

The Church at the Forks

by Erwin Jacobs

On a cold and chilly day, Friday December 15, 2000, I made my way from the historic little town of Maxton, NC to the old high school grounds at the rapidly growing town of Pembroke, NC for the last two treats our church, West Robeson United Methodist Church (at the Forks) bestowed upon the CIS School located on the ground where I and many others attended high school many moons ago, before I left North Carolina to serve during the Korean War with the United States Navy. That year was late June, 1952 after my junior year at old Pembroke High. The reason I keep stating old Pembroke High is because that is where my grass roots and eighth grade through the eleventh grade was spent after graduating from a little country school (Harpers Ferry), located approximately 1/2 mile south of Harpers Ferry Baptist Church on 710 country road.

As I am usually the first one to arrive for these two occasions, I entered the office as a sign directed me to do at the entrance of the school. I was welcomed by the very polite young lady whom I had to ask if the lunch room was unlocked. She got her keys and ushered me towards the double doors. As usual, I got busy preparing the room for the onrush of several classes to enjoy a hot cooked meal of delicious hot dogs and hamburgers cooked on the grill outside by the Rev. Marshall Locklear and Sister Bobby Leviner. I had to wash the tables down and align all of the chairs with help of a young lady. I unrolled a paper of off white to make the tables look more festive. I told the young lady I wanted the children to feel like they were important that day. Sister Lucille Locklear joined the three work crew that showed up from the church (four with her) and we were joined by a young lady to help serve the hungry mouths as they began to enter at approximately 11:30 a.m. One class after another gorged themselves on hot dogs with all the fixings and hamburgers. There were cookies and fruit punch served also.

We greeted each child with a Merry Christmas and a hand shake until we had to buckle down serving the food. They thanked us for coming and the smacking and fun began as they made their way to the aligned clean tables to gorge themselves on their favorite foods. I love to see hungry kids eat, all the ketchup and mustard running down their mouths also the chili too. I was a wonderful experience as always. The principal, Mrs. D. Lowry came in to personally thank us and to wish us a Merry Christmas, also all of the staff that takes pains to try and give these little lights a good education while at this school. We adopted these children.

Also December 10 on Sunday we spent carolling the people at Dial's Nursing Home off Hwy 710. Those are two worthy ministries we are involved in. As I stated to many people a lot of times in my conversations, I wear many hats, do many things and I call it my missionary work. I have engrossed myself in since returning home after many years away from Robeson County.

God is good to me and blesses me more as I do his work. We are up early this morning (December 17) waiting for a happy occasion to take place at our church at the worship service. The wind is howling, the trees are bending from the force and I was awakened by rain. Having written this much of my report, it is 5:00 a.m. I will stop and have a hot cup of coffee to await the breaking of day light. After having my cup of coffee and getting my water hot for my morning shave, I heard doors opening and closing. Joshua had awakened earlier than usual this Sunday morning as it was to be a special day for his family. His little brother Addison was to be baptized in our church during worship service. We had a good Sunday school lesson today. It was about Mary visiting her cousin (John the Baptist's mother) to tell her of the good news that she was to have a son and he is to be the Savior of the world. His name is Jesus!!!

As it came close to the worship hour, the church seats began to get more and more filled. We had a good turn out today. Something began to happen as Reverend Marshall Locklear began his sermon for the service, the lights went out a few times and then for good. The advent candles and a couple of windows were our source of light as the wind howled and sent things sailing through the area. Little Addison was all smiles as we gathered around him for his Baptism. He is our miracle baby as I call him. He is growing so fast in such a short time. Brother Mark and Sister Loria's families and friends were there for this occasion.

Yesterday Joshua and I were invited to a Christmas dinner here in Maxton for the senior citizens given by the Chamber and we thank Mr. Clarence Woods for his contribution of the food. A good time was enjoyed by over 100 people.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

Obituaries

Cathy McGirt Hammonds
ST. PAULS - Cathy McGirt Hammonds, 45, of 308 E. Great Marsh Church Road, St. Pauls, died Monday (Dec. 11) at Southeastern Regional Medical Center in Lumberton.

The funeral was held at 2 P.M. Thursday (Dec. 14) at Liberty Holiness Church, the Rev. Melvin Bell and Dr. Millard Maynard officiating. Burial followed in Lumbee Memorial Gardens in Lumberton.

