

## Marker Is Erected To Surry Pioneer

Last Saturday, September 25, at Siloam, a marker was unveiled, under auspices of the Daughters of the American Revolution, to the memory of Samuel Freeman, a revolutionary soldier and patriot.

The ceremonies were very simple, and those present consisted almost entirely of the descendants and relatives of this revolutionary soldier. After the reading of this

letter America was sung, and Robt. A. Freeman, a great-great-grandson, read a paper on the life of Samuel Freeman, stating facts taken from the Court records at Dobson and from the Colonial records of North Carolina. After the reading of this paper the marker was unveiled by Mary Blanche Palmer, of Rockingham, North Carolina, and by Elizabeth Freeman, of Dobson, North Carolina, both great-great-granddaughters of Samuel Freeman. Then an appropriate prayer was offered by Mrs. J. R. Marion, the wife of a great-great-grandson.

The marker is situated on a knoll just South of the depot at Siloam, overlooking the Yadkin River, where Samuel Freeman was buried, on the lawn at the old

colonial dwelling, doubtless erected by the said Samuel Freeman, before the Revolutionary War. The main part of the old dwelling is still standing, and shows evidences of great age. It is situated on what is now the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Hardy, on the road leading down the Yadkin River from the depot.

The paper which was read by Mr. Freeman follows in full:

"We have met today to unveil a marker to the memory of Samuel Freeman, a revolutionary patriot, soldier and statesman. He was one of the first settlers in Surry County after its formation in 1771. In that year we find a deed to him recorded in Book A at page 5, among the first deeds recorded in the County, dated August 20, 1771, conveying to him 459 acres on the North bank of the Yadkin River, above the mouth of Hogan's Creek, and another deed dated July 20, 1771, recorded in Book A at page 6, granting to him 417 acres adjoining the first tract, granted by the Right Honorable Earl of Granville, one of the Lords Proprietors, who held his part of the land by division with the King, after North Carolina became a royal province. From time to time Samuel Freeman acquired other tracts along the Ararat River at its mouth, and on Hogan's Creek, until we find that he owned about 2000 acres of land along the Yadkin River. The land on which we stand is a part of that land granted to him, and this house near-by was doubtless built by him before or during the revolutionary period.

Samuel Freeman, along with his brother, William, came from Chowan County. Their father was William Freeman, whose will is recorded in that county, in which he gave to each of his six sons a large plantation. William Freeman, as our family tradition goes, was the son of John Freeman, of

Chowan or of Beaufort County. John moved Southward from Massachusetts, and before leaving married Mercy Brewster, the daughter of Jonathan Brewster, whose father was Elder William Brewster, one of the founders of the Cape Cod Colony. This John, the father of William, came from Devonshire, England, in about the year 1635 on the good ship Anagall. Perhaps he settled for a while in Virginia and then came Southward to either Beaufort or to Chowan County. His son, William, we know, died in 1736, as his will was filed for registration during that year.

At the time Samuel Freeman moved to Surry County and settled here, he was 56 years old, and had married Elizabeth Alexander of Mecklenburg County. He served his country during the period of the revolutionary war and died in 1796. His will is recorded in that year in Book 3, page 19, naming as his children: Joshua Freeman, his oldest son, who likewise became a large land owner on the Yadkin River, and who moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1809 and died there and his descendants are living there today; James Freeman, who also moved to Blount County, Tennessee; Aaron Freeman, my great-great grandfather, who alone of the boys remained in Surry County; Rachel Freeman, who married Jeremiah Early, who came from Virginia and who was a near relative of General Jubal Early, and whose daughter married Micajah Reeves the father of Richard Reeves and Micajah Reeves, whom some of us knew and who lived in the dwelling house near; Nannie, who married a Badgett and also moved to Tennessee; and Nancy, who married a Huett and moved back to Mecklenburg County, where her mother, Elizabeth, came from.

Soon after Samuel came to Surry County he was appointed, in 1774, by the General Assembly, on a committee, along with Richard Goode, Grey Bynum and others to build a Court House, a prison and stocks for the said County. This court house was built at old Richmond, in what is now Forsyth County. Colonial records, volume 23 at page 973. In 1775 he was on the Committee of Safety for Surry County along with Benjamin Cleveland, Richard Goode, Joseph Winston, Matthew Moore, Chas. Wardsell, John Armstrong and others. Colonial Records, volume 19 at page 251. In 1776 he was appointed by Act of the General Assembly as one of the justices for erecting county courts and for putting into execution the laws, Colonial Records, volume 23 at page 994. These justices were practically the same men as those on the Committee of Safety, who served before the new government could be formed, and who continued and served, after the formation of the new government, in charge of both civil and military affairs, for the county. In 1777, at the age of 62, Samuel Freeman enlisted for service as a soldier, in Dixon's Company, first North Carolina Battalion, commanded by Col. Thomas Clark. Colonial Records, volume 15, at page 732. After serving his enlistment, he was elected as member of the General Assembly for Surry County, held at Halifax. In 1781 he was appointed on a committee to receive the captured arms, taken at Kings Mountain. He was also in the House of Commons in 1783. Colonial Records, volume 17, at pages 715 and 648, 749 and 752. We thus see that Samuel Freeman was active in all of the affairs of the early government throughout the entire period of the Revolutionary War, as a patriot on the first committee of safety, as soldier during the struggle, and as law-maker.

