

# PERSPECTIVE

## Perquimans County associated with two former governors

Two governors of North Carolina were particularly associated with Perquimans County, although they both resided in Chowan County at the time of their high service. They were Henderson Walker and Samuel Johnston.



Born about 1660, Henderson Walker was in North Carolina as early as 1683. He was clerk of the County Court of Albemarle from 1683 to 1690, and perhaps in other years.

It appears Walker resided in Perquimans at the beginning of his career. Both his marriages and his daughter's birth were recorded in Perquimans. He owned land in the county from 1697 until his death.

Walker was married in April 1686 to Deborah (Chaston), widow of Walter Green. He probably occupied Green's 400-acre plantation on the west side of Yeopim Creek, which he patented in his own name in February 1697.

In February 1694, Walker married Ann Lillington, whose father Major Alexander Lillington was a major political leader. It was about this time that Walker moved to Chowan County, to a plantation on Albemarle Sound.

Holding a variety of public offices during the 1690s, Walker was provincial secretary, militia captain, customs collector, clerk of Chowan County Court, attorney general, escheator and admiralty judge.

In 1697 Walker took a seat on the governor's council, which also in-

cluded duties in the General and Chancery courts. When Deputy Governor Thomas Harvey died in 1699, Walker was President of the Council and as such he acted as governor for nearly five years.

A major accomplishment of Walker's administration was the passage of the Vetry Act of 1701, setting the Church of England on an established basis in North Carolina.

Walker died on April 14, 1704, and was buried in Chowan. Many years later his remains were removed to St. Paul's Churchyard in Edenton, where his tombstone may still be seen.

Some miles from Walker's Chowan land was Hayes plantation, home of Samuel Johnston, holder of numerous responsible positions in North Carolina.

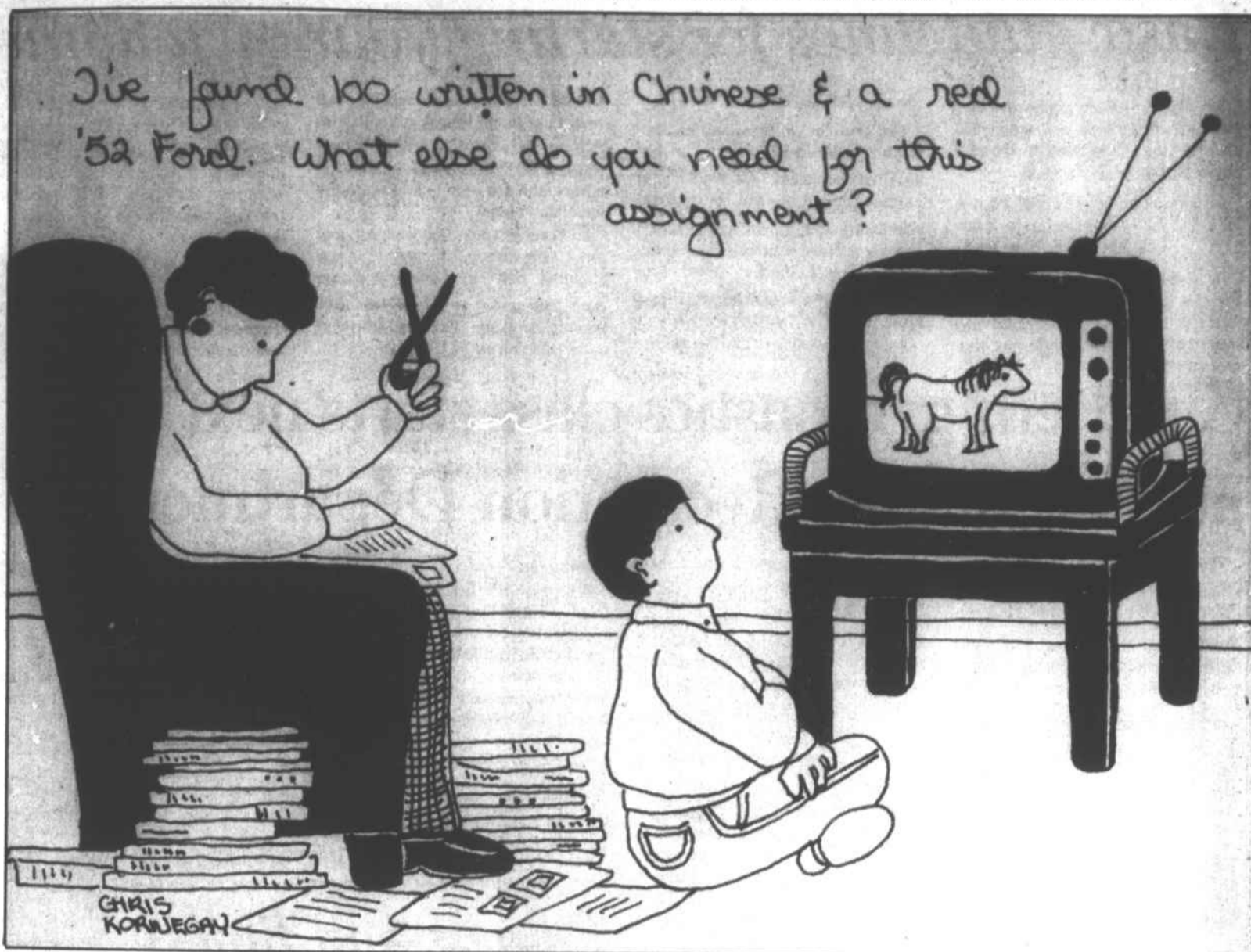
Johnston was consistently a member of the state legislature from 1759 through 1776, and was a prominent leader during the American Revolution. He was president of the state's Provincial Congress in 1775 and 1776, and he sat in the Continental Congress 1780 to 1782.