Ms. Hammonds was born in Robeson County, and was a restaurant chef. She was preceded in death by her father, James Edmond McGirt Sr.

Surviving are her mother, Betty Jacobs, of Lumberton; her husband, Lonnie Hammonds of the home, two stepsons, Brian Christopher Hammonds and David Brandon Hammonds, a daughter, Tone L. Smith of Charlotte, three brothers, James E. McGirt and Lawrence McGirt, both of Lumberton, and Henry Terry McGirt of Fairmont, six sisters, Mary C. Brewer of Pembroke, Sarah I. Heater of Richmond, Va., Veronica Graham of Rowland, Teresa Wilkins of Red Springs, and Pat "Cissy" Locklear and Cynthia Britt, both of Lumberton.

Leadine Emanuel Wienssen
REIDSVILLE - Leadine Emanuel Wienssen of 9687 Cherry Grove Road, Reidsville, died Saturday (Dec. 9) at home after a sudden illness.

The funeral was held at 7 P.M. Friday (Dec. 15) at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Caswell Ward, in Burlington. A graveside service was held at 11 a.m. Saturday at Mt. Olive Baptist Church in St. Pauls, the Rev. Kelly Sanderson and Bishop Vernon Massengill officiating.

A native of Robeson County, Ms. Wienssen was preceded in death by her husband, John Wienssen, and her parents, Robert and Manthie Brewington Emanuel.

Surviving are a daughter, Judy Geddings of Providence, a son, John Kuhlenbecker of the home, a sister, Joyce E. Lewis of Arizona, two brothers, Robert Emanuel Jr. of St. Pauls and Tony Emanuel of Texas, and two grandchildren.

Lalye Lowery
MAXTON - Mrs. Lalye Lowery, 73, of 11235 Deep Branch Road died Wednesday (Dec. 13).

The funeral was held at 3 P.M. Friday (Dec. 15) in Bear Swamp Baptist Church. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Mrs. Lowery is survived by her husband, Sanford Lowery of the home, three sons, Robert Lowery of House Springs, Mo., Jimmie Lowery of High Ridge, Mo., and Kenneth Lowery of Maxton; four sisters, Jennifer Lewis of Maxton, Lillian Hunt

of Oak Ridge, Margie Brewer of Georgia, and Dorothy Woods of Eden; a brother, Ronnie Woods of Pembroke; 11 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Fred Jacobs
ROCHESTER MINN. - Fred Jacobs, 55, of Rochester, Minn., and formerly of Lumber Bridge, N.C., died Sunday (Dec. 10) at his home.

The funeral was held at 1 P.M. Saturday (Dec. 16) at Temple Baptist Church in Red Springs, N.C., the Revs. Brady Locklear, Montana Locklear, and Hedrick Jones officiating. Burial followed in the Jacobs Family Cemetery in Racedorf, N.C.

Jacobs, a Robesonian native, was a construction worker and was preceded in death by his parents, Herman and Gussie Jacobs, a sister, Alice Jacobs, and a son, Antry Wayne Jacobs.

Surviving are a son, Frederick Locklear of Red Springs, four brothers, William Jacobs and Tony Jacobs, both of Pembroke, N.C., Horace Jacobs of Shannon, N.C., and Ernest Locklear of Baltimore, MD, three sisters, Helen Drake of Racedorf, Patsy J. Brayboy of Pembroke, and Mildred Horne of Lumber Bridge, and a grandson.

Chester Lewis
CHARLOTTE - Chester Lewis, 50, of 1417 Downs Ave., Charlotte, and formerly of Rowland, died Tuesday (Dec. 12).

The funeral was held at 2 P.M. Saturday (Dec. 16) in Hickory Hill Baptist Church in Rowland, the Rev. Larry Oxendine officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Lewis was born in Robeson County on July 12, 1950 and was a self-employed dry wall hanger. He was preceded in death by his father, Albert Reo Lewis, and a brother, Charles E. Lewis.

Surviving are a daughter, Kelly Lewis and her mother, Brenda Gaddis, both of Belmont, a son, Matthew Gaddis of Charlotte, a daughter, Kimberly Scott of Pembroke, his mother, Lessie Campbell Lewis of Rowland, four brothers, James Otis Lewis of Thomasville, David Lewis of High Point, Arthur Lewis of Rowland, and William Campbell Lewis of Winston-Salem; four sisters, Ruby Locklear, Sue Locklear, Janice Lewis and Terisa Maynor, all of Rowland, a special friend, Susie Turlington, and three grandchildren.

