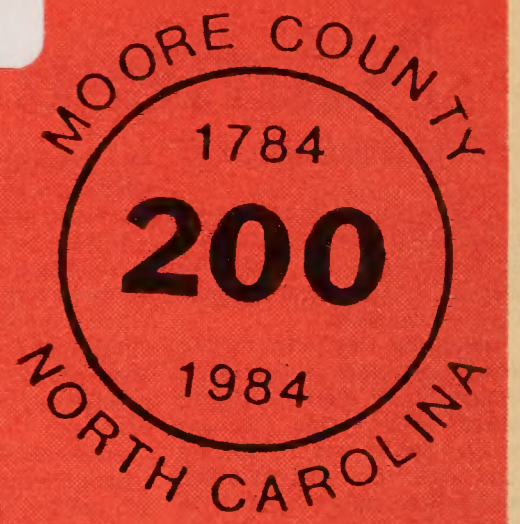


THE PILOT



SOUTHERN PINES, NORTH CAROLINA 28387

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 1984

Founding Of Moore County Came On July 4, 1784

BY MANLY WADE WELLMAN
(Editor's Note: Noted writer Manly Wade Wellman is the author of "The Story of Moore County," a narrative history published by the Moore County Historical Association. A former resident of Pinebluff, he now lives in Chapel Hill.)



Manly Wade Wellman

Eons before this second centennial, Moore County's land came into being. Volcanoes flung molten rock. The sea rolled in and out again, leaving sand and lime. Oozy vegetation was tamped down to become coal. The soil was clay in the northern half, sand in the southern. Mighty pine forests sprang up. Then came animals—even dinosaurs—and, at last, men, Indians.

Archaeologists think that they lived here for a thousand years, departing for mysterious reasons about 1600. We find skeletons, patterned clay bowls, finely chipped flints. In 1746, a surveying party came through to establish the line of Lord Granville's vast possessions. By then, perhaps, John and Thomas Richardson had settled close to Deep River, and before 1750 homes had been built by Duncan Buie, John and Jacob and Jemima McLendon. Others followed. The area began to be a community.

Many settlers were from Scotland, some becoming wealthy. They were sworn loyal to England's king, and when the War of Independence broke out, many mobilized to fight armed rebels. At Moore's Creek in 1776, they were badly beaten by patriot volunteers. Thereafter, many Tory homes were plundered. Young men enlisted on either side. The area saw massive troop movements—Horatio Gates' patriots on their way to defeat in South Carolina, Lord Charles Cornwallis' redecoated Tories on the same route, or other forces. The region's one real battle was at the Horseshoe, today a State Historic Site, where the Tory guerrilla chief David Fanning fought and was fought to more or less a standoff. When peace came, Tory leaders like Connor Dowd and John Martin exiled themselves. Others stayed and again became friends with their Whig neighbors.

Moore County was established as of July 4, 1784, a wedge-shaped slice from Cumberland County. Most of the population lived in the upper half. Philip Alston was elected state senator, but later fi-

became prosperous. But profitable enterprises were stopped by the Civil War.

Moore County sent some 1500 men into Confederate ranks, and a third of them never came back. One battle was fought within county limits, near the old Solemn Grove academy on March 9, 1865, when Sherman's cavalry advance was surprised and routed by Confederates. But the war brought ruin when peace came a month later.

The people sought gamely to recover. Farm produce was raised. The Carolina Western Railroad operated again. The Tyson and Kelly Carriage Works, with a new partner, W.T. Jones, reactivated. Private academies and public schools were in operation. And the great pine forests of southern Moore County became more important than ever. Sawmills cut timber, tar and turpentine were produced. A railroad, the Raleigh and Augusta Air Line, was built through the pine country, and along its course sprang up little shipping points like Cameron, Manly, Blue's Crossing. This, in turn, fostered cities.

In 1879, Francis Allison Page of Cary got off the train at Blue's Crossing. At 55, he had been hard hit by the Civil War, but he bought huge tracts of longleaf pine and began shipping lumber. His talented family worked hard. His son, Walter Hines Page, was a notable writer and would be a political leader. Other Pages were variously gifted and became highly useful to their county.

The Pages made Blue's Crossing into Aberdeen, from the first a center of commerce. Their example brought John Patrick, North Carolina's young Commissioner of Immigration.

