

# Annals of the Fleeting Years

## Hall of Fame: Bill Ferrand

By TUCKER R. LITTLETON

Bill Ferrand, as old residents of Swansboro remember him, was the first son of William Pugh Ferrand and Leah Y. Ferrand. Though always referred to locally as Bill—probably to distinguish him from his father, William P., and his grandfather, William—Bill Ferrand's full name was William Pugh Ferrand Jr.

He was born in Swansboro on Aug. 20, 1819, and was given all the advantages his well-to-do father could give. After his brother Stephen died in 1826 at the age of 5, Bill Ferrand was the only child of the family until a third son, Eugene Ferrand, was born to Wm. P. and Leah Ferrand around 1830.

Little more is known of Bill Ferrand until he became old enough for college. At 16 he was a student at the University of North Carolina, and it is known that he attended there in 1835-36.

By 1839 he was back in Swansboro, whence he wrote to his cousin, Miss Mary Ferrand, of Salisbury, the following letter, which, in addition to the bit of news it gives, also reveals the ambitious young man's discontent with a small, sleepy coastal village.

"Swansboro, August 14, 1839. Dear Cousin, . . . There has been a great many cases of Bilious Fever in this county. Two young men have died in this place (in Swansboro) and one young man and three young ladies in the county. I expect every hour to be taken with a fever but am (in) hopes I shall escape. Father and Eugene have been very sick. It was thought Eugene would die.

" . . . We have a great many watermelons here which weigh 35 lbs. . . I do not think I can stay in this modern Sodom much longer. Wm. Ferrand.

"P. S. You are never at a loss

for something, for you . . . can both hear and see something. My case is different for I had very near been out of this world as to be here where I can neither hear nor see nothing but marshes and water."

Bill Ferrand, as seen from his letter, usually signed his name simply as William to avoid confusion with his father's name, and thus it appears in most of the letters and legal documents. Also seen from the letter, there is the glimpse of early 19th-century Swansboro with the horizon dominated by marsh and water.

Ferrand's reference to Sodom may indicate that the town saw quite a lot of roughness and riotous living from the seamen who frequented that port and from the native residents themselves. But one blessed thought looms upon the dark background that Ferrand has described—they have a plenty of good ole Bogue Sound watermelons!

Again in a letter to Mary S. Henderson, Salisbury, November 25, 1843, Bill Ferrand mentions that there is at that time an epidemic of fever, probably the same type as mentioned in the 1839 letter, raging in Onslow. The fever, says Ferrand, struck in October; and it apparently swept the whole county.

Three years later in 1846 Wm. P. Ferrand Sr., was calling his business by the name of Ferrand & Son; but that was the year before Wm. P., Sr., died and the partnership of father and son was necessarily a short one. That same year Bill Ferrand, a young man of only 27, sought and won the election to the state legislature.

He won the office of state senator, representing Onslow County for that 1846 term. It could have been due to his father's death the

next year, that he never sought re-election.

The will of William P. Ferrand Sr., probated in 1847, named William Ferrand as his father's executor, along with Daniel Ambrose Harget and David W. Simmons. Records reveal that soon after his father's death, Bill Ferrand left Swansboro to try his luck with another business firm. In 1851 and 1852 he was associated with Henry Waring & Son, of New York, N. Y.

All available evidence points to the fact that Bill Ferrand was married twice. A marriage bond was issued to Wm. Ferrand and Sarah A. Kimball in Onslow County on April 1, 1848; but Miss Mary F. Henderson, family historian, thinks that that marriage was of short duration. The details of his second marriage, which occurred a number of years later and seems to have been a happy one, are not known.

While Bill Ferrand was with Waring & Son in New York, his younger brother Eugene was finishing his stay at the University of North Carolina. The records show that Eugene was in attendance there from 1849 to 1851. Then in 1859, Eugene Ferrand, in the prime of life, was called from this realm of existence in January of that year, leaving Bill Ferrand the last member of his family to carry on the name that had once been synonymous with aristocracy and wealth, education and culture in Swansboro, for Bill Ferrand died without issue.