Frances D. Fields
LUMBERTON - Mrs. Frances D. Fields, 71, of 45 Sunset Road died Thursday (Dec. 14) in Southeastern Regional Medical Center.

The funeral was held at 1 P.M. Sunday (Dec. 17) in Revels Funeral Home Chapel in Lumberton. Minister Warren Stott Davis officiated. Burial followed in Robeson Memorial Park.

Mrs. Fields is survived by three daughters, Margaret W. Smith of the home, Leola Oxendine of Lumberton, and Carolene Jones of Red Springs; three sons, Harold D. Fields, Von R. Fields and Floyd Fields, all of Lumberton; two sisters, Clara L. Cummings of Lumberton and Emma L. Bullard of Pembroke; two brothers, Archie Oxendine of Pembroke and Billy Oxendine of Virginia; 15 grandchildren, and 28 great-grandchildren.

Ielatha Freeman
ST. PAULS - Ms. Ielatha Freeman, 78, of 810 Bona Road died Wednesday (Dec. 13) in First Health Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.

The funeral was held at 2:30 P.M. Sunday (Dec. 17) in Pembroke Assembly of God by the Revs. Larry Lowery and Jim Butler and Brother Webster Smith. Burial followed in Oxendine Cemetery.

Ms. Freeman is survived by six daughters, Ira Rae Mollo, Corliss Freeman, Demetrius Freeman and Linda J. Oxendine, all of St. Pauls; Karen S. Locklear of Lumberton and Teresa Oxendine of Pembroke, seven sons, the Rev. Larry Lowery, Jeffery Freeman and Gary Freeman, all of St. Pauls; Robert G. Freeman of Hope Mills; Jerome Freeman of Red Springs; Dennis Freeman of McCam and Terry Freeman of Lumberton; 35 grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren.

Paulette Strickland
PEMBROKE - Ms. Paulette Strickland, 43, of Don Street died Saturday (Dec. 12) in Southeastern Regional Medical Center.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Wednesday (Dec. 20) in Victory Holiness Church, the Revs. Everett Woods and Jerry Scott officiating. Burial followed in Oxendine Cemetery.

Ms. Strickland is survived by two sons, Brian K. Oxendine of the home and Jason Strickland of Pembroke, four brothers, Roger D. Oxendine of Pembroke, Billy R. Oxendine and Roger R. Oxendine, both of Shannon, and Coleman Oxendine of Lumberton, four sisters, Clarice Lowery of Pembroke, Patty A. Chavis of Rennert, Dester A. Freeman of Maxton and Marsha R. Maynor of Red Springs, and a grandson.

Revels Funeral Home in Pembroke handled the arrangements.

Margolius Sampson
LUMBERTON - Margolius "Gold" Sampson, 70, of 2237 Deep Branch Road died Sunday (Dec. 17) in his home.

Mr. Sampson was a retired construction worker and a member of Deep Branch Baptist Church.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Weds. (Dec. 20) in Deep Branch Baptist Church, the Revs. Billy Burns,

John of Lumberton, and Michael Sampson of Pembroke, a sister, Christine Carter of Lumberton; 14 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Revels Funeral Home in Lumberton was in charge of the funeral arrangements.

James A. Hunt and R.M. Hunt officiating. Burial followed in Reedy Branch Baptist Church Cemetery.

Mr. Sampson is survived by his wife, Lillian Sampson of the home, four sons, Donald Sampson of Rowland, Jimmie Sampson and Raven Sampson,

New computer classes at the Indian Education Resource Center

PEMBROKE - The Public Schools of Robeson County's Indian Education Program announces new dates and times for the agency's continuing adult computer classes. Ms. Margaret H. Chavis, Director of Indian Education, said, "We feel that this is part of our mandate to reach out into the community and share our resources and talents. We know that there is a great desire on the part of our adult population to learn computer skills, so we are pleased to offer these classes to the community."

The classes will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning January 9, 2001 and ending May 24, 2001. Ms. Sharron Jackson, Indian Education's Program Evaluator and Technology Specialist, will be teaching the classes. The classes will begin at 3:30 p.m. and run until 5 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday.

