

Novel suggests that Iredell was involved in a love triangle

Memories and friendships made by woodstove



Earline White/The Chowan Herald

General Mercantile owner, Sharon Moxley, above with Lilac, has reopened one of Chowan County's oldest stores, at left, after falling in love with its history and charm.

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

For the longest time the sign out front read "We're sorta open."

As quickly as Sharon Moxley could put out the Nabs, Moonpies and longneck bottles of Nehi, people were snatching them up off the shelves.

The neighbors never really asked if the store was open, just came in whenever they



A 48 star, 100 percent cotton flag was donated and hung by a stranger who said it belonged at the store. Moxley has not seen the man since.

saw signs of life out front.

A year after sort of opening, there still has been no official grand opening for General Mercantile. And the futile attempts to keep customers at bay until fully operational has long since passed.

"This place reminds me of something you'd find in Canada, a place where neighbor helps neighbor, where people stop in to tell you their life stories," Moxley said.

Moxley welcomes the stories and the visitors, even on Sunday when she isn't really open, whether they buy anything or not.

She just likes the company.

One never knows quite what to expect at the store. Some days the place is filled with ladies from the community joining Moxley in morning coffee around the old wood stove. Some days it's just Moxley and the Pekingese she raises.

Regardless of how many people might be sitting at the table there's always something to talk

Like flowers, some things thrive over time, others fade away into memories.

General Mercantile, the only remaining shop in the once-bustling hub of Tyner, struggles to keep local history alive.

about— plenty of memories to recall, stories to tell, NASCAR races to argue about.

"It's not strange for people to come in, get their bellies full, slip off their shoes and just take a nap on the couch," Moxley says.

Renee Ziemba who has become a regular at the store says that there is something

special about the place.

"I stopped in one morning, sat down right here and didn't get up all day," Ziemba, a sassy redhead with a big smile, says. "The next day I came back and again didn't get up. My husband knows where I am and he knows that some nights I'll be late for dinner. Once you start coming here, it just feels like home and there's no need to rush anywhere else."

"Nobody rushes away," Moxley says, "in fact they talk about leaving for hours."

For years the old T.E. Chappell Store sat empty, collecting dust and age like a derelict tractor, on the corner of the road in a once-thriving com-

munity of Center Hill.

Center Hill, as it is known by the locals, or Tyner, as it's called by everybody else, is named after the postmaster James N. Tyner, and is the highest point in Chowan County, some say.

In its early years, the bustling community was the center for religious services, schools, picnics and voting precincts.

See STORE, Page A2 ▶



A sign reminiscent of the olden days at the former T.E. Chappell store hangs outside.

JoAnn Tyson keeps Waterman's nightlife running smoothly
Inside, A3



Displaced worker finds new direction in life
Inspiration, C8

Iredell Association bans book in gift shop, angered over image of former Jurist

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

A new historical novel which places early Supreme Court Justice James Iredell of Edenton at the center of an alleged love triangle has outraged those charged with upholding his legacy.

Members of Edenton's James Iredell Association are concerned that many readers may feel the book is more fact than fiction. So concerned, in fact, they have voted not to allow it to be sold in their gift shop at the local visitor center.

The novel, "A More Obedient

Wife: A Novel of the Early Supreme Court," uses excerpts from actual letters Iredell and his wife, Hannah, exchanged as part of the narrative. Interspersed in the text, in italics, are fictional diary entries used by the author to move the story along.

"It's true the preface does make it clear which parts of the book are real, and which are not, but how many people even bother to read that?" asked John Smith, chairman of the association's furnishings committee, and an avid history buff.

"I don't. I start reading with

chapter one."

Smith said he found the way Iredell was portrayed in the book unsettling. "That's not the image of James Iredell we want to put forward. It may be good for the book, but it's not good for his image."

But the book's author, Natalie Wexler, said that Iredell, in a number of letters he wrote over the years, made mention of attractive women



Wexler

he noticed.

And he himself was known as an outgoing man with a pleasing personality — in sharp contrast to the shy, retiring nature of his wife.

Add to that the fact that existing letters he wrote to his wife in 1779, six years after they married, contained a series of abject apologies which Wexler believes involved some sort of marital infidelity.

She does not find it such a leap of faith, then, to imagine that he and another Hannah — Hannah Wilson, the pretty, vi-

See IREDELL, Page A2 ▶



6 89076 44813 0

©2006 The Chowan Herald
All Rights Reserved

INDEX

A Local	
Editorial	A7
Land Transfers	A8

B Sports

Recreation News	B1
NASCAR	B2

C Community News

Upcoming Events	C2
Society	C4
Obituaries	C6
Church	C7, 8

D Classifieds

Buy/Sell/Trade	D1
Service Directory	D2
Employment	D4



Commentary about death of Capt. America
Inspiration, C8

AUCTION
7:00pm Until at
Leon Nixon's Catering



Benefit Lunch & Dinner
Tuesday, March 20th
11:00am to 2:00pm - 4:00pm to 7:00pm



Donation: \$7.00
Sponsored by Rocky Hock Ruritan
Relay for Life Team