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# Oxford Ledger



**INVESTIGATE**  
Granville County has many business and farm opportunities. Investigate, then invest.

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## Newsman's Notebook

MISS PATSY MONTAGUE is to be the story-teller at Richard H. Thornton Library Aug. 11. The film is to be "Nick," the story of a little boy in Cambodia who finds a baby elephant and rears it as a pet.

**TWO PERSONS**, one from Oxford, the other from Clarksville, reported to Henderson police the past week theft of hubcaps from their vehicles while parked on the lot of Southern Quilters during the night. Walter West of Oxford, said two caps were taken from his car and Gregory B. Reese of Rt. 1, Clarksville, reported a like number stolen from his vehicle.

**A GRANVILLE WOMAN**, Mrs. Sue C. Keeton of Rt. 5, Oxford, was one of four Vance County Technical Institute nursing education students who received recognition from the National League for Nursing for outstanding performance on an achievement test recently given them. The four, who are members of a class of 12 which is to be graduated Aug. 22, scored in the upper 10 percent of all students taking the test across the U. S.

**ROSE'S STORES**, based in Henderson and with some 200 stores operating in nine southern states, reported a net increase in sales for 24 weeks ended June 17. The sales volume for the stores and subsidiaries amounted to \$82,260,198, up \$12,466,158 ahead of the equivalent period of 1970. A half-year statement accompanied distribution of quarterly dividends of 40 cents per share of outstanding stock. Earnings per share for the period were \$6.69, up from \$6.15 last year, an increase of 8.78 per cent.

## Healing Squash and Beef Eaters Exhibited Here

Larger and Unusual Vegetables Continue to Make Appearances

Healing Squash and Beef Eater tomatoes are in the limelight this week, competing for the headlines.

C. A. Letta of Tar River Station produced the healing squash and came in with one of the larger ones around his neck and another crooked about his shoulder with a third in hand.

Joe Briggs, Rt. 1, Stem, as if to prove his plants do well when given proper care, brought in the season's largest tomato to date: a Beef Eater weighing two pounds, two ounces. His second in size was one pound, 12 ounces. Mr. Briggs has his own green house and in the spring provided many of the tomato and other plants that went into gardens of this area. His two pound, two ounce specimen, topped in weight any exhibited this year at the Ledger.

The largest of Letta's exhibit weighed eight pounds, two ounces and was approximately three feet in length. Another weighed six pounds, 14 ounces and the third, six pounds, five ounces. The vegetables were about six inches in circumference and got their name, he explained, from the fact that one may cut from the end an amount sufficient for a meal and the squash heats itself and continues to grow.

Mr. Letta recalled that a member of the crew of the Seaboard train which passes his place mentioned the plant one day and later brought him a few seeds, which he planted out of idle curiosity of seeing the out-turn.

### Bigger Every Day

N. C. Brummitt of Gray Rock community, who has been engaged in farming longer than most of these other tomato and squash growers, feels that he should not let his community pass the season without recognition.

Thursday afternoon, he brought to town a Beef Steak variety which tipped the scales at two pounds, 12 ounces, the largest yet in 1971 competition.

Nothing has yet been heard from Berea, Bullock, Creedmoor or Brassfield, but they are still on the map.

And if Shoofly doesn't send an entry, we'll suspect it has been again wiped from the map.

Mr. and Mrs. Sturges Bryan and two children, of Salisbury, were weekend guests of Mr. Bryan's mother, Mrs. H. B. Bryan, on Belle Street.

## Granville Grays Had Noble Start in First Days of Civil Conflict

Military Unit Based in Oxford Has Born Arms in Nation's Wars for More than 100 Years

When Capt. Augustus Landis died at 15 minutes after 8 o'clock on the evening of Friday, April 8, 1892, "in the 58th year of his age," it marked the end of an era for the Oxford "militia" company, the Granville Grays.

Capt. Landis was war-time commander of the original Granville Grays, Company "D" of the 12th North Carolina regiment in the War Between the States, from which the Granville Grays of 1892 and later years derived their name.

