

Times Reporters Join List Of Edenton Admirers

Editor's Note: The following article appeared in the New York Times on December 14.)

By Alf J. Mapp, Jr., and Louise DeVere

Edenton, N. C.—Nestled among the deep-green woods and rich fields of Tidewater North Carolina and facing out over the sun-jeweled waters of Albemarle Sound is Edenton, a quiet, Colonial-accented community, where past and present are parts of a seamless fabric.

Edenton's location, sequestered and yet open to the world, symbolizes its place as a town removed from the turbulent mainstream of 20th-century life but linked by memory and legend with stirring events of the great world.

Fishermen on the wharf at the foot of Broad Street, dipping their lines in Albemarle Sound in the shadow of the 18th-century Penelope Barker House and in sight of clumps of grotesque-kneed cypresses that stand offshore, express the spirit of Edenton.

GRACE, DIGNITY, HISTORY

The town's comfortable and unhurried way of life is reflected in the unpretentious grace and relaxed dignity of other 18th-century homes that line tree-shaded streets, homes whose former owners signed the Declaration of Independence and spoke authoritatively in the councils of a new nation.

Legend as well as history unites Edenton with a storied past. The men who come here several times a year to comb the ground with electromagnetic devices are not looking for oil but for the treasure of the pirate Blackbeard. He once cruised these waters and died here with North Carolina Gov. Charles Eden.

It is for Eden, governor until his death in 1722, that Edenton, formerly known as Queen Anne's Creek, is named. During his terms, the town was the working, if unofficial, capital of the colony. Eden's remains, removed from a family plot in 1889, now lie in the burial ground of St. Paul's Church.

WALKING TOUR OFFERED

A tour of historic and architectural points of interest has been developed by Historic Edenton, a newly incorporated nonprofit organization. But this community of about 5,000 has not converted full time to the tourist business.

The tour begins at the Penelope Barker House, a two-story frame dwelling about 1782 and anchored on the shores of the sound by four tall, massive, brick chimneys. There are housed a museum and a small theater, which provides an introduction by film to the history and culture of the area.

GATEWAY OF LAWNS

The array of gleaming white weather-



The Cupola House

boards, rose-hued bricks and emerald lawns against the blue backdrop of the sound makes this spot on Broad Street, the town's main thoroughfare, a captivating gateway to the Edenton area.

But there is historical significance as well. Tradition says that Penelope Barker,

once the mistress of the house, presided over the Edenton Tea Party of October 25, 1774, a genteel counterpart of the famous 1773 Boston Tea Party. In what has been called the "earliest instance of political activity on the part of women in the American Colonies," 51

prominent women of the area signed a resolution to discontinue their use of East India tea.

Around the corner from the Barker House and down Water Street on the unhurried walking tour is the Public Green, where an ornate bronze teapot mounted on an upturned Revolutionary War cannon memorializes the Edenton women's defiance of British taxation. The house where they met no longer stands, and the smooth lawn surrounded by shady cypress trees seems far removed from turbulence of any sort.

Presiding over the Green is the stately brick courthouse, built in 1767; it still houses the court and offices of Chowan County. The courtroom, with wide double doors and high ceiling, rounds to a dramatic curve behind a tall bar where two centuries of judges have meted out justice from a dark, high-backed chair.

The courthouse is one of the finest American examples of Georgian architecture and is distinguished for its beautiful assembly room upstairs, said to be the oldest paneled room of such dimensions surviving from the pre-Revolutionary period.

The room has been used as an auditorium for puppet shows, as a meeting place for county commissioners, as a ballroom for dancing classes and as a banquet hall for community celebrations.

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Public Parade

To Tell The Truth

Those of us who have meandered along the Public Parade for any length of time (and we're now beginning our sixth year) many times can't see the forest for the trees. We just take too much for granted!

Others come for only a short while and what they see and experience sends them away talking to themselves. That was the case of two reporters for the New York Times, whose December 14 article we are re-printing today.

Also, we have a friend who happens to be the best editor in the state. He too has had a love affair with Edenton for several decades—retreating from a coastal storm one night to find refuge in Hotel Joseph Hewes.

Little over five years ago he told us we'd like Edenton. He said it was a good place in which to bring up a family. Thus far he hasn't been wrong.

The high esteem in which Jay Huskins of the Statesville Record & Landmark holds Edenton can easily be noted in the following from his Down In Iredell column:

FITTING THE PRINT — Well, good for Edenton.

The Town on Queen Anne's Creek has just come in for a full three-column spread in the New York Times issue of Sunday, December 14.

It is so good that it took two reporters, Alf J. Mapp, Jr., and Louise DeVere to do it. It is one of the best treatments of a small southern city we have seen anywhere.

Acouple of paragraphs will give you an idea:

"Nestled among the deep-green woods and rich fields of Tidewater North Carolina and facing out over the sun-jeweled waters of Albemarle Sound is Edenton, a quiet, colonial-accented community, where past and present are parts of a seamless fabric.

"Edenton's location, sequestered and yet open to the world symbolizes its place as a town removed from the turbulent mainstream of 20th-century life but linked by memory and legend with stirring events of the great world."