He was inspired by reports of invalids recovering their health among the aromatic pine forests, and in 1883 he bought 625 acres of cut-over land from the heirs of the pioneer timberman Charles G. Shaw, and there he founded Southern Pines as a health resort, trumpeting far and wide the benefits of the place for ailing people, chiefly those suffering from tuberculosis. He laid out streets on both sides of the railroad, built hotels, sold homes and prospered. In 1888 he founded another resort town, Pinebluff, seven miles below Southern Pines. People came to visit his

ed a charge of murder to live in Georgia, where he was murdered himself. Early county leaders and officeholders included the sons of exiled Tories, William Martin, Cornelius Dowd and Archibald McBryde.

1790 Census
The first census in 1790 recorded 3,770 residents of Moore County, including 355 black slaves, the smallest number in that category for any North Carolina county.

Moore County had no town, and rather slowly established a county seat, Carthage, in 1796. Schools were built here and there, and churches. Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist, flourished importantly. Academies began, several among the sparsely settled pine forests to the south. Public schools, established under a law of 1839, numbered sixteen in 1850 and 31 a decade later.

In 1850, the great Plank Road began to be built of heavy timbers from Fayetteville to flourishing Carthage. There were stores and taverns and postoffices.

In 1850 Thomas B. Tyson of pioneer descent partnered with Alexander Kelly to found the Tyson and Kelly Carriage Works, an industrial monument at Carthage for decades.

Deep River's channel was dredged and locked to allow travel for rafts of logs, barge loads of turpentine and tar. In 1858, the Carolina Western Railroad came to Carthage. Coal was dug in the northeastern corner of Moore County.

Transportation by rail, by Plank Road, by Deep River, opened greater activity in the Sand Hills. Timber and naval stores began to be major products and owners of timber tracts

towns and happily remained there. The pines grew up again, in stately splendor.

Railroads
Railroads were built, branching from the main line through Southern Pines and Aberdeen. The new Carthage railroad was finished in 1888. Other lines were the Aberdeen and West End Railroad, sponsored by the Pages and the Aberdeen and Rockfish Railway, eastward to Cumberland County. Trains carried pine logs cut from thousands of acres. There were efforts to build ambitious towns called Roseland and Parkwood, which did not survive.

Pinehurst Founded
But in 1893 the county was visited by James Tufts, a Bostonian who had made a fortune by manufacturing soda fountain equipment. He bought from the Pages a 648-tract from which pines had been reaped and shipped away, for \$700. With Frederick Law Olmstead, architect and author, he laid out and built a town called Pinehurst, some half a dozen miles west of Aberdeen.

Tufts built a hotel, installed an electric plant and telephone system, planted beautiful trees and shrubs, and built cottages. He ran a trolley line to Southern Pines and before the end of the century inaugurated a golf course, the first of many to be founded in Moore County. His town did not claim cures for invalids, like Southern Pines. It was simply a resort town, and would become famous throughout the world.

Both Patrick and Tufts advocated fruit-growing. Farmers began to grow peaches, grapes and berries. Tufts also initiated the paving of streets and main country roads with a hard-drying mixture of sand and clay. Southern Pines, Aberdeen and Pinehurst thrived famously.

In 1907, the northeastern corner of the county was cut away to become Lee County, with busy Sanford as county seat. What was left of Moore County prospered, with farms, timber cuttings and resorts. There were lively newspapers—the Sandhill Citizen, founded at Vass and moved to Southern Pines in 1903, later moving to Aberdeen; and The Pilot, first at Vass, than at Aberdeen, and finally at Southern Pines.

James Tufts died in 1902, but his able son Leonard carried on his father's diverse activities. Southern Pines imitated Pinehurst in founding the Southern Pines Country Club, and other courses appeared until they became a major profitable activity. Leonard Tufts also built roads and encouraged fruit farming.

The county had lumber mills, fruit canneries, academies, factories, even gold mines. But farmers knew hard times, especially those who suffered by the ups and downs of the cotton market, and in 1912 the Sand Hills Farmers' Association was organized, followed in 1913 by the Sand Hill Board of Trade. These groups energetically preached diversified farming—grain, fruit, tobacco, poultry, cattle and hogs. A reduction of the cotton crop was urged, and farmers began to prosper again.