### CYCLE

The revival meeting is in progress at Mountain View this week. The pastor is being assisted in the services by Rev. Mr. Melton of Concord.

N. S. Groce had the misfortune to have a fine horse die Sunday. Farmers are about through curing tobacco. Some crops are just fine, both in quality and quantity. Corn crops in our section are especially good and every family has plenty of pork fattening.

Nelson Casstevens has just built a large pack house on his farm to house the large crop of fine tobacco grown on his farm this year.

West Yadkin school is going good. The added agricultural training department will doubtless be of great help to our community.

We are sorry to note that Will Dobbins of Elkin is in the hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Dobbins are former residents of this community.

The young people gathered at the tobacco barn of Bovard Collins Saturday night for a chicken stew and weiner roast.

Mrs. Paul Hawkins is quite sick, we regret to learn. Miss Alice Mae Tucker, who holds a position in Winston-Sa-

lem, spent the week-end here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Tucker.

Robert Groce of New Castle, Ind., is spending some time here the guest of relatives.

Some men have a good memory for faces especially if it is a very pretty face.

### NOTICE

Pursuant to an order of the County Board of Education of Surry County, the said County Board of Education will sell at public auction for cash on the

premises, on Thursday, the 14th day of October, 1937, at one o'clock P. M. a part of the lot lying in the town of Dobson, N. C., adjoining the lands of the Methodist Parsonage lot and W. L. Reece, the part to be sold is the South West corner adjoining the

Methodist Parsonage lot being 50 by 60 feet fronting the street passing the school building. This is the 11th day of September, 1937.

COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SURRY COUNTY, By John W. Comer, Sec.

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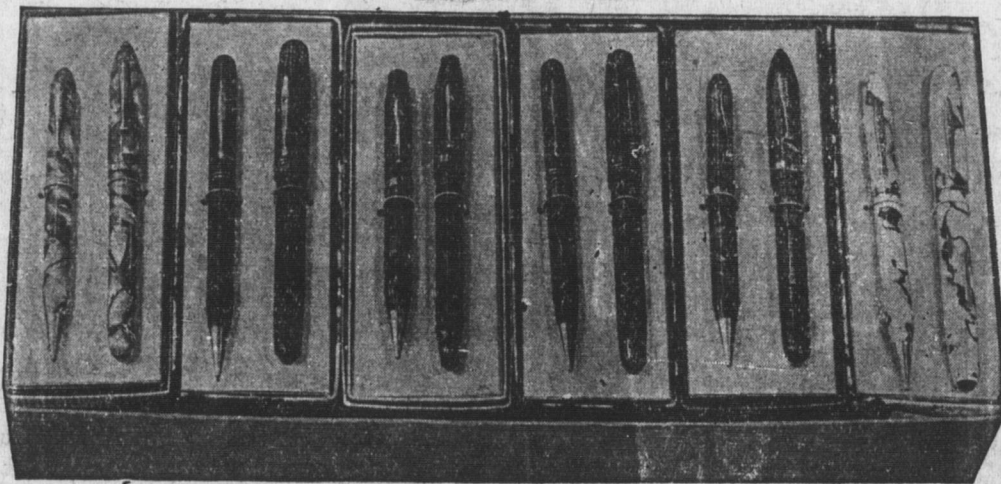
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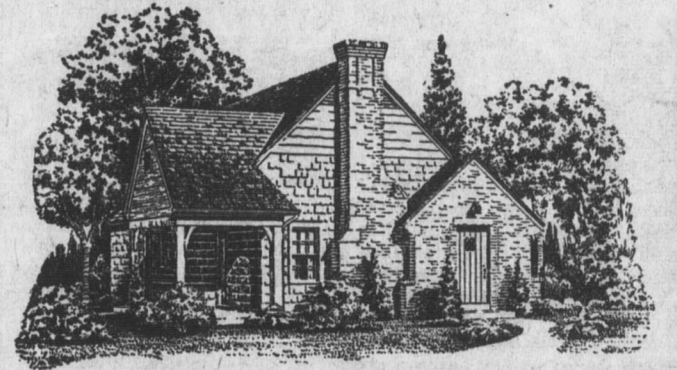
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