

Historical Data Of Perquimans

By M. L. W.

Living in Perquimans County, the birthplace of the colony, where the first clearing of which there is any record was made, are numerous descendants of those first settlers, the pioneers who began the settlement in Albemarle about the year 1663, before ever the region had been called Albemarle.

Fortunately, there are a few prized records which support most of the tradition familiar to Perquimans folks, but it is surprising how much real history has never been considered of sufficient importance by those familiar with it to be put into writing.

In Durants Neck, where every one knows George Durant, grantee in the deed recorded in Perquimans which is famous as the oldest record of a land transfer from an Indian to a white man in America, lived, many old folks know and will point out to you the place where Governor William Drummond's house stood, where lived John Hecklefield, from whose house the paneling recently was sold. An old resident who lives on a farm where generations of his family lived before him says that his father told him, and his father's father told him, that this was the place where the first assembly in North Carolina was held, at the home of John Hecklefield.

None of the history books record where Governor Drummond, who came down from Virginia lived. The history writers presumably knew little of this Scottish gentleman, though one historian tells us that he was a "man of education, of integrity, and well fitted for his office . . . and after an admirable administration that capable governor whose name is perpetuated in that beautiful lake in the Great Dismal Swamp, gave place to his successor." This same writer states that he retired to Virginia and that ten years later was hanged by Governor Berkeley for the part he took in Bacon's Rebellion.

How strange that Perquimans folks who are familiar with the location of the place where Governor Drummond lived attach no importance to the fact that it was the home of the first governor of the Province, and that somehow historians had not known where Drummond lived while in Carolina.

Another odd fact is that the people have, for the most part, cared so little about the old graveyards, in some of which are inscriptions made over two hundred years ago.

This was not true of Jonathan Hill Jacocks, one of a long line of men of this name, who lived more than a hundred years ago in Durants Neck. He took the pains to erect a monument to the memory of five previous generations buried in what is known as the Stevenson Burying Ground, one of the oldest in the Albemarle. This burying ground is located on what was called, in the early part of the Seventeenth Century, "Little River Point," one of the three original ports of entry into the colony, according to the instructions of the Lords Proprietors in October of 1676. This particular spot has long been known as Stevenson's Point.

They chose picturesquely beautiful spots to lay their dead, the highest elevation they could find in these lowlands, in sight of the water, in those early days in Perquimans. Unfortunately, some were located so near the water that they have long since become inundated by the waters of the Sound.

When Jonathan Hill Jacocks married Margaret Stevenson, something more than a century ago, there were then five generations of her family sleeping in the old burying ground. Standing on the site one sees to the left the pretty stream "Little River," the opposite shore of which is outlined by tall green cypresses which in the distance appear a shade of deeper blue than the water; to the right a shoreless expanse of the Albemarle Sound. Within the enclosure, where there is evidence of a once carefully tended spot, where flowers and shrubs once grew, are tall pines in which the wind keeps up an almost continuous murmur. This and the ceaseless "lap, lap" of the waves upon the shore are the only sounds which break the stillness of this lovely spot far removed from human habitation.

In addition to the numerous grave-stones, there is a rather remarkable monument in this graveyard, which was placed there a hundred years ago. On the top sides of the white marble monolith are inscriptions in memory of various members of the family, including the wife of Jonathan Hill Jacocks. On one side there is a brief general history which reads: "In this family burying ground he also interred the remains of Capt. William Stevenson, the great ancestor of this family, John, his son, and Thomas, the son of John and grandfather of Margaret, together with their wives and several children." Quaintly naive is the concluding sentence: "This monument is erected to the memory of the family to the husband of the affectionate . . ."



SPEAKING AS TO

Pot Shots: Whether it's ducks, deer, or what have you, hunting is undoubtedly one of the star autumn sports. And, of course, the wise hunter is clothes-conscious. He knows the chills of morning on the hill-top—the importance of being warmly, yet not bulkily dressed. The 1939 version of the windjammer is excellent for hunting, or other outdoor fall sports. It has various new and useful gadgets.

Subdued Colors in Robes: Conservative colors are the rule in the new lines of men's robes. Stripes of brown, maroons and other quiet shades are featured in winter displays. Among smart dressing-gowns highlighted by quality haberdashers we saw some interesting garments, made of Crown Tested rayon. The fabric in these robes had alternating bright and dull stripes. They are available in standard winter colors, usually in the darker shades.