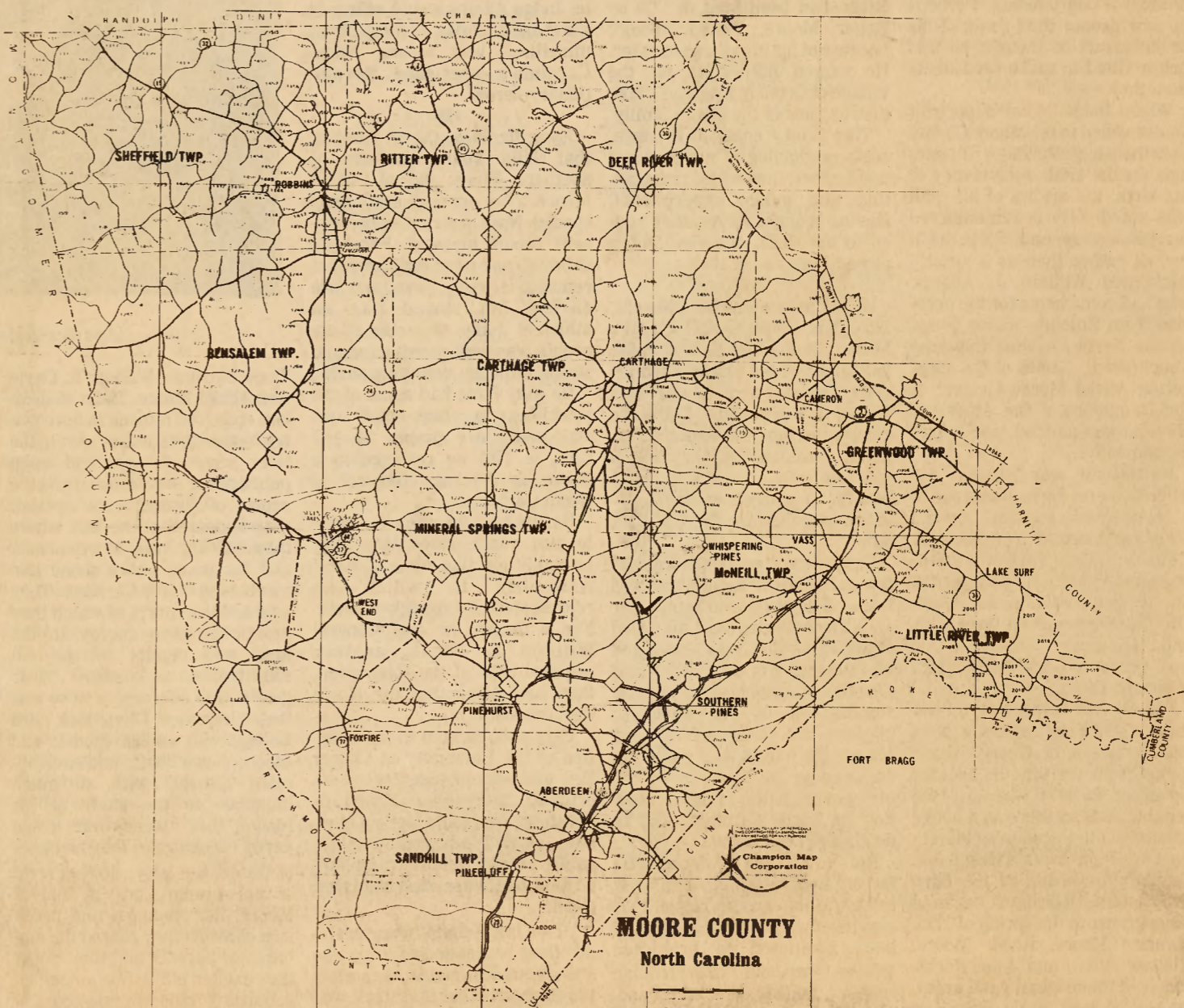
President Woodrow Wilson sent Walter Hines Page to England as ambassador to the Court of Saint James. His brother Robert went to Congress. In 1917 the United States was drawn into it.

Moore County's young men went to battle, and some died in battle. Walter Hines Page was forced to resign his ambassadorship because of ill health, and came home to die at the end of 1918.

Boyd Family
Others came home to live. James Boyd, grandson of the earlier James Boyd who had built Weymouth at Southern Pines and had been a tireless leader in community development, organized the Moore County Hounds to ride after foxes and wrote the classic novel "Drums," with other important books to follow.

Other writers came to Moore County as James Boyd had done; Struthers and Katherine Newlin Burt and Hugh McNair Kahler and Wallace Irwin.

