

Tar Heel Spotlight

Old Hickory: Tar Heel? Palmettoan?

Where was Andrew Jackson born?

Nobody knows. The seventh president of the United States was born March 15, 1767, either in North or South Carolina. Nobody knows for sure, and the puzzle has interested historians and biographers for more than 150 years.

Each of the two states has a viable claim to the birth and each has been accepted widely at separate times during the years. Jackson himself never really tried to settle the controversy and several of his own statements concerning his place of birth remain ambiguous.

The Jacksons were among a wave of Scotch-Irish Presbyterian families arriving from three directions during the years before the revolution. Some came by way of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. Others arrived from Charleston, and the third group came from the old country, the north of Ireland.

All settled in the Waxhaws district — an area astride the vague and disputed boundary area of the colonies of North and South Carolina. There they settled down to raise some of the most people in southern and American history, with Andrew Jackson the best known.

WAXHAWS

The elder Andrew Jackson and his wife, Elizabeth, arrived by way of Pennsylvania and settled in the Waxhaws, close to where five of Mrs. Jackson's sisters and their families already were living. The arrival of Andrew and Elizabeth and their two small sons, Hugh and Robert, made a total of six Hutchison sisters living in the same general area, three on one side of the boundary, and three on the other side.

Some two years after arriving, either in February or March, 1767, Andrew (the elder) wrenched his back removing a stump. He went to bed, contracted influenza or pneumonia, and died. Mrs. Jackson was expecting her third child.

Mrs. Jackson and friends

and relatives took the body in a pine box by wagon to the Old Waxhaw Presbyterian Church cemetery for burial, some 12 miles away from the Jackson cabin, and about four miles inside the South Carolina line.

Tradition says that on the way the party came to Waxhaw Creek with a steep bank and while hauling the body up on the other side, "lost the coffin and body, either in the creek or among the thickets on the bank.

The men in the burial party had been drinking whiskey to "fight the cold" and the group traveled about a mile before realizing their loss. The party immediately turned back, found the coffin with the elder Andrew Jackson's body, and proceeded to the churchyard, where the unborn general's father was buried."

Here is where the question of the birthplace really begins. At the death of her husband the stage of Mrs. Jackson's pregnancy is not known.

Did Mrs. Jackson return to her own cabin 12 miles from the cemetery? Or did she stop at her sister, Jennet Crawford's, at the Crawford plantation in South Carolina, or did she travel further on to the cabin of her sister Margaret McCamie in North Carolina.

CONFLICTS

Some sources state that she returned from the funeral, and Andrew was born that very night. Some say the birth occurred at James Crawford's plantation, and other say that Andrew the younger was born at George McCamie's cabin, then lying 407 yards over the line in what is present-day Union County, N. C.

Others insist the birth of Jackson could have taken place anytime within a two or three day period if Mrs. Jackson stopped at either of her sisters' houses following the funeral.

Other biographers insist that Mrs. Jackson returned to her own cabin for a while — a period of anywhere from two weeks to two months. Then she packed her household goods, her two young boys and proceeded to her sister's —

but which sister's — home? North Carolina claimants argue she intended going to sister Jennet Crawford's, but stopped en route at sister Margaret McCamie's cabin, and there arrived Andrew Jackson.

South Carolina diehards contend she reached the Crawford plantation before the baby arrived.

Some support is given the claim for the McCamie cabin from the statement, years later, of a cousin of Andrew's. She insists that her mother, Elizabeth's sister Sarah Leslie, was summoned "across the fields" to assist in the delivery, and young daughter Sarah, then seven, accompanied her. North Carolinians point to the statement "across the fields" as proof that the birthplace was the McCamie cabin, since from the Leslie home to the Crawfords would have been through woodlands.

So, on and on the controversy rages, albeit politely from both states and research continues. It is agreed that either claim would be accepted by his historians, except for the claim by the other state.

STILL HOPE

Proofs are offered here and there for both claims, and it is hoped further indications pinpointing the birthplace will turn up in later years.