Important News Note: When tailors change the styles in men's formal evening clothes—that's news! . . . Now, we hear of an



important departure in the cut of tail-coats. In place of the conventional type satin collar, tailors have introduced a new narrow roll back satin shawl collar. The innovation is adapted from military jackets. Doubtless the war will give it added popularity.

Those Removable Linings: Evidently the removable lining overcoat is here to stay. This style is a highlight in the 1939-1940 coat showings and it is being sponsored by well-dressed men in many cities. A new point is that tailors now are more careful in their choice of lining fabrics; as a result the new double-service coats are both attractive and practical.

16, 1786, and drowned in Albemarle Sound 2nd February, 1806, with Durant Reed, his cousin, son of the late George Durant Reed, and both interred in the same grave."

The old Whedbee burying ground, also in Durants Neck, in the rear of the farm house built in 1722, is one of the old and interesting graveyards of the county.

Ten identical little headstones in a row startle the visitor to this graveyard, which, within its stout iron fence is in a better state of preservation than are most of the old graveyards. The name of Joseph, who died before his tenth birthday, appears on one of the small headstones. Each of the others marks the grave of an unnamed infant, with the simple inscription on each "To our child, J. P. and L. Whedbee." It is interesting that the bereaved parents of the ten little ones who reared no children of their own took into their home five orphaned children of kinsmen and reared them as their own.

Of Revolutionary War fame was General William Skinner, he to whom Betsy Dowdy reported upon the occasion of her famous ride from Currituck to Perquimans, swimming her faithful pony across Currituck Sound and the smaller streams intervening between her home and that of the Brigadier General, as she hastened to make known to him certain momentous occurrences involving the movements of the British General Lord Cornwallis.

General Skinner, born in 1730 died in 1798. He sleeps in a neglected graveyard on the Perquimans River, some three miles from the Town of Hertford, and less than a stone's throw from the water's edge, though no more lovely or secluded spot could be found. To be sure, the burying ground, where lie Skinners, Harveys, Blounts and Cottons, all important names in the Albemarle, is grown up with huge Ash trees and smaller undergrowth; and trailing rattan vines, grown to enormous size, have wrapped themselves like serpents about the grave-stones. "In full assurance of immortality," reads one of the inscriptions on a stone in this graveyard.

Could anything reflect more forcefully the difference in the tempo of life today and that of a hundred and fifty years ago than do the inscriptions on tombs? It would appear that today we do not have time to write on the tombstones of the dead. "John Jones—1885-1939" is a fair sample of the way we dispose of that little matter of inscriptions as we rush along.

In striking contrast, in the following inscription on a tombstone in the old Harvey graveyard, in Harveys Neck:

"Here lieth interred the body of Co. Thomas Harvey, eldest son of Thomas Harvey, Esq. formerly Governor of this Province. By whose side he lay'd. He was a Gentleman of the highest rank and

and his Death was much Lamented as a loss to his Country; He died October ye 20 1729."

A bit of interesting history, that.

In this old graveyard, one of the oldest in the Albemarle, also lies Miles Harvey, grandson of the governor, and many others of the distinguished line, ancestors of "Bole John Harvey, moderator of the Assembly in the stirring days preceding the Revolution, one of the country's foremost figures of that time. That the resting place of this outstanding historical figure is not definitely known and appropriately marked, is a shame.

The old Harvey Burying Ground, within no inclosure now, is in the midst of a woods, great trees having grown up and completely hidden all semblance to a graveyard, except for the stones, many of which are broken. Some of the inscriptions are almost indecipherable.

There was a great deal of talk in Perquimans of restoring this graveyard, or of removing the stones to Hertford where they could be taken care of. For the first time, there appeared to be some interest on the part of the public regarding the matter. It was suggested that a search should be made by looking beneath the soil for grave stones which might have become covered, in the hope that the grave of Bole John Harvey might be found. But, shameful to relate, the only activity in connection with these graves has been on the part of the hogs which roam the woods at will, upturning and breaking many stones. Given time they will complete their work of devastation.

WHITESTON NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Roland Winslow and daughter, Ruth, of Elizabeth City, visited relatives here Sunday.

Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Winslow were Mr. and Mrs. Tommy White and daughter, Mary Anne, of Beaufort, and Miss Johnnie White.

Herbert Williams, a student at Louisburg College, is spending a few days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Williams.

Mr. and Mrs. F. C. White, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph White and family, of Belvidere; Mr. and Mrs. B. L. White and family, of Sanbury, visited in the home of Mrs. Mary J. White Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Winslow and daughter, of Norfolk, Va., were week-end guests of Mr. Winslow's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. U. Winslow.

Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Lane and their daughter, Lucille, visited Mrs. Lane's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Stallings, at Belcross, on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Pritchard and family, of near Elizabeth City; Mr. and Mrs. Seth Morgan, of Belvidere, were recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Winslow.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Gregory and son, of Compahe, spent Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. White.

Whiteston Couple Wed at Home Of Bride's Parents

Merrill Winslow Weds Miss Onella Winslow On January 20 at Home In Whiteston

Miss Onella Winslow and Merrill Winslow, both of the Whiteston community of Perquimans County, were married Saturday afternoon, January 20, in a simple but impressive ceremony performed at the home of the bride's parents, with only the immediate families of the couple and a few intimate friends present.

The living room, where the marriage took place, was decorated with ferns and other potted plants.

The bride and bridegroom, who were unattended, entered the room together, while The Bridal Chorus from "Lohengrin", by Wagner, was softly played on the piano by Miss Johnnie White.

Mrs. Elizabeth White, Pastor of Up River Friends Church, performed the marriage, using the ring ceremony.

The bride was dressed in powder blue, with matching accessories.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Winslow, of Whiteston, and the bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Winslow, also of Whiteston.

The couple are making their home in the community, where the bridegroom is in business.

SNOW HILL NEWS

Mrs. Ralph Harrell, Mrs. J. Harrell and Mrs. Moody Harrell spent Tuesday with Mrs. George Everett, at White Hat.

Mr. and Mrs. James Harrell, Jesse and Vernon Harrell and Miss Eunice Harrell were in Elizabeth City on Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Willis Saunders, of Weeksville, visited Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Wood recently.

Mrs. J. H. Harrell has returned to her home, after a visit with her son, J. L. Harrell, Sr., in Norfolk, Virginia.

Mr. and Mrs. George Jordan and Mrs. Will Everett visited Mr. and Mrs. Ashby Jordan, in Rocky Mount, recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Moody Harrell and Mrs. J. H. Harrell visited Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Cartwright Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Moody Harrell, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Harrell, visited Mrs. Serlie Harrell Stringfield, who is quite ill in General Hospital, Norfolk, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Harrell visited Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Benton, at Old Neck, Monday afternoon.

ENTERTAIN FOR GUEST

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Cooke and Miss Operzine Cooke entertained at an enjoyable social Thursday evening at their home at Woodville in honor of their guest, Miss Ilene Batholomew, of Louisburg. Bingo and other games were played, with prizes being won by Miss Edna Morgan and Miss Beulah Bogue. Apples, oranges, grapes and candy were served.

Invited guests included D. J. White, Frances Perry, Helen Davis, Edna Morgan, Archie Riddick, Jay Winslow, Beulah Bogue, Warren Bogue, Frank Willey, William Bogue, Daphne Godfrey, Mildred Bogue, Gezelda Godfrey, Ilene Batholomew, honoree, Frances Anne Cooke, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Cooke and Operzine Cooke.

WOODVILLE NEWS

Miss Leona Baccus was the guest of Miss Operzine Cooke Thursday night.

Miss Ilene Batholomew returned to her home at Louisburg Monday, after an extended visit with Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Cooke and Miss Operzine Cooke.

Miss Mildred Bogue was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Winslow, in Hertford, Monday night.

Misses Beulah Bogue and Gezelda Godfrey were guests of Miss Evelyn Pritchard, of Elizabeth City, Thursday evening.

Local Firm Handling Large Volume Of Hogs For Market

Stokes and Mathews, local representatives for a Smithfield hog market, reports a large volume of hogs have been placed on the market during the past few weeks.

The market has remained steady to firm in spite of the large volume of the "porkers" being sold by the farmers. Stokes and Mathews, paying top prices with no hold back, have been buying hogs from all over the Albemarle section.

WILLIAMS-LAMB

Mr. and Mrs. Willie Lamb, of Belvidere, announce the marriage of their daughter, Kathryn, to Carroll Williams, on January 6th. Mr. Williams is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Williams, of Whiteston.

FOUND! CLEOPATRA'S LOVE NEST

Archeologists have uncovered the luxurious villa in which Caesar installed Egypt's beautiful queen. Read about this "love nest" of history's great personalities in the February 4th issue of

THE AMERICAN WEEKLY the big magazine distributed with the Baltimore American On sale at all newsstands

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