Johnston was governor of the independent state from December 1787 through December 1789. During this period he also presided over the two Constitutional Conventions which eventually brought North Carolina into the federal union.

In both conventions Governor Johnston appeared as the representative of Perquimans County, a position for which he was eligible because he owned land here.

Johnston sold his hundred acres in Durants Neck in November 1790, at which time he was a United States Senator.

Perquimans County did play a role, albeit small, in the multi-faceted careers of two North Carolina governors.



## Letters to the Editor

### In Support of Stewart

Editor, THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

As interest grows in the coming political elections, I am pleased to reaffirm my support for Carl J. Stewart Jr. for Lieutenant Governor. His personal, intellectual and political talents are unsurpassed on the political horizon of North Carolina.

Carl's outstanding leadership role is documented in the history of our State for his contributions to those steps for progress that have benefited large segments of our State's citizens.

One example in his strong legislative support for the funding of the East Carolina University Medical School.

His political influence, along with others, made the difference and crystallized the legislative support for the East Carolina University Medical School and thus ended the political debate.

As a legislator, I served on the special committee composed of members from the General Assembly and the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina that studied and made the recommendation to the General Assembly and I know who opposed the establishment of the medical school on that committee.

Carl Stewart's Democratic oppo-

nent for Lieutenant Governor served on that committee from the Board of Governors.

I feel that it is important to make crystal clear the Mr. Jordan strongly opposed the establishment of the medical school before, during and after the special committee did its work.

Sincerely,  
John R. Gamble Jr., M.D.

### Request for Tact and Judgement

Editor, THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

I realize it is your business to report the news, however, I think "The Perquimans Weekly" could have shown more tact and judgment in the manner of how the news is reported.

Why is it necessary to print pictures of fatal car accidents such as the ones in "The Perquimans Weekly" on February 2. This particular accident was a terrible shock to many of us. These pictures should not have been printed and "The Weekly" should have had more respect for the family.

Yes, the news has to be reported, but in my opinion, pictures such as these are not necessary at all.

Dianne W. Phelps  
Rt. 4, Box 254  
Hertford, NC

### Support the Special Olympics

Editor, THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

The 1983 Special Olympics was a day filled with a new kind of joy on the faces of 60 Special Olympians who participated.

The day was made possible through volunteers, community agencies, local businessmen, teachers, parents, school personnel and many others. Special Olympics would not have been possible without the people who said "yes, I care; I want these special children to have one day to experience success, learn and grow."

The Perquimans County Special Olympics can be made possible for the sixth consecutive year through your involvement. For this reason, we ask your civic organization or business to please support the 1984 Special Olympians by sharing your time, talents and monetary contributions.

Subsequent to our local Special Olympics are the regional and state meets. To participate in these meets,

our children will need your financial help to cover the costs of 60 T-shirts, entry fees and other expenses related to traveling to compete in the olympics.

If you wish to contribute, please

make your check payable to Perquimans County Special Olympics c/o Perquimans Central School, P.O. Box 128, Winfall, N.C. 27985.

Slides, pictures and other information are available which can better express what Special Olympics means to our children. Should you desire further information, please contact either Kathy C. Tant (426-5332 or 482-8647) or Jeanie Umphlett (426-5741).

Sincerely,  
Kathy C. Tant  
Financial Chairperson  
Perquimans County  
Special Olympics

(Editor's note: The Perquimans County Special Olympics will be held on March 23, from 9:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m. at Perquimans Central Grammar School, Winfall, N.C.)

### Discontinuing Column

Editor, THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY  
Please allow me a few lines of space to convey a twofold communication. First, I wish to let my readers know that I am discontinuing my "New View" column.

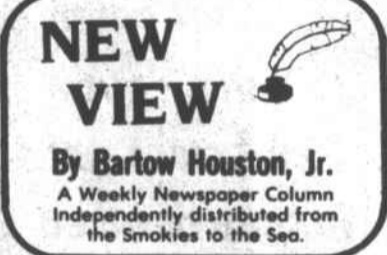
Second, I wish to express my appreciation to those editors and publishers across North Carolina who have carried the column in their papers over the years; and I wish to most sincerely thank those persons who have honored me by reading the column, whatever the degree of frequency.

It is my hope that perhaps, in the not too distant future, a modest little publication, which will feature some of the columns which have appeared through the years, will become a reality.