Depression Days
The depression of 1929 found Moore County gamely fighting to stay solvent. Country people went to subsistence farming, raising



their own vegetables and meat. The Public Works Administration helped. The Page Trust Company closed its banks in Aberdeen, Carthage and Cameron, but other banks survived. Pinehurst and Southern Pines reported good resort business, with races, horse shows, golf tournaments and conventions. It was estimated that, during the dreadful decade of hard times, about one in five of the county's population held a job or operated a farm to feed a family.

World War II ended the depression, with yet again the young men off to fight, sometimes to die. Some rose high in rank—Felix Leslie Johnson was an admiral, William Fisher was a general. The welcome end of the war (Continued On Page 4)

Moore Rich In Historic Places--12 On Register

BY PEGGY HOWE
Moore County, rich in history, is rich also in historic places. Those structures deemed

significant historically (such as birthplaces of historic figures or sites of important events) or architecturally are possibilities for

inclusion on the "National Register of Historic Places"—and Moore County boasts 12.

The "National Register" is the "official list of the nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation," and includes districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology and culture.

Inclusion on the list can offer property owners financial advantages as well as various protections for the property. North Carolina's Department

of Cultural Resources maintains a branch for preparing comprehensive surveys of such properties within the state, and nominations come from the state historic preservation officer, Dr. William S. Price Jr., director of the division of Archives and History.

Moore County's historic sites range from log cabins to plantation homes, and include a church, a courthouse and two historic districts. Their ages range from pre-Revolutionary to early 20th century.

Moore County's listings and present uses are as varied as the construction dates. The Phillip Alston House, the famed "House in the Horseshoe," near Glendon (ca. 1773), is significant because it's a typical 18th century plantation house distinguished by its owners and its part in a 1781 Tory battle.

Another listing, significant because of owners and occupants, is the Bethesda Presbyterian Church (ca. 1860) which served as the religious seat of the Moore County Highland Scots. It's described as a "19th century vernacular (traditional) building with interesting...steeple, and contains the original pews."

Among properties listed for architectural significance is the McClendon log cabin at Harris Crossroads, thought to be the 1768 home of Joel McClendon. The cabin boasts a massive stone chimney (rebuilt) and fireplace. The stair to the sleeping loft is a log with steps cut out. The cabin, later used as a kitchen for the Bryant House, has an unusual, rare type of rafter construction used mainly by the English.

Described as the "most prestigious structure in Carthage" is the Moore County Courthouse (ca. 1922) with "typical neo-classical exterior." It is still in use as a courthouse. The Dowd-Kennedy House (ca. 1826-1865), the oldest standing house in Carthage, is listed as a "well-executed Greek Revival house" with simplicity of classic detail.

The Black-Cole House (ca. 1801-1825) at Eastwood, with its clipped gable roof, is a "good

example of Sand Hill style plantation home" and is now being restored.

The 1888 John Blue House in Aberdeen, presently a single-family dwelling, boasts a portico supported by Doric columns. Inside and out, its woodwork is outstanding.

The Malcolm Blue Farm (ca. 1801-1825), also in Aberdeen, is called a "vernacular late Federal-Greek Revival interpretation." Twentieth century outbuildings form an important farm complex. The house, originally a single family farm dwelling, now serves as a museum.

Another Moore County property listed on the National Register is the James Bryant House (ca. 1801-1825) at Harris Crossroads, originally a single family farm

dwelling, and now a museum. The house is "typical of the modest, carefully constructed farmhouse with a rear stair reaching from the hall between two rear shed rooms." Inside there is "a marvelous mantel and overmantel of geometric reeding (carved detailing)."

"Weymouth" (ca. 1916-1930) in Southern Pines is listed on the register because of its zoological and botanical interest. The home of novelist James Boyd, the house, originally a single family dwelling, is owned by The Friends of Weymouth who operate it as a Center for the Arts and Humanities.

The historic districts listed on the National Register are Cameron Historic District because it's a "late 19th century—early 20th century town born on

the turpentine and dewberry industry, now gone;" and Pinehurst Historic District, a resort area, the "original winter health model resort village for northerners." The Pinehurst district still exists in its original layout.

Additional Moore County listings to the National Register will be added in future years, according to Allison Harris, North Carolina's National Register coordinator. The State Professional Review Committee meets quarterly to review and vote on the eligibility of the properties suggested.

In the meantime, Moore Countians can be very proud of the large number of historic sites in their own county, reflecting the heritage left by more than 200 years of earlier North Carolinians.



Old Bethesda Presbyterian Church



Cameron is on National Register of Historic Places