The day, the Ledger's competition of the period, on April 9, carried Capt. Landis' obituary at the top of the front page, just to the right of an advertisement exhorting readers to "Keep Cool at Jackson's Soda Fountain." "The merchant prince of Oxford," whose emporium, A. Landis and Sons, was advertised on the back page, had been in a state of declining health for some time, the paper stated, but "there was no reason to apprehend that the signal of the death angel was so near at hand" until a day or two previous to his death, which was attributed to "a boil or carbuncle on his neck which affecting the brain made rapid inroads on his vital spark."

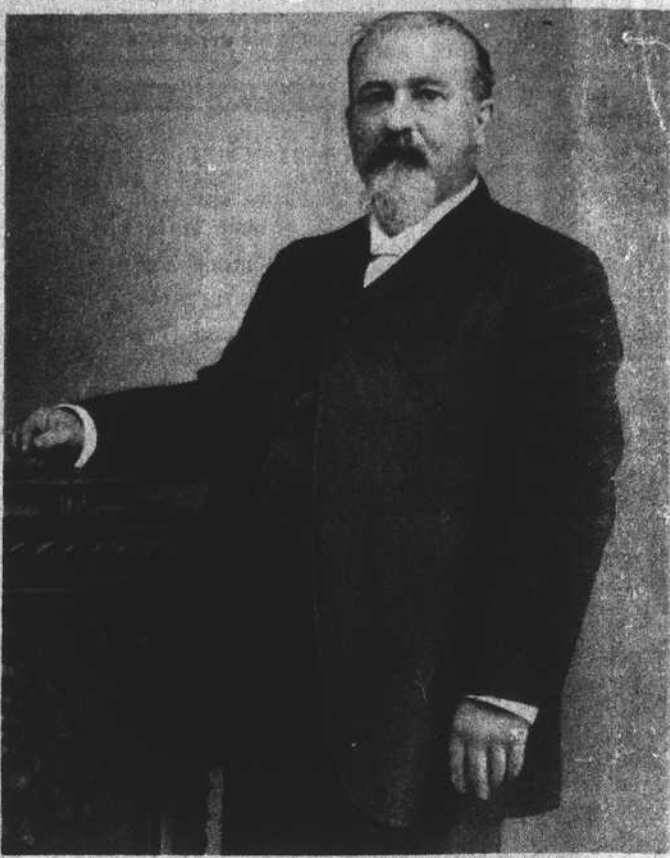
The funeral was held the following day at Capt. Landis' home in Oxford with two officiating clergymen and "the larger part of the community as well as people from the country and neighboring towns" in attendance. The procession which followed the hearse to the "new" cemetery included, in order, the six pallbearers; 11 confederate veterans, members of the "old" Granville Grays; the Granville Grays of 1899 with Capt. B. S. Royster commanding; family carriages, and relatives and friends in vehicles and on foot.

At the grave, a third minister read "the last sad rites," the Granville Grays fired three volleys, and this "good, brave, manly man" was laid to rest, said the newspaper report.

Four days later, on April 14, The Day carried both a notice that no outdoor drill by the Granville Grays would be held that afternoon, as "Lt. Shipp" of the United States Army failed to arrive as expected on the morning train from Durham, and "Resolutions of Respect" for Capt. Landis passed by the Granville Grays at the armory the previous night. Although the Grays described him as "our esteemed friend and former Captain," the company their "deceased fellow soldier" led away to Virginia in 1861 was very different from their own.

**Began in Civil War Days**  
The Granville Grays of Civil War days began their official career as a part of the second regiment of North Carolina volunteers, re-numbered 12th to clear up confusion resulting from the simultaneous use of two different enlistment plans, according to a memoir by Walter A. Montgomery, 2nd Lt. Company "F," in "North Carolina Regiments," Vol. I, from which much of the following information was gleaned.

The regiment was organized at a "Camp of Instruction" near Garysburg May 15, 1861, but the 10 companies of which it was formed had been in other camps of instruction at the old fairgrounds at Raleigh and in the Garysburg area since the latter part of April. Some, including the two Warren county companies, the Guards and



CAPTAIN A. LANDIS  
"Grand Old Man of Granville"

Rifles, had already seen action at Fort Macon before their arrival at Raleigh.