Windows 98 will be taught on Tuesdays, and Microsoft Word will be the subject matter on Thursday nights. Call Ms. Jackson at (910) 521-2054 for more information and to sign up for the classes on a first come first served basis.


Indian Education is housed in the historic Pembroke "Indian" High School building (next door to the UNC-Pembroke Chancellor's residence), and also offers a modern art gallery, museum and library as part of its offerings to the community.

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Along The Robeson Trail

by Dr. Stan Knick, Director, UNCP Native American Resource Center

As has happened many times, not long ago a young man brought what he called an "arrowhead" he had found in his garden into The Center. He knew it was made of stone, and he figured it was very old. He wanted to know more about it. During our conversation he asked a lot of questions, and this set me to thinking that perhaps most folks don't know very much about the thousands of stone tools found here in the Lumbee River basin.

Virtually every farmer who has worked the land in this region has found them. Especially the older hands, who remember walking the rows behind a plow instead of watching the ground go by from high in an air-conditioned tractor cab.

Most of the stone tools that people pick up are relatively large, two to four inches in length (probably because they are easier to see than the smaller ones). Most have an outline more-or-less like a Christmas tree. The big ones are almost invariably not true arrowheads but spearheads, since they are too old and too big to function with a bow-and-arrow. The true stone arrowheads are usually smaller (three-quarters to one-and-a-half inches in length) and shaped roughly like a triangle (there are a few exceptions).

One of the most interesting things about such stone tools (collectively called "projectile points") is how they got from where they originated to where they are now — their "life story." Of course there are some things about the life story of a projectile point that we will never know (specific details about the person who made it, etc.). But we do know that these objects did not originate in the soil of Robeson County.

Most of the projectile points found here are made of a stone material called rhyolite. But rhyolite cannot be

found in its natural state here in the Coastal Plain. The ancestors of the Lumbee who made these points must have obtained the rhyolite from Piedmont sources (fifty to one hundred miles away). They, or someone with whom they had trade relations, brought large pieces of rhyolite here and made points and other stone tools from this raw material. We have found a few sizable chunks of rhyolite in archaeological sites here, and literally thousands of flakes which were discarded in the process of reducing the large chunks to stone tools, so we know the actual manufacture of points happened here. But the raw material had to be carried here first.

Generation after generation for thousands of years Native people brought rhyolite to the Lumbee River basin to make tools. Large chunks were broken into smaller chunks, probably by hammering one chunk with another. The smaller chunk was further hammered and broken to produce large flakes. The people knew exactly where on the chunk to strike in order to produce the type of large flake they needed. This large stone flake was then ready for the next step — the removal by percussion of many smaller flakes from the outer surface of the large flake until the general shape of the desired tool was achieved. It was a process not greatly unlike stone sculpture, where unwanted stone material is removed to reveal an inner, previously hidden, shape.

Eventually, as the desired shape of the point emerged, the worker had to change from percussion flaking to pressure flaking in order to avoid breaking the point while making it sharp enough to function properly. Pressure flaking involved pressing hard at just the proper angle against the

edge of the worked rhyolite tool (using a hard material such as antler) to remove progressively smaller flakes until a sharp edge remained. When the worker's pre-conceived idea of what the point should look like was attained, the point could be hafted to a handle or shaft (depending on what kind of tool it was meant to become).

For many generations projectile points were produced in generally the same shape, which tells us that elders must have taught their offspring how to do it just the right way. After a long time, in some cases a thousand or more years, styles would change and people would work their rhyolite into slightly different shapes of points (but apparently still using the same methods).

These points were used for getting food and various other tasks. After they were lost, broken or discarded they lay in the ground for thousands (in some cases hundreds) of years. Most were covered over by natural soil movement and accumulation. When the land was cleared for modern farming and the soil turned over in the process, the points (and other prehistoric artifacts) came back into the light of day. In areas where large numbers of such artifacts were deposited (i.e., at village sites) almost every time a modern plow or disc is pulled through the soil additional artifacts appear.

Each projectile point, whether spearhead or arrowhead, has its own life story. It is a story of the skill, resourcefulness and adaptability of the ancestors. For more information, visit the Native American Resource Center in historic Old Main Building, on the campus of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke (our Internet address is www.uncp.edu/nativemuseum).

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