

HISTORIC TAVERN — This artist's sketch was made from an old photograph of historic Ramsey Tavern at Lockville. The tavern was used as headquarters for British General Cornwallis for two days during his retreat after the battle of Guilford Courthouse. Ramsey's mill was located at the foot of the bluff, on Deep River.

EVENTS OF DEEP RIVER AREA RECALLED

8 Old Millstones Recovered

By DICK BYRD

Eight millstones, one of which is thought to date back to the American Revolution, have been retrieved from their resting place at the site of historic Ramsey's Mill on Deep River near Moncure and presented by Carolina Power & Light Company to the State Department of Archives and History.

Upstream from the location of the millstones, Deep River forms the boundary between Lee and Chatham Counties and then becomes a portion of the boundary between Moore County and Lee, in this county's northeast corner. Continuing upstream, the course of the river winds across the northern part of Moore and turns north into Randolph at Howard's Mill, proposed location of one of the flood control dams advocated by the Army Engineers.

The stones were excavated by CP&L crews at the request of Chatham and Lee County historians. They were located almost within the shadow of the new U. S. Highway 1 bridge that spans Deep River near the point at which it joins the Haw to form the Cape Fear River.

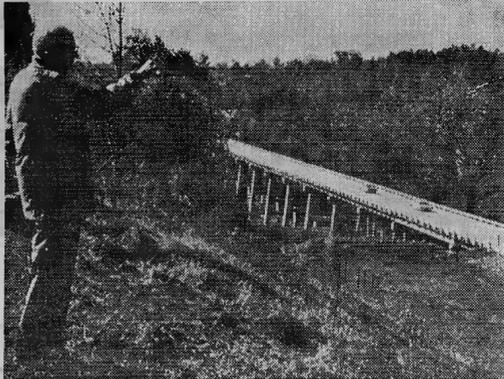
It was here on March 22, 1781, that British General Charles Marquis Cornwallis, beating a hasty retreat from General Nathaniel Greene after the battle of Guilford Courthouse, camped two days while his engineers built a temporary bridge over the river.

Cornwallis made his headquarters at Ramsey's Tavern on a knoll overlooking the river. Troops numbering some 2,000 camped in nearby Glascock Field and for two days were harassed by musket fire from Whig snipers holed up in the old Clegg House nearby.

Several Killed
History relates that several of the British troops were killed before Cornwallis left the area and continued his retreat to Wilmington.

The origin of Ramsey's Mill is lost in history, but it occupied a place of prominence at the time of the Cornwallis episode. It and the tavern nearby had been built by Col. Ambrose Ramsey, court justice and reportedly one of the richest men in Colonial North Carolina.

Its location was ideal for its day, being at the confluence of the tributaries forming the Cape Fear, which already was a water route inland to Campbellton



TAVERN SITE TODAY— Julian Lockhart Bryan of Moncure stands on a knoll where the old Ramsey Tavern stood, overlooking Deep River. At right is the new U. S. Highway 1, north of Sanford, and the bridge over the river. The Ramsey Mill was located on the river just to the left of the bridge. Mr. Bryan recalls the days when a steamboat plied Deep River between Fayetteville and Lockville which was located not far from the area pictured.

(Fayetteville) and beyond.

The locale has gone by many names over the years: "Fork of the Haw and Deep," "Haywood-borough," "Haywood," "Lockville" and finally "Moncure."

In 1788 Haywood was a thriving community. Convenient to water and stage travel and almost exactly in the geographic center of the state, it was in the running with six others for the site of the State Capitol. An oak grove near the present Haywood Presbyterian Church had already been considered for the capitol grounds.

Outvoted by Raleigh

As luck would have it, Haywood was outvoted by Raleigh and lost the chance to become the state capital.

But the community remained a center of commerce. Here was located a branch of the state penitentiary; iron works and several mills flourished; the Raleigh and Augusta Railroad (now Seaboard) built a line through the community, its engineer, Captain Thomas Jefferson Moncure, later giving the community his name.

Perhaps the one thing that set Haywood apart was the presence of the navigation locks on the nearby Deep, allowing river traffic to continue upstream to Carabont and Cumcock.

According to historians, the community became known as

Lockville during the Civil War period, due to the commercial importance of the locks. The Cape Fear Navigation Company, chartered in 1796, had built navigation facilities here and downstream at Buchhorn on the Cape Fear.

The old Ramsey Mill was operated during the Civil War by J. A. Parham, who was relieved of his military duty due to his important occupation as supplier of meal and flour for Confederate troops.

Following the war, John Barringer, born Johannes Behringer in Germany, came to the region and bought the Bland Mill on Haw River. Two weeks later his mill was destroyed by flood waters.

Barringer moved to the Deep River and operated a mill there, later building a three-story brick roller mill near the Ramsey Mill site.

Damaged by Flood

The old Ramsey Mill was badly damaged by flood waters in 1901 and fell into disuse. The millstones, one remaining from its Revolutionary War operation and others reportedly shipped from France during the Civil War era, sank deeper into the silt of the mill's tailrace, where they were found and excavated by CP&L crews.



MRS. JANE STRUTHERS

Mrs. Struthers Returns To CP&L

Mrs. Jane Struthers has returned to Carolina Power & Light Company as home service representative in the Sanford District, it was announced this week by F. Crom Lennon, Sanford District manager.

Mrs. Struthers succeeds Miss Betty Rose Frazier, who recently resigned the post to be married. Mrs. Struthers had held the local position seven years prior to leaving the company last spring.

Lennon said Mrs. Struthers will be working with homemakers, civic groups, with builders and appliance dealers in promotion of "electric living." Her area includes Sanford, Pittsboro, Southern Pines, Aberdeen and Carthage.

John Ciardi To Speak At St. Andrews Friday

John Ciardi—poet, editor, teacher, author, translator—will spend a day and a half on the St. Andrews Presbyterian College campus at Laurinburg, Thursday and Friday, April 11 and 12.

"How Does A Poem Mean?" is Ciardi's lecture title for 8 p. m. Friday at the National Guard Armory. Tickets will be on sale to the public at the doors.

The English department of St. Andrews will have a public reception after the lectures. St. Andrews students will meet Ciardi for a forum-discussion Friday afternoon.

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