

# Genealogy Is Proving Interesting Hobby Of The Amos Medfords, Clyde

## Cousins Of Eisenhower Traced Here

By GERALDINE R. PEYTON

The two cousins in Haywood County too!

Amos Medford of Clyde has in his possession a cape that belonged to his Great Grandmother Marey Eisenhower Fulbright, and another cape that belonged to her mother, Marey Myers Eisenhower, who was born in 1742. Marey E. Fulbright was the granddaughter of Peter Eisenhower, who was also the President's great-grandfather.

Peter Eisenhower was born in 1716. His father, Hans Nicholas Eisenhower, born in 1691, was the founder of the Eisenhower family in America. He left Europe in 1741 aboard the ship Europa, and landed in Philadelphia, Pa.

Mr. and Mrs. Amos Medford have developed a fascinating hobby of studying genealogy and recording their findings. Their charts can be found in public libraries, in the files of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Daughters houses, the Medfords were able to

of American Colonists, and also in the Genealogical Library of Los Angeles, Calif.

They have just completed an ancestral chart containing approximately 2,000 names. They have also compiled a large scrapbook of letters from practically every state in the union and several foreign countries.

Mr. Medford's Great-Grandmother Marey Eisenhower was married to Barnett Fulbright in 1812. Barnett's father Jacob and his brother John Fulbright settled in what is now Haywood County in 1785. The cove in which they lived was called Fulbright Cove. Later it became known as Dutch Cove because of the great number of settlers who came down from Dutch Cove, Pa.

Among other Haywood County descendants of Marey Eisenhower and Barnett Fulbright are the families of the late Nick Medford and wife, Sara Fulbright Medford, the late Wesley Valentine Robinson and wife, Martha Anne Fulbright Robinson, and the late Charles Jones and wife, Maggie Fulbright Jones.

The first of the Fulbright family to come to America was John Wilhelm Volprecht. He sailed from Rotterdam aboard the ship Robert and Alice, and landed in Philadelphia, Pa. When he was naturalized at Northampton, Pa. in 1762 he changed the spelling of his name to John William Fulbright.

After his marriage to Christianna Halstead, they settled in Dutch Cove, Pa. Two of their sons served in the Revolutionary War. In 1799 they came to a section of Buncombe County which is now Haywood County. Another descendant of John William Fulbright is the United States Senator from Arkansas, James William Fulbright.

During his childhood Mr. Medford listened to the stories of by-gone days, as told by his mother and father, the late Joseph Medford and Martha Liner Medford. He began making notes and seeking further information from elderly friends and relatives.

A great deal of valuable information was gained from an uncle, George Liner, 79 years of age, who now lives in the Ratcliffe Cove section of Haywood County. His file of old letters and papers date back to the early 1800's.

Mrs. Medford's father, the late John Trantham, and his father, the late Merritt Trantham, helped trace a number of family histories.

Mrs. Medford, the former Ruth Trantham, was never particularly interested in genealogy until she was married to Mr. Medford—and his hobby. Along with rearing two sons, Mrs. Medford has become keenly interested in assisting her husband. She finds that her big job is staying prepared for the numerous friends, relatives, and strangers who visit them in search of information about their kin and connections.

Recently Mrs. Medford answered the door and found a couple from Montreal, Canada, seeking information on the Chambers family of Haywood County. After checking files and making trips to both the Asheville and Waynesville courts, she sent the results of their research to Canada.



MR. AND MRS. AMOS MEDFORD of Clyde have developed an absorbing hobby from an interest in family history. They have made a study of genealogical records and have recorded their findings, making hundreds of family charts. Mr. Medford and President Eisenhower have the same ancestor in one family line.

While attending school in Atlanta, Ga., in 1928 Mr. Medford frequently visited the Civil War veteran's Home. He had no relatives or friends there on his first visit, but soon he found that spending an afternoon listening to the old tales of the War Between the States was his favorite pastime.

After returning to his home in Clyde he couldn't forget those old friends in Atlanta. For several years afterwards he went back occasionally for a visit. Finally there was only one veteran left, and the home was closed.

The Medfords accept no pay for their research. They feel they are amply rewarded by the friendships they have gained.

They have traveled through a number of states, always visiting the dead as well as the living. Trips through cemeteries, with a pencil and pad, are a must. In each city or town they visit the Medfords look at city directories and telephone books for names of families in which they are interested. Occasionally they call a person here and there, but usually they make notes. After returning home and checking names, they begin a flow of correspondence.

They have been rewarded with many letters from interested, as well as interesting, persons.

A few years ago Mr. Medford received a letter from Mrs. Ella Grimes of Seattle, Wash. She was hoping to become a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, but had been unable to trace her ancestry in this state. Through his help she became a member. Each year she comes from her home to attend the DAR Congress in Washington, D. C., and each year enroute home she spends a few days with the Medfords in Clyde.