Little is known of Bill Ferrand after he left New York. The facts establish that he later settled in Richmond, Va., and it is known that during the Civil War he served in the headquarters of the War Department in Richmond. But the details of his position with the War Department are missing.

We know only that as a result of his spirited exertion in the cause of the South he lost all his inheritance and wealth, a loss which Ferrand found it extremely hard to become adjusted to, having been used to the wealth of his family in the ante-bellum South.

His last preserved letter, written to his cousin, Mary S. Henderson, from his home in Richmond, Va., portrays quite vividly the despair and poverty of the post-war South. The letter, dated March 18, 1867, declares its writer completely destitute of funds and gives insight into the economic conditions of the Southern States following the Civil War.

JULY 1960	
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(Editor's Note: to keep this calendar up to date, readers' cooperation is needed. If your organization has changed its meeting time or is no longer meeting, please inform THE NEWS-TIMES, PA6-4175).

### TODAY

Noon—Civitan Club, Mrs. Russell Willis's restaurant, Morehead City  
7:30 p.m.—Duplicate bridge, Inlet Inn, Beaufort

### SATURDAY

7:30 p.m.—Teen canteen, Scout building, Beaufort  
8 p.m.—VFW dinner, post building, Beaufort

### MONDAY

9:30 a.m.—Social Security representative, courthouse annex, Beaufort

Noon—Morehead-Beaufort board of realtors, Rex restaurant, Morehead City

6:30 p.m.—Rotary Club, School lunchroom, Newport

7 p.m.—Beaufort rescue squad, fire station

7 p.m.—Jaycees, Blue Ribbon restaurant, Morehead City

7:30 p.m.—Fire Department, fire station, Morehead City

7:30 p.m.—Woodmen of the World, Camp 188, Morehead City

7:30 p.m.—Carteret County Bridge League, recreation building, Morehead City

7:45 p.m.—Masonic Lodge, Newport

8 p.m.—Order of Eastern Star, lodge hall, Beaufort

8 p.m.—Woman's Auxiliary, First Presbyterian church, Morehead City

8 p.m.—Loyal Order of Moose, lodge hall, Atlantic Beach

8 p.m.—Morehead City chamber of commerce board of directors, chamber office at Hotel Fort Macon

### TUESDAY

9-11 a.m.—Clinic, Morehead City hospital annex. (Shots administered during these hours only)

9-11 a.m.—X-ray clinic, county health center, Beaufort

1-4 p.m.—Clinic, county health center, Beaufort. (Shots administered during these hours only)

6:45 p.m.—Rotary Club, Scout building, Beaufort

7 p.m.—World War I Veterans, Blue Ribbon restaurant, Morehead City

7:30 p.m.—Esther Rebekahs, recreation building, Morehead City  
7:30 p.m.—Coast Guard Reserve Unit, Coast Guard Station, Fort Macon road

No one could read the letter, fully aware of the wealthy gentleman he once was and the loss he later suffered, without being greatly moved.

From that time—1867—the name Ferrand began to vanish from Swansboro except for some landmarks connected with the name and some old citizens who couldn't forget the days that had once been. Except for the signature of Wm. Ferrand which appears on one deed in Onslow County sometime in the latter 1870's, the 1867 letter of Ferrand's is the last time that he was heard from.

So far, the date of his death has not been ascertained. But one fact remains: that with Bill Ferrand passed an era, a great family, and a day in Swansboro's history that goes unmatched.

For family records, I am again indebted to Miss Mary Ferrand Henderson, of Chapel Hill, who has been most cooperative from my beginning until this closing article on the Ferrand family.

## FHA Supervisors Attend Clinic at Newport Farm

I. M. Robbins, county supervisor for Farmers Home Administration in Carteret and Craven counties, attended a two-day work shop on farm planning on a farm near Newport this week.

FHA supervisors from eight eastern counties attended the workshop. The farm was one on which Soil Conservation Service scientists had worked out the capabilities of the soils on each type of soil found on the farm and recommended treatment for these soils to get maximum production.

The Forestry Service had worked out a woodland management program. Soil tests in each field had been made and liming and fertilizer recommendations were made.

