy, Dr. Richard Dillard, and Mrs. J. N. Hathaway were making their researches fifty years ago, they found that the names of the women who signed the resolutions were almost all forgotten. It is largely due to their efforts that we know anything at all about that Tea Party or the signers. In case the old Moore house was Penelope Barker's home, it would be of great historical interest to Edenton and to the

state. It is to be hoped that anyone with further information about the matter will make it known.

The information contained in the above article was assembled by Miss Elizabeth Moore, who says that every statement in it can be confirmed by records in the Court House here and papers in the State archives in Raleigh. She expressed special appreciation to Mrs. S. M. MacMullan and Mrs. C. P. Wales for their kindly interest, and to Mr. E. W. Spires for his unflinching cooperation in giving her access to court records.

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