Many friendships, such as this one, have developed through mutual interest in ancestry and the early history of our country.

Mrs. Medford loves to tell the story about the time her husband wrote a lady in Florida asking for information concerning the Medfords in that state. After some time he received a letter in return accusing him of being her first husband. The names were the same—but not the men!

Once while pursuing his hobby in a remote section of Tennessee, a case of mistaken identity almost brought an end to Mr. Medford's special interest. He had been told that he might find some family records at an old homestead up a certain creek. As he approached the house he noticed a man loading something into a truck. Suddenly the stranger

pulled a gun and told him he knew he was a revenue officer. It took a lot of talking, but Mr. Medford finally convinced the bootlegger that he was not a "revenue," and the two sat down and split a watermelon.

The Medfords have also compiled genealogical charts on the following families: Liner, Trantham, Graff, Ratcliff, Byers, Owen, Massey, Plemmons, Myers, Halstead, Eisenhower, Robinson, Medford, Fulbright, Brown, Keener, Jarrett, and others.

According to Mr. and Mrs. Medford, the Haywood County Library now contains the second largest collection of micro-filmed U. S. census records up to 1880. Other sources of information include archives in state capitols, courthouse records, libraries, deeds, and old Bibles.

Considerable assistance was given the Medfords by Mrs. Lottie Bear of Mt. Wolf, Pa. Mrs. Bear is the widow of Paul A. Bear, historian of the Eisenhower family. She owns the old Peter Eisenhower Bible.

An old German Bible that belonged to Barnett Fulbright in 1815 has furnished the Medfords with additional dates and connections.

Mrs. Neal Carr of Clyde now has in her possession the old Aaron Fulbright Bible.

The Medfords have also exchanged genealogical data with Mrs. Cleo McKinney of Springfield, Mo., Senator James William Fulbright of Arkansas, Judge Mark Fulbright of Tennessee, and Mrs. Ella Grimes of Seattle, Wash.

Mr. and Mrs. Medford are looking forward to retirement when they can devote full time to genealogical research.

Mr. Medford has been an employee of the Carolina Division of the Champion Paper and Fibre Company for twenty-three years.

## WCC Exhibiting Rare Collection Books This Week

"Great Books of the Western World," a Britannica collection, will be on exhibit in the Gallery of Hunter Library at Western Carolina College from Monday, November 14, through Saturday, November 19.

Mrs. Lillian Buchanan, Librarian, said that Western Carolina is listed as one of the founders, others being individuals, business concerns, and college and public libraries. In April, 1952, she attended a dinner at the Waldorf Hotel in New York City, at which time the plan was presented. By subscribing to the idea, the college now owns the founders' edition of all the volumes in the collection.

The first three volumes comprise a synoptic, the first one being Great Conversations, and the next two, Great Ideas. Several of the first volumes in the collection were devoted to the Greek classics, including works of Plato, Aristotle, Archimedes, and many others. The continuity then follows through Italy, France, Germany, England, and ends with the works of William James and Sigmund Freud. Only two novels are included—Herman Melville and Count Leo Tolstoy.

Mrs. Buchanan said that the original volumes are for reference only; however, individual copies of each selection contained in the volumes have been bought for circulation.

In connection with this event, the Library is simultaneously displaying an exhibit of Modern Literature featuring works on drama, poetry, fiction, art, music and biography.

Mrs. Medford is employed by John Carroll, Inc. in Asheville.

### NOTICE OF SALE OF CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROPERTY

The Board of Education of Haywood County will offer for sale to the highest bidder, on Wednesday, November 16, 1955 at 2:30 o'clock p.m., premises, the Central Elementary School property located at Wood Street, Boyd Avenue Street and Academy Street Town of Waynesville, including brick school building located on the property will be into small lots and will first as lots, then as a whole if the prices offered for each lot is fair and reasonable. The sale will be confirmed by the Board of Education to the highest bidder.

The school property will be on the following terms: One-third cash, the balance equal payments in one or more years, with interest from cured by a Deed of Trust property.

The Board of Education of Haywood County reserves the right to reject any and all bids in its opinion the property falls a sufficient sum of money by made pursuant to heretofore made by the Board of Education of Haywood which order appears in the regular meeting on October 19, 1955.

The sale will be conducted under the supervision of the Board of Education of Haywood County. This the 19th day of November, 1955.

The Board of Education of Haywood County,  
By: J. R. Cole, Chairman  
Attest: Lawrence B. Little, Secretary  
W. R. Francis, Jr.  
2576—O 31 N 7-14-21-21

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JOHN WAYNE THE FIGHTING KENTUCKIAN. A REPUBLIC PICTURE.

2nd HIT. ANNE BANCROFT, CAMERON MITCHELL IN "GORILLA AT LARGE" Technicolor.