There is no question surrounding Jackson's life. Young Andy lived with both Uncle George McCamie and Uncle James Crawford at least for awhile during his boyhood. Then came the Revolution when Andrew was 13. From that war he carried a scar all his life, received from a British officer's sword when Andrew refused to clean the officer's boots. Older brothers Hugh and Robert died in the Revolution. Mother Elizabeth also died during the same time after nursing wounded in Charleston.

At age 17, Andrew studied law in Salisbury, and in 1788 he journeyed over the mountains while the land was still part of North Carolina. In 1789, the North Carolina legislature ceded the area to

the federal government, and it became the state of Tennessee in 1796.

Andrew Jackson, dubbed "Old Hickory" by his soldiers for his toughness, lived to be 78 years old, though plagued with all kinds of disorders. He served as solicitor, representative, judge, merchant, governor, and senator (twice), as well as general and president (twice).

And all the while, nobody knows with certainty where he was born.

School-Public Idea Pipeline Is Sought

How can Transylvania County's school system establish contact with the people it serves?

Transylvania County has been awarded a Federal grant of \$17,000-plus with which to attempt to establish a pipeline through which ideas about school betterment can flow freely to and fro between the educational offices and the public, Superintendent Harry Corbin said Thursday night.

He was explaining a pilot program for N. C. to an ad hoc committee of Transylvania leaders in a session at the new Middle School.

"We were fortunate to have been chosen for this pilot program," the school leader said. "After the results of our communications program are in and known, then other counties will use this information: in effect, they'll be saying: 'This is how Transylvania County did it.'"

With the top school administration officials and county school principals on hand, along with members of the School Board, Principal Richard Voso of the Brevard Elementary School asked members of the committee present to sound off on any issues about which they were concerned with the educational system.

And sound off, they did.

Among the complaints:

Social

—Continued From Page One goals toward which a state's programs should be directed:

Economic self-support.

Self-sufficiency.

Protection of children and adults from neglect and abuse.

De-institutionalization to the greatest extent.

Institutional placement and services only as needed.

This law allows North Carolina to offer more services to more people than ever before.



SENATOR, PAGE — Philip Jerome, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry H. Jerome, will serve as a page in the N.C. Senate during the week of March 23. He was appointed by Senator Cecil Hill of Brevard, with whom he is shown chatting here.

1040 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return
 for the year ending January 31, December 31, 1974, or other taxable year
 U.S. Treasury Department—Internal Revenue Service
Taxpayers Ask IRS

This column of questions and answers on federal tax matters is provided by the local office of the U. S. Internal Revenue Service and is published as a public service to taxpayers. The column answers questions most frequently asked by taxpayers.

Q. I am receiving taxable unemployment benefits from which tax has not been withheld. Should I file a Declaration of Estimated Tax for 1975?

A. You must file a declaration of estimated income tax, Form 1040-ES, if your estimated tax (line 11 of the estimated tax worksheet) is \$100 or more and your estimated gross income for 1975 includes more than \$500 in income not subject to withholding. Other circumstances of marital status and amount of gross income affect whether you must file Form 1040-ES. For further information call the IRS toll free with the number listed in the tax forms package you receive in the mail.

Q. I participate in a work training program sponsored by the State welfare agency where I live. Are the payments I receive in this program taxable?

A. No. Such payments are not taxable (exclusive of extra allowances for transportation, etc.) provided they do not exceed the public welfare benefits you might be receiving otherwise.

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| RETAIL PRICE \$675 SALE PRICE \$491⁷⁵ | RETAIL PRICE \$1295 SALE PRICE \$740⁵⁵ | RETAIL PRICE \$2995 SALE PRICE \$2487⁶⁵ |
| 1969 Ford Station Wagon V-8, automatic, power steering, power brakes | 1965 Mustang Coupe 6 cyl., 3 speed transmission | 1969 Ford LTD 4 door, full power, air conditioning |
| SALE PRICE \$881¹¹ | RETAIL PRICE \$695 SALE PRICE \$396⁵⁶ | RETAIL PRICE \$1195 SALE PRICE \$745⁵⁰ |
| | 1966 Chevrolet 4-door, V-8, automatic transmission, power steering | |
| | SALE PRICE \$395 | SALE PRICE \$100⁰⁰ |

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