Serving with the Grays and the two Warren companies in the 12th regiment was another Granville company, the Townsville Guards, and companies known as the Catawba Rifles, Cleveland Guards, Halifax Light Infantry and Nash Boys. Two others, the Duplin Rifle and Lumberton Guards, had been recruited for six months only and were soon mustered out and replaced by Halifax and Warren-Franklin companies lettered I and K.

### Men Elect Leaders

The gray army of 1861 was more democratic than the armies of today; regulations provided that the men in each company should elect their own officers, that company officers should elect regimental staff and field officers and that non-commissioned officers should be appointed by the officers within each company. The Granville Grays had already elected Augustus Landis first lieutenant, and he was promoted to Captain, replacing George Wortham, who was promoted to Colonel of the 50th, about a year later. Landis and J. B. Hunter, second lieutenants of the Grays, and their brother officers of the nine other companies, selected as their colonel and regimental commander a West Pointer, Sol Williams of Nash, who was later transferred to a cavalry regiment and replaced first by Charles Lightfoot, and later, by H. P. Coleman of Granville.

The regiment left Garysburg by rail May 22, and immediately on their arrival in Richmond, Va., were ordered to Norfolk, where attack was daily expected. In Norfolk, they spent the summer months encamped at Camp Carolina on Ward's farm near the old fair grounds, and spent so much time drilling and parading on an adjoining field that they achieved "a high degree of proficiency in disciplinary maneuvers" — but discipline, in a more general sense, they never did attain.

**Relaxed Military Style**  
A "considerable portion" of See GRAYS on Page 7

## School People In Conferences In Four Areas

Vocational Instructors at Webb and South Granville Participating

Several faculty members from two Granville High Schools, Webb and South Granville, are to participate this week in vocational conferences and training programs being held in various points in the state.

John Gooch of the Webb Vocational Department is spending three weeks at Nash Technical Institute preparing for work in an expanded program with disadvantaged students.

Five instructors, two from Webb, Tom Thornton and Robert Hill, and three from South Granville, John Cassidy, Phil Grady and Ernest Thompson, are participating in the vocational education conference on the campus of A. & T. University, Greensboro.

Dudley Williams Jr. of Webb and Johnnie Strickland of South Granville are at Laurinburg for a conference of Distributive Education coordinators being held on the campus of St. Andrews College.

Six instructors are participating in conference on the campus of Appalachian State University, Boone, during a part of the week. They are A. B. Swindell, who is new in the Webb Industrial Cooperative Training program; R. M. Curran and Wallace Petty in electronics; Gabriel Russell and Maynard Torain in brickmasonry; and Joel Cross in auto mechanics.

Six instructors in vocational home economics, Mrs. Nadine Cunningham and Miss Brenda Stainback, both of Webb, Mrs. Robinette Hesketh, Miss Joyce Brown and Miss Ann George, of South Granville, and Miss Doris Davenport of D. N. Hix School, are participating in conference and instructional programs at UNC-G during a part of the week.

Another six faculty member who is away is Mrs. Nancy Marshall. She is at NCSU participating in a program related to introduction to vocations.

Assistant Superintendent Howard Stallings, in releasing information pertaining to the August conference, said a number of Granville School faculty members had attended campus sessions at various institutions earlier in the summer.

### Birth Announcements

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Larry Brim of Rt. 5, Oxford, a daughter, Ashley Carol, August 1 at Maria Parham Hospital. Mrs. Brim is the former Miss Carol Roberson of Greensboro.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Smitherman of Greensboro, a daughter, Jennifer Lynn, weighing six pounds, 10 ounces, July 31 at Moses Cone Hospital. Mrs. Smitherman is the former Miss Lynette Curran, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lynwood Curran, Rt. 3, Oxford.

