

SOME HISTORY OF THE ROCK HOUSE IN STOKES

Was Probably Most Magnificent Colonial House In Western North Carolina—Erected By Col. John Martin About Year 1770.

A few miles north of Quaker Gap to the west of Highway No. 661 is the ruin of the once, most magnificent colonial home in western North Carolina and which during the period covered by the stirring days when our great country was founded, was the social and political center of a territory nearly as large as the whole state. This house was really four stories high with an immense dining room in the basement, filled with historic china and silver plate from early days of English history, and in its wide expanse many gay hours were passed in tripping the stately minuet. The building was erected of native stone gathered in the neighborhood, over two feet thick, and much of the woodwork was hand riven black walnut. The house was set on an eminence from which magnificent views of the White Wall, Moore's Knob, Hanging Rock, the Tories Den is had, and the stone porch with huge pillars faced this panorama, toward the South.

This fast decaying ruin, which must soon be restored or it will be lost to posterity, is the most substantial colonial remnant of the history of the thousands of the Martin family in America, and a family which wrought large in establishing our country. A glimpse of their history is interesting.

The first to gain notoriety in history was the son of Roman military tribune stationed in Hungary, born 316 A. D., who became a convert to Christianity and became a great and good man, and when the Pope wanted to set him up as a Bishop he hid himself away in the forests. Later Pope Martin 650 A. D., named him as a patron saint and instituted the festival of St. Martin, which is observed on November 11th by drinking wine and eating roast goose.

Martin De Tours, came from Normandy to England with William the Conqueror. He was created a baron and heads the English family of Martins from which all the American family came. Many of the family have been Lords in the British Empire and remain prominent to the present time.

Sir William Martin founded the city of New Castle, England, and married a daughter

of the Prince of Wales, and Col. "Jack" Martin of Rock House, Stokes county descends directly from him. He was a son of Joseph Martin, of Albemarle County, Va., who was sent here on a trading mission by his father Wm. Martin, of Bristol, England, to keep him from marrying a girl he did not like in England. While here he married Suzanna Chiles, daughter of a prominent settler and remained.

Sir Oliver Martin, brother of Sir William Martin, accompanied King Henry II in his conquest of Ireland in 1165 A. D., and he remained and mar-

fighting in the armies of the Revolution and the war of 1812, and they took prominent parts in establishing and maintaining local government.

Col. John Martin, popularly called "Jack" came from his fathers plantation in Albemarle county, Va., in 1770 and began building the Rock House. In June 1784 he married Nancy Shipp, of Surry county, and brought her to the new home which required several years to complete. Here in this vale facing the Sauratown mountains he held a large tract of land, manned by many slaves, raising tobacco, corn and wheat in large quantities and breeding and rearing the finest of horses. Here were born and reared his family consisting of Thomas and William and Mary Martin.

Intimate details of the life at the Rock House are highly interesting history. During the period of the Revolutionary

his surveying compass on it. Next morning they surrounded this spot and there in a rugged crevice was the camp of the Tories and surrounding it they killed or captured the whole band and rescued the women. John Martin and Joshua Cox were close friends and constant comrades in hunts, fights and political campaigns in which they spent those exciting days.

Col. Martin was judge of the county circuit court before his death in 1822. He died fighting a forest fire near the Rock House. He and his wife gathered together the slaves and neighbors and were engaged in fighting the fire when he complained of being very tired and laid down on a big flat rock about a mile from home. His wife went on to direct the slaves and when they returned he had expired.

The Rock House should be a shrine for Sokes citizenry.

LICENSES ISSUED STOKES HUNTERS

Brought In \$1,216.00 For Year Used To Further Development of Game Resources In State.

Stokes county turned in to the State Department of Conservation and Development for the year ending July 1st \$1,216.00 from the sale of licenses to hunters, according to data sent out by the University on the subject of the sale of hunting licenses.

This income is all used in further developing the game resources of the state.

Forsyth leads all the counties of the State with a contribution of \$8,459.00 from hunting licenses. Dare is low-

est with only \$84.00. For the season a total of 126,035 resident county, 11,685 resident state, and 878 non-resident hunting licenses were issued. The grand total income from hunting licenses was \$204,000.00.

"Market is farm problem," says Secretary Jardine. He might have added that due precautions will be taken to see that farmers do not get control of the problem in a way to interfere with the market control long resting in other hands.

A village is a place where everybody knows everybody so well it isn't worth while to snob anybody.

"There is more to Babe Ruth," begins a sports writer, and the scales seem to bear out the statement.



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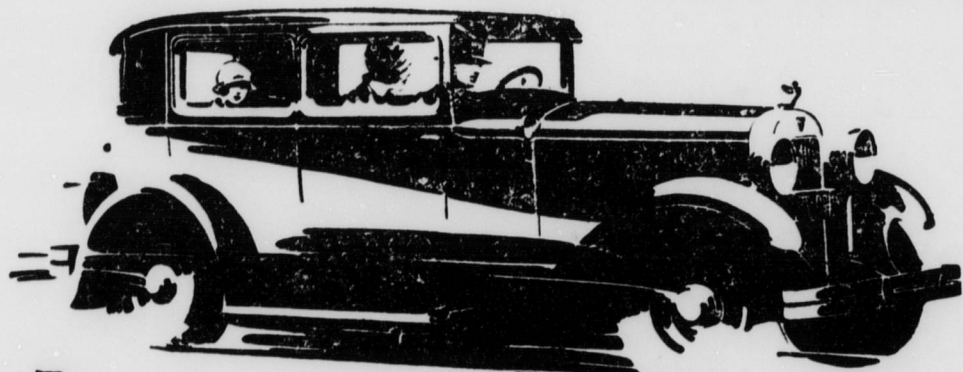
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ried in Ireland, and he is the ancestor of the other branch of the Martin family in America who descended through Rev. Hugh Martin and Jane Martin, his wife, who came to New Jersey and settled and their two sons, Alexander Martin and James Martin, who came South 1750, Alexander settling in Rockingham county and James on Snow Creek, Stokes county at the Old Lime Kiln place.

The two families of Martins settled in Stokes were intimate socially and worked together for upbuilding the country and

War, Stokes was a rendezvous of many Tories and John Martin was constantly battling them and the Rock House was repeatedly raided. The Tories established a headquarters on the mountain facing the plantation and besides raiding for provisions and supplies, they seized and carried to their camp girls and when they seized the daughter of a white overseer John Martin and Joshua Cox assembled the men in the vicinity and started hunting their carefully concealed camp. One night he noticed a fire on the distant mountainside and set



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