

Genesis of Duplin County Is Given By A. T. Outlaw, County Historian

Outline of History of Beginning of County Shows that Original Settlers Have Many Descendants Living Here.

FIRST ARRIVALS WERE OF SCOTCH - IRISH DESCENT
Formed Schools, Churches, and Established Towns at Three Main Points

(By A. T. Outlaw)

When asked to write a historical outline of Duplin County no particular period or part of the County's history was assigned to me. The history of Duplin County would fill a book and therefore many interesting and important points cannot at this time and place be mentioned. However, a brief outline of the County's genesis or foundation

may possibly be of some interest to the readers of the special Strawberry Festival edition of the Enterprise, Duplin's oldest newspaper.

A careful study reveals that a large number of our citizens of today are of the same blood as our first settlers who worked energetically and religiously for educational, religious, agricultural and industrial development of this section and who were of a calibre that might have been a credit and a benediction to any section of the country. From an occasional glance at the past we are sometimes reminded of our duty to posterity in the same faithful manner as that performed for us by those sturdy pioneers of the early days. Individual and selfish ancestor-worship should

be discouraged but a modest pride in the character and noble achievements of our County's founders and benefactors, as a whole, is indeed worth while. Their works are, to a large extent, responsible for the fact that our County of today is one that is largely made up of as good and noble men and women as the country affords. The history of any section is little or nothing more than that of its people. In the Rockfish (Wallace) community, where the Strawberry Festival is an annual event, the public spirit of the forefathers may be clearly seen in the lives of their descendants.

The first settlers in Duplin County (then upper New Hanover) were Irish, or Scotch-Irish, from northern Ireland. They came to America under the patronage of one Henry McCulloch about the year 1736. McCulloch was a wealthy merchant of London and received from the King (George II) several grants for large tracts of land in the Carolinas. He persuaded the King that he could place colonists on the lands in large numbers and the King was, of course, anxious to colonize the New World. The colonists came and occupied the land of McCulloch upon certain conditions as to title and McCulloch made certain promises to the King as to the number to be imported and the number of acres to be received. According to the evidence a number of the promises were never fulfilled and there was considerable dispute about the McCulloch grants. The McCulloch settlers were in three groups as follows: Sarecta, on North East river; Goshen, near the mouth, and the Grove which is now Kenansville. McCulloch himself lived at Sarecta for a short time. About the same time, or soon thereafter, many other families came into the section from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia, the Albemarle section of this State and from the nearby counties of Dobbs (now Lenior), Craven and Onslow. They were settled mainly along the North East river and its principal tributaries, to-wit: Rockfish, Island Creek, Maxwell, Grove, Muddy Creek, Limestone, Goshen and Burncoat. Colonel John Sampson was in charge of the militia in this part of New Hanover County and about one hundred of our colonial militiamen were with him "upon the alarm (Spanish) at Wilmington" in September, 1748. The reading of names reveals the fact that they are the ancestors of a large part of our population today, including James, Fussell, Williams, Carr, Boney, Murphy, Wells, Hanchey, Murray, Brice, Houston, Rhodes, Thomas, Miller, Gavin, Hollingsworth, Dickson, Kenan, Routledge, and many others.

en by Captain Joseph Williams who succeeded William McRee, Jr., as Sheriff.

Among the ministers of the Presbyterian denomination in the early days we find the Reverends Hugh McAden, John Robinson, Samuel Stanford, the Tates, McIver, Connerly, and others. The first settlers were of this denomination. Their principal places of worship were at the Grove (now Kenansville), Rockfish near Wallace, and a place near Goshen in the Faison community. Among the ministers of the Baptist denomination in the early days we find the Reverends William Goodman, Charles Hines, Francis Oliver, Silas Carter, William Wells, Jacob Williams, Job Thigpen, and others. Their principal places of worship were at Bear Marsh, Nahunga, Concord, Island Creek, Muddy Creek, Limestone and Prespect. The first Methodist minister was the Reverend Beverly Allen who came after the Revolutionary War. He was followed by other circuit ministers. They organized churches at Maxwell, Rockfish and Island Creek. For some years they were under the care of the Reverend Peter Carlton, a native of the County, and other local ministers.

Among the early educational institutions the old Grove Academy at Kenansville was the first. It was established by an Act of the Assembly prior to the establishment of our State University and of the numerous men who attended it many of them became conspicuous in the affairs of the County, State and Nation, and were men who breathed a spirit of exalted piety and devotion to good causes. Prior to this time, however, the County had several schoolmasters and among them was Henry Gillman who taught at various places in the neighborhoods of Rockfish and Maxwell for several years. Some of the other established institutions were the following named academies: Williams, Friendship, Bethel, Hannah Moore and Washington.

In the Revolutionary War a large majority of the people of this County were enthusiastic American patriots and played an important part from beginning to end. A full and just description of that period in our history would require considerable time and space. Then, too, this brief and hurriedly written outline was intended to cover only the genesis or foundation of Duplin County.

To Tell of Heart In 4-H Club Work

Fundamental to the success of the other three H's in 4-H Club work is the heart H, declares Miss Frances MacGregor, assistant club leader with headquarters at State College.

In a radio talk on the Carolina Farm Features program Saturday, June 5, Miss MacGregor, until recently home agent in Cleveland County, will explain the importance of the heart H in club work.

Because of the success which she has enjoyed in working with

4-H members, Miss MacGregor is well qualified to discuss all phases of club work. While in Cleveland County she became well-known for her unusual ability in the organizing and developing of these clubs.

Also to be heard during the week will be C. J. Maupin, extension poultryman at State College, who will bring to the radio audience Friday, June 4 another in a series of talks devoted to the upbuilding of the poultry industry in North Carolina.

Attend the Strawberry Festival here all Next Week.

Strip-Cropping Helps In Soil Conservation

Farmers in the Hunterville area of the Soil Conservation Service report that they are finding it much easier to establish rotations where strip-cropping is practiced, according to (Continued on Page 7)

—Come to Wallace June 7-12—
Pays \$900 For Jack

Gus Edwards of Cane River, Yancey County, paid \$900 for a seven-year-old Spanish Jack weighing 900 pounds. The animal was purchased in Kentucky.



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