Thank you very much,  
Bartow Houston Jr.  
Rt. 1, Box 232  
Manteo, NC 27954

## Play the game

Upon request, the following excerpts from remarks delivered at a memorial service at Manteo High School, in honor and memory of Patrick Brett Jennette, are presented here.



Pat played the game. For two years he was a member of the MHS junior varsity basketball team. Last year, as an 11th grader, Pat became a varsity man. I was his coach.

Pat's success was limited. His team's success was limited. His coach's success was limited.

But he, we, played the game. He was in the arena. He fought the fight. This year, he did not complete the game.

I think, I think the game was more important to Pat than either you, or I, or any others really knew. Perhaps more important to him than he cared to acknowledge.

For Pat, the larger game — life itself — lasted only one quarter. To us, it seems the game ended too soon for him.

It is important that you, especially you, and I, understand, even as the playwright Robert Bolt understood, that "Death comes for us all, even at our birth; even at our birth death does but stand aside a little. And every day he looks towards us and muses somewhat to himself whether that day or the next he will draw nigh. It is the law of nature and the will of God."

Well, for Pat, "that day" drew nigh...before it seems the game should have been over.

The "why" of it all is unfathomable. Inexplicable. You, and I, will not find the answer. To search for it is futile.

But as in the game, when one is injured, or must be replaced because of fouls, another must take his place in the lineup.

None of you can really take Pat's

place in the lineup. But we can, you and I, play just a tiny part of Pat's game for him now. Dedicate some deed of kindness, some act of mercy, some prayer of supplication for another lost soul, to him, as we play out our own game of life.

Of course, there's a lonesome place against the sky, for those of you who knew and loved Pat.

Of course, you'll miss this lad, so tall, so fair, so blonde. But do not despair. Your game continues. Play it. Play it with strength and energy and zeal and joy. Play it!

Play it for yourself. Play it for your team. Play it for your school. Play it for your family.

Play it...for Pat. And as you play it, whatever your game of life happens to be, do so with this commitment to yourself:

"I expect to pass through life but once. If, therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again."

And if you play your game this way, you can always think of Pat, and say to yourself, The psalmist was right. "Midnight may come, weeping may tarry for a night, but joy cometh in the morning..."

And when you play your game to honor the memory of your friend, not only will you win, but you'll be able to see that when this happens, "Morning stars will sing together, and the sons of God will shout for joy."

Your game continues. Your game continues. Don't take yourself out of the lineup.

Don't let such opponents as alcohol, drugs, indifference, recklessness, bad judgment, or mental depression take you out of the lineup. Don't allow it to happen.

You belong in the lineup.

Play the game.

Play it...even if just a moment of it...for Pat.

Note: This marks the final "New View" column. Your readership over the years is appreciated more than you will ever know.

Bartow Houston

## Looking back

20 Years Ago

By VIRGINIA WHITE TRANSEAU  
J. EMMETT WINSLOW ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY FOR SENATE: J. Emmett Winslow on Tuesday of this week announced that he will be a candidate for Senator from the First District.

MAYOR V. N. DARDEN SETS MONDAY NIGHT TO SETTLE TYPE OF SEWAGE: Mayor V. N. Darden announced here today that a decision will be reached at the next Town Board Meeting on the type of sewage disposal plant that will be constructed, the lagoon type or conventional type plant.

A test has been made on the Vinegar Valley property and it was found that sufficient foundation could be made there for the conventional type system.

AINSLY HONORED AT FACULTY CLUB: William Franklin Ainsley Jr. of Hertford, one of ten University of North Carolina students holding a distinguished scholarship at UNC, was among those scholarship holders honored at a special reception held Wednesday at UNC Faculty Club.

EDWARD LEE NIXON GUEST OF FORD AT WORLD'S FAIR: Edward Lee Nixon of Hertford will at-

tend the New York World's Fair early this spring as a guest of Ford Motor Company.

The three-day, two-night expense paid trip to the Fair is offered by Ford Motor Company to every retail buyer of a new Ford 6000 tractor during the period of Dec. 16, 1963 through February 20, 1964.

The offer applies only to Ford's 6000 tractor. Mr. Nixon will travel by air to New York to join a large group of other Ford 6000 tractor owners.

**THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY**

Courthouse Square  
P.O. Box 277  
Hertford, N.C. 27944

Published Every Thursday  
By Advance Publ., Elizabeth City

Jane B. Williams  
Managing Editor

Pat Mansfield  
Advertising Manager

Cindy Leicester  
Circulation Manager

## Letters

The PERQUIMANS WEEKLY welcomes the opinion of its readers. We print letters to the editor on subjects of local, state, national and international interest.

Letters should be limited to 300-350 words and should include the name, address and telephone number of the writer. Only the name and address will be published with the letter.

The subject matter should be of interest to the community, not a personal gripe. Letters may be edited by our news staff for clarity and space limitations.

Mail letters to: The Perquimans Weekly, P.O. Box 277, Hertford, N.C. 27944, or drop them off at our offices at Courthouse Square.