Born to Dr. and Mrs. John W. Watson of Pine Cone Drive, a daughter, Elouis Bolyn, weighing six pounds, one-half ounce, Wednesday morning at Granville Hospital. The Watsons have two sons, John, 17, and Peter, 14.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Howard J. Critcher of 3612 Cove Drive, Raleigh, a son, Howard Judson Critcher II, weighing six pounds, seven ounces, Aug. 2 at Rex Hospital. The Critchers have a daughter, Stephanie, 3½. Mrs. Critcher is the former Miss Joan White of Whiteville. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Judson Critcher of Rt. 5, Oxford.

## GP Inc. Doubles Plant Capacity

Tobacco Processing Firm to Double Labor Force to 400 This Week—Capacity Increased to 500,000 Pounds Daily

The sweet aroma of flue-cured tobacco in the redrying process is being wafted over the city by the gentle winds of late summer.

General Processors, Inc., Oxford's one remaining tobacco processing plant, began operating the past week with three shifts keeping the plant going around the clock. The plant is on the corner of Broad and Cherry Streets.

By Wednesday of this week, a complete new redrying line will be ready for operations, doubling the number of employees to about 400, with two complete shifts operating around the clock, according to President-Manager James Smith.

Smith said that during recent weeks, General Processors, which is commencing its fifth year, has installed additional new equipment for tipping and threshing tobacco, doubling capacity of the

plant. Additionally, automatic packers have been installed and are in use at the end of the line.

Smith further said he had experienced no difficulty in securing sufficient labor for full-scale operations of the one line, in which the tobacco is picked, tipped and threshed before it is sealed in hogsheads and moved into storage to await sale and shipment to manufacturers around the world. As to filling the need for another 200 persons, about half of them men, Smith said "We'll just have to wait and see if we can get the labor force we need."

The plant now has sufficient capacity for daily processing of half million pounds of tobacco daily, equivalent to a good sales day on the Oxford market. It takes about 20 flat-bodied trucks to bring that amount of tobacco here from southern markets for processing, according to Smith.

## Fourth of Cropland Devoted to Tobacco

Slightly more than one-fourth of all harvested cropland in Granville County is planted to tobacco, according to the preliminary 1971 farm census summary prepared for the County Commissioners, and compiled and released by the Crop Reporting Service of the N.C. and U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The report indicates that crops this year will be harvested on 41,201 acres, virtually unchanged from 1969. Idle cropland dropped seven per cent to 27,596 acres while pasture remained fairly steady at 22,966 acres.

Major crops harvested in 1970 and their respective acreages are as follows: corn for grain, 10,474; tobacco, 10,712; wheat 2,980; soybeans, 3,281; hays, 7,378, with soybeans or cowpeas accounting for 57 percent of the acre of hay cut.

Of the total of 296,096 total

acres in Granville County farms, 41,201 is in harvested cropland, 27,596 in idle cropland, 14,344 in improved pasture, 8,512 in unimproved open pasture.

Livestock and poultry numbers showed a decline from 1969 with exception of hogs, which had a small increase, from 1,186 sows and gilts for breeding to 1,202. Cows and heifers kept mainly for milk production declined to 2,498 from 2,742, and beef animals decreased to 4,229 from 5,171. Hens and pullets of laying age decreased from 177,528 to 169,930. All counts are subject to revision, the Census people noted.

The census further indicated a decline in farm population. As of January 1, 11,217 were living on farm tracts, down from 12,068 a year earlier, and of that number, 2,000 worked 100 or more days off the farm during the year.

## Carpet Spread, But No VIP's Appear on City's Court St.

It appeared at times Sunday that the city was in process of preparing for visiting VIP's.

In the forenoon, Court Street was closed by the use of traffic cones from Main to the Littlejohn Street alley, with a huge roll of carpet at the west end of the street.

Later, the carpet was rolled out for 40-50 yards in the street.

And then it disappeared, before any VIP's had trod upon it.

It was learned that installation mechanics were using the street to prepare sections of carpet for installation in the Williams-Breedlove Company store, which is in the last stages of a broad program of remodeling and renovation.

## Hearing Tonight On Proposal for Parking Authority

Commissioners of Oxford, in their August meeting Tuesday night at City Hall, will give consideration to personnel policies, landfill operations, dog control ordinance and some of the other matters that have been under consideration at earlier meetings of the board.