— ALSO — Cartoon and Chap. No. 3 "Adv. of Captain Africa"

## PARK Theatre Program

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AT LAST — HERE IT IS! 3 BIG DAYS TO SEE THE EXCITING TRUE STORY OF AMERICA'S MOST DECORATED HERO! "TO HELL AND BACK" (In Cinemascope & Color) Starring AUDIE MURPHY

THURSDAY, NOV. 17

"MAN IN THE DARK" Starring EDMOND O'BRIEN, AUDREY TOTTER

FRIDAY, NOV. 18. DOUBLE FEATURE

"ROCK 'N ROLL REVUE" Featuring AN ALL STAR CAST Plus "HIDE 'EM COWBOY" Starring ABBOTT and COSTELLO

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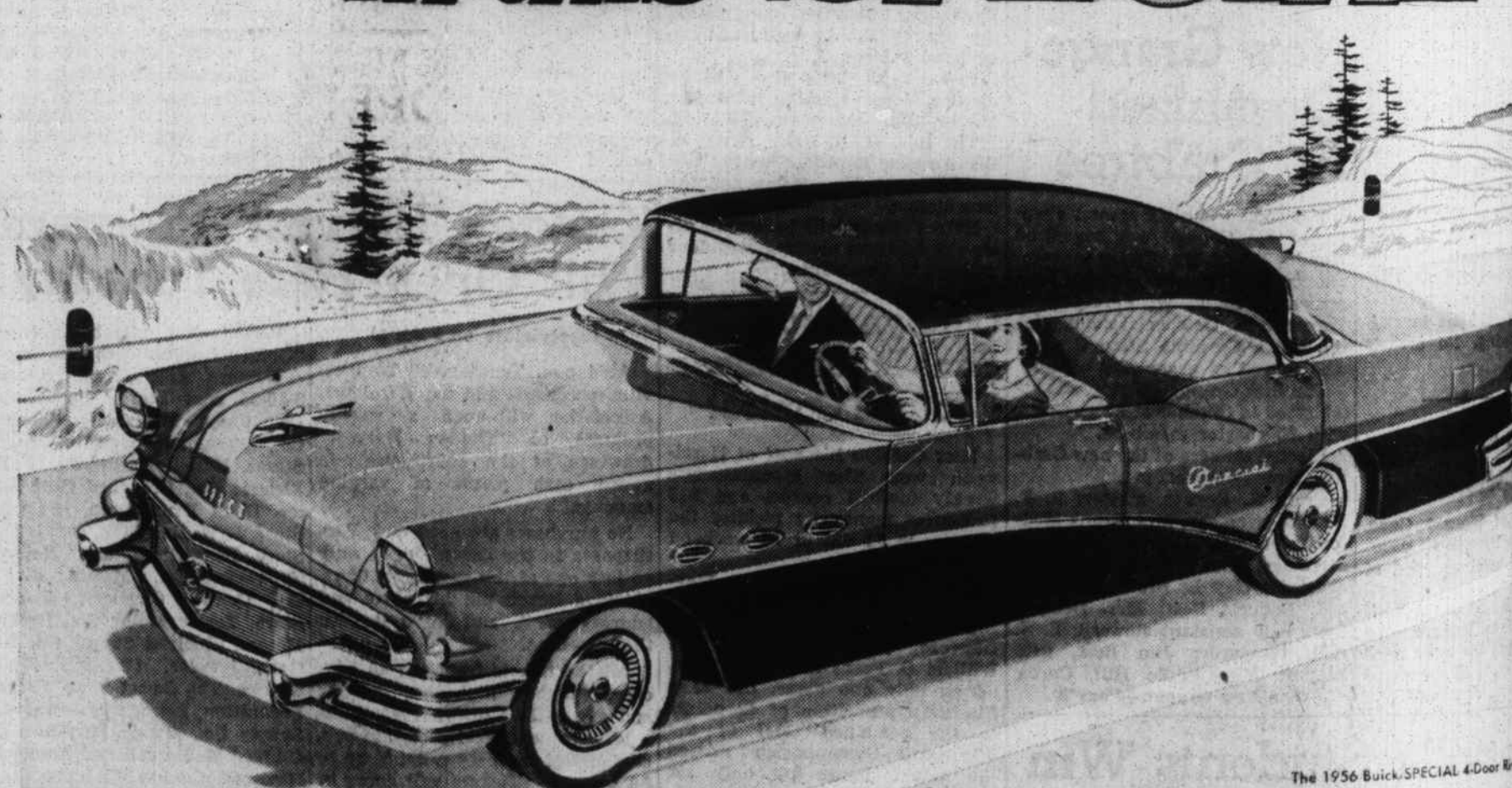
TUES. & WED., NOV. 15 & 16

"THE FAR COUNTRY" (In Color) Starring JAMES STEWART, RUTH ROMAN, CORINNE CALVET, WALTER BRENNAN

THURS. & FRI., NOV. 17 & 18

"VIOLENT SATURDAY" (In Cinemascope & Color) Starring VICTOR MATURE

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