From there, the Times story goes on to tell about the 1774 Edenton tea party, its "array of gleaming white weatherboards, rose-hued bricks and emerald lawns," its historic courthouse and long

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Holiday Thursday

Employees of most-firms in the area will get their second holiday in a week Thursday as New Year's will be celebrated.

All state, county and federal offices will be closed. However, W. B. Gardner, town administrator, said the regular trash collection schedule will be observed.

The Merchants Committee of Edenton Chamber of Commerce has recommended that local stores close Thursday. Postmaster James M. Bond said there will be no mail delivery on this day.



FROM THE TOP—Here is the first license plate which will be sold at Edenton Office Supply on Thursday. And holding it are the people in charge of the motor vehicle office—Kermit Layton and Mrs. Goldie L. Niblett.

1970 License Tag Sale Scheduled

The application cards necessary for obtaining 1970 license plates were placed in the mail on December 18. Department of Motor Vehicles officials expect this huge mailing, estimated at more than 3,300,000 cards, to be delivered by January 1.

Motorists will be paying more for their 1970 plates than they have been paying in the past. The registration fees were increased about 25 per cent by the 1969 Legislature. This does not apply to North Carolina's amputee war veterans and those war veterans having a 100 per cent disability rating by the Veterans

Administration. They will get their tags free!

The new reflectorized red and white plates will go on sale throughout the State on January 2. The 1969 plates expire December 31 and their use beyond that date is permissible only if they are duly registered by the Department to the vehicle on which display is made. Owners who have their vehicles properly registered by the Department have until February 16 to obtain new plates.

Surrounding area residents may obtain plates at Edenton Office Supply, 501 S. Broad Street, Edenton, N. C. Office

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Perjury Is Charged After Court Trial

Three men are being held in jail here in lieu of \$5,000 bond each on charges of perjury. Bench warrants were ordered by Judge Fentress Horner in Chowan County District Court following testimony during a drunk driving trial.

Judson Curtis Wells of Snow Hill, Jerry Wells and Jack Williams of Edenton were involved. Wells was charged with drunk driving and driving after his license had been suspended. They testified Wells was not driving.

Mrs. Graham, 89, Taken In Death

Mrs. William A. Graham, Sr., 120 West King Street, died Christmas morning at her home following an extended illness. She was 89.

Mrs. Graham was one of the area's most prominent civic leaders until she became ill several years ago. She was co-founder of Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library and the Cupola House Association. She was a trustee of the University of North Carolina and in 1952 was named Woman of the Year in Edenton.

Anne Cameron Graham was born September 10, 1880, in Hillsborough, daughter of the late William Blount and Pauline Cameron Shepard. She was the widow of Dr. William A. Graham, Sr.

Surviving are two sons: Dr. William A. Graham, Jr., of Durham; and John W. Graham of Edenton; and five grandchildren.

She was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church where funeral services were held at 10:30 A. M., Saturday with Bishop Thomas H. Wright, and Revs. George B. Holmes and Fred B. Drane officiating. Burial was in St. Mathews Episcopal Church Cemetery.

Pallbearers were: George Capehart, George Wood, Frank Williams, Frank Holmes, Logan Elliott and Tom Shepard. Williford Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

State Trooper R. H. Allen arrested Judson Wells about 11:15 P. M., Sunday night. Terry Wheeler, who will soon join the State Highway Patrol, was riding with Trooper Allen and saw the men switch drivers.

Solicitor Wilton Walker repeatedly warned the witnesses of the penalty of perjury. After all the evidence was in the solicitor produced a female witness who was riding in the car.

As she testified about Wells and another passenger switching places, the three lowered their heads.

"Why are you hanging your heads now?" the stern jurist asked. "I don't blame you. It is a shame and disgrace the way you have acted."

Wells was given the maximum sentence—six months for drunk driving and two years for driving after his license had been suspended. They are to run consecutively. He too faces a perjury indictment.

Judge Horner and Solicitor both appeared shaken by the turn of events in the case. The court was in recess for some 30 minutes while the surprise witness was brought to testify. A second female occupant of the car was in the courtroom but did not testify.

Mr. Ziegler Dies

Heywood Sawyer Ziegler, Sr., 108 N. Broad Street, died Wednesday night at 8:45 o'clock in Chowan Hospital following a short illness. He was 73.

A native of Edenton, he was the son of the late Louis F. and Mrs. Ella Sawyer Ziegler. He was owner and operator of the Ziegler Funeral Home and was the oldest funeral director in Eastern North Carolina.

He was a graduate of Warrenton Preparatory School and the Poughkeepsie, N. Y. Business College.

He was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, a former member of the Red Men and a former member of the American Legion. He was an Army

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RUINED HOLIDAY—Christmas was an unpleasant day for at least three persons—all injured in the two-car wreck shown here. Hospitalized in the mishap 25 of Edenton on Highway 32 were John Henry Hathaway, 35-year-old Negro, Route 1, Gates; Raymond Revell, 31-year-old Negro, Route 1, Tyner, and Sarah Re same address. Hathaway was driving the 1966 Plymouth at left and struck the Thunderbird head-on, then traveled more than 125 feet out into a field. Property heavy in the 3:15 P. M. mishap investigated by Trooper R. H. Allen.