The agenda for the meeting had not been prepared when City Hall closed Friday afternoon for the weekend, City Manager Jim Juhl said Friday, however, that he knew of nothing of particular public concern that is to be considered.

Scheduled for the meeting hour is a public hearing on the proposal to establish a parking authority for the city with responsibilities in creating, operating and maintaining off-street parking facilities.

**TWO DIVORCES** were granted in Granville District Court Aug. 4, to Charlie Bryant Woodlief from Jean C. Woodlief and to Frances Norwood Churchill from Percy Lee Churchill, in non-jury trials.

## Car of Sleepy Driver Damages Another in City

An Oxford man, Charles Wesley Hicks, Rt. 1, en route home after having completed a work-shift at a Vance County industrial plant, escaped injury at 5 a.m. Monday when his car struck a parked vehicle on Broad St.

Police Patrolman W. T. Wilson said Hicks told him that he fell asleep at the wheel of his car, a 1966 Oldsmobile. The parked car, a 1964 Chevrolet, was owned by Samuel Hobgood of 512 Broad Street. Damage to the Hicks car was approximated at \$200 and to the Hobgood machine, \$100.

No charge was made against Hicks.

## Seven Hydrants Opened During Saturday Night

Water-wasters kept a force of Oxford police and auxiliaries on the move during Saturday night. Patrolling officers at intervals found caps off water hydrants used for fighting fire, with streams of water pouring from the city's water mains.

Water has been in tight-supply here for more than a year and it has become an expensive commodity.

Before the night was over, police had shut-off the flow in seven hydrants which they had found or which had been reported by residents in scattered sections of the city.

Police said no arrests have been made—yet—in connection with the illegal activity.

## Friend Says Melon Crop Neglected by Big Tomato Grower

John Sanford is wearing a look of concern and he confides it relates to his business neighbor, Bill Harris.

Sanford brought along Exhibit A, a one-pound 14 ounce watermelon, which had been grown

## Out-Migrating Largely Black, Study Reveals

SPD Says Social Life, Advancement Opportunities Lacking

Heavy outmigration, particularly among blacks, is the underlying factor for population decline in the Kerr-Tar Region. Of the 19,000 persons who left the Region during 1960-1970, 15,000 were black. The number was even higher during 1960-1969 when 28,000 outmigrated, 20,000 of them black.

The causes of this heavy outmigration among blacks from the Region cannot be easily defined. A recent research effort by the State Planning Division on the life styles, social life, standards and values, church and religion of blacks, however, may help to establish several possible reasons:

**Lack of Social Outlets**—Blacks, on the whole, are very involved in social life. In rural areas, their social life may be limited to the Saturday visit to the nearest town and the Sunday visit to the nearest church. They tend to seek other outlets in a variety of societies, social clubs and gatherings, meetings and lodges.

Blacks in the age group from 20-30 aspire to a more exciting social life. They find outlets for their social cravings by giving parties on weekends, having outdoor barbecues, and having impromptu gatherings. In any event, however, blacks seem to prefer group activity rather than individual recreation.

Social goals are relatively easy to attain in urban areas. However, the limited range of activities in rural areas presents a restraint to the blacks in their search for social outlets.

Because many blacks are unskilled, they often find themselves holding menial jobs with little or no chance for advancement. This means that blacks holding jobs such as janitorial, maids and farm laborers, have no occasion to achieve by merit or acquire a higher status, which in turn would mean better wages.

Due to the Region's deficiency in job opportunities, rapid outmigration among the young people, ages 15-24, has been excessive. During 1950-1969, approximately 4,000 young people left Region K and more than 2,000 left in 1960-1970.

Blacks seek steady employment as soon as they graduate from high school and in many cases before their schooling is completed. Having worked at an early age on farms and at odd jobs which paid small wages, these young blacks who did complete high school pursue jobs with more assuring probabilities of progressing to a higher status. With jobs such as those being sought, young blacks would be able to gain independence, have wages to spend on themselves, get better clothes, have a more varied social life, and in essence, acquire some of the things that as children they were denied.