The Farmers Home Administration supervisors studied this information and made a thorough inspection of the farm. Then they planned a system of farming that would make the best use of the land and give maximum income

from the farm. They also planned all buildings and land improvements needed for the system of farm.ag planned.

They met long-time goals that could be accomplished and planned the farm management practices that would be necessary to accomplish these goals.

Mr. Robbins reports that he expects to be able to use the information gained in the clinic in doing a better job of planning a more efficient program with the farmers he is working with in these counties.

Mr. Robbins will be glad to discuss the Farmers Home administration program with any interested farmers. A part time office, located on the second floor of the court house annex, Beaufort, is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday of each week.

The Craven county office on the second floor of the Dunn Building, New Bern, is open from 8 a.m. to

## Marshallberg Cubs, Scouts Enjoy Jubilee

Cub Scouts of den 225, Marshallberg, took part in a Cub Scout Jubilee at Marshallberg Saturday. Cubs, Boy Scouts and parents attended.

Winners in a series of events among the Cubs were the following:

Running broad jump, Gary Lewis, first, Jesse Berner, second; still race, Woody Pake, first, Jesse Berner, second; puddle jumper race, Jesse Berner, first, Jim Lewis, second.

Roller race, Jim Lewis, first, Jesse Berner, second; 25-yard dash, Gary Lewis, first, Jesse Berner, second; sack race, Jim Lewis, second.

5 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week.

is, first, Jesse Berner, second; obstacle course relay, Jim Lewis, first, Gary Lewis, second.

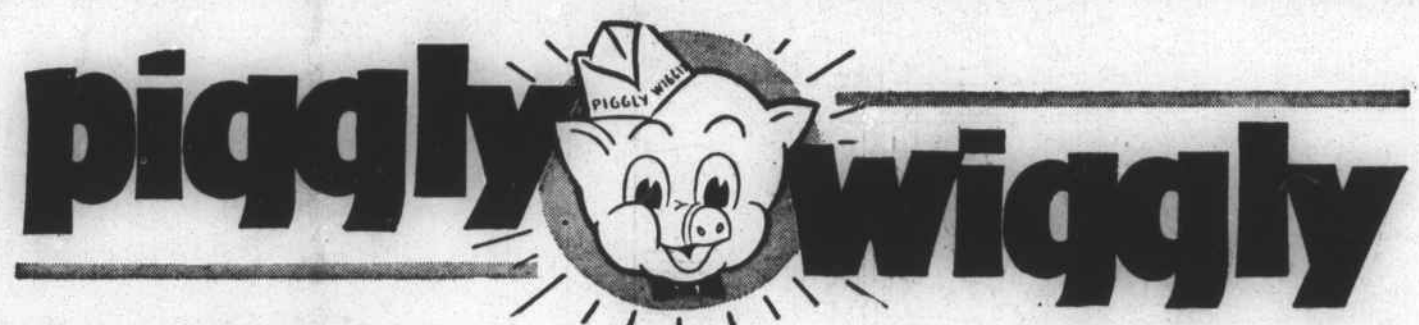
Twenty yard run, first team, Jesse Berner, Jim Lewis, James Delmas Lewis; second team, Gary Lewis, Woody Pake, BS Thomas N. Hill.

Scout relay first team, Gary Lewis, Woody Pake, BS Van Sellers; second team, Jesse Berner, James Delmas Lewis, Jim Lewis. Several events for Boy Scouts only were held.

After a picnic supper, watermelon was served and awards, preceded by a flag ceremony, were presented. Receiving Wolf badges were James Delmas Lewis, Gary Lewis, and Woody Pake. Receiving gold arrow points were James Delmas Lewis, Gary Lewis, Woody Pake, Jim Lewis, and Jesse Berner.

Billy Fulcher, Jimmy Baldwin, and Wayne Chadwick were away visiting relatives, and were unable to attend.

Bracken to Star  
New York (AP)—Comedian Eddie Bracken will star in "The Fair Sex," a comedy by Charles E. Miller, who has previously written and directed off-Broadway productions.



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