Region K, being generally rural and lacking many things the people want, seek and crave, will continue to suffer from heavy outmigration unless it takes every age group into consideration and provides its people with opportunities, employment, favorable social conditions and a better life in general.

The Kerr-Tar Council of Governments has considered these facts, and is at present exerting initial efforts in trying to lessen the exorbitant number of people who outmigrate each year from the Region.

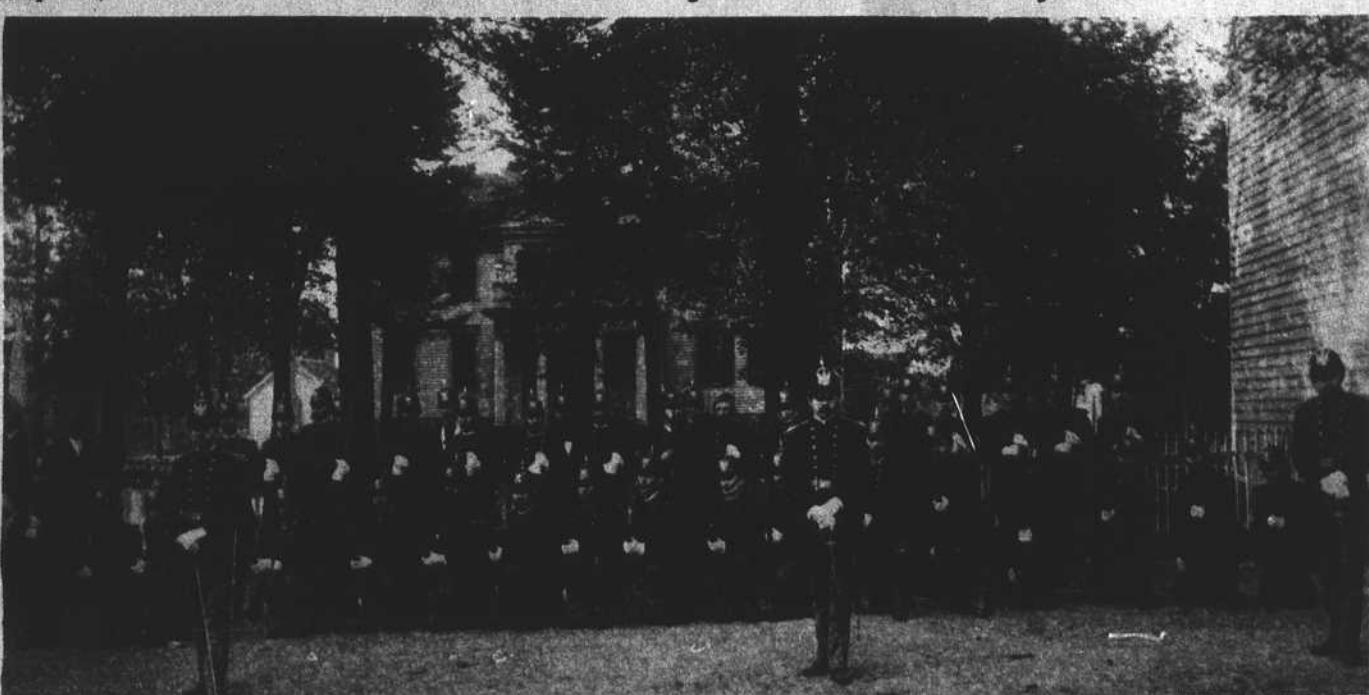
## Installation Of Signals Due by End of August

Contractor Working for State in Several Area Towns

Completion of the installation of traffic signals in the city at highway intersections will be completed by Sept. 1, if terms of the contract with the Highway Department are met, according to Jim Juhl, Oxford City Manager.

Juhl said it was his understanding that the Oxford work is a part of a contract covering highway signal light installations in Oxford, Roxboro, Louisburg, Zebulon and perhaps other towns in this area.

Juhl said the Highway Department will design traffic patterns and paint the traffic lanes on the streets, which will thereafter be maintained by the City of Oxford.



GRANVILLE GRAYS ORGANIZED HERE IN FEBRUARY, 1855 NOW IS NATIONAL GUARD