

Proprietary theory was unrealistic

Like most dreams and schemes of bureaucrats and social planners, the notions set forth by the Lords Proprietors of Carolina were formed without sufficient knowledge and appreciation of realities.



More importantly, those notions were not made with the advice and consent of those persons who would be expected to live by them.

Proprietary theory could not generally become reality because it was largely unrealistic and especially impractical. Indeed, many of the Proprietors' theories of government were already obsolete when they were initially formulated.

Their conception of government as existing for their benefit, rather than the benefit of the citizenry; their policy of making appointments for social and political favoritism rather than for ability and merit; and their view of colonies as means of enriching the Proprietors themselves could not go unchallenged.

As the Proprietors learned somewhat tardily, the Albemarle Sound region was occupied by an independent people whose concepts and practices in society and law were already operative. These people followed the customs once familiar to them in Virginia and New England, shaped by their experience of agricultural life in a new world.

They wanted no part of feudalism and hereditary privilege, unless, of course, it

meant honor and status for them. They found proprietary restrictions on landholding ridiculous and intolerable, and eventually forced the Proprietors to lower the quitrents and ease the terms upon which land was held.

The Proprietors had to realize the truth of surveyor Thomas Woodward's warning in 1665 that "to think that any men will remove from Virginia upon harder condition than they can live there will prove (I fear) a vain imagination, it being land only that they come for." (The Woodwards were well aware of land hunger, for they had patented more than 5,000 acres of land on Chowan and Pasquotank rivers in 1663.)

Settlement proceeded naturally over invisible borders because individuals wanted land, and the Proprietors could hardly control the population or choose who should enter their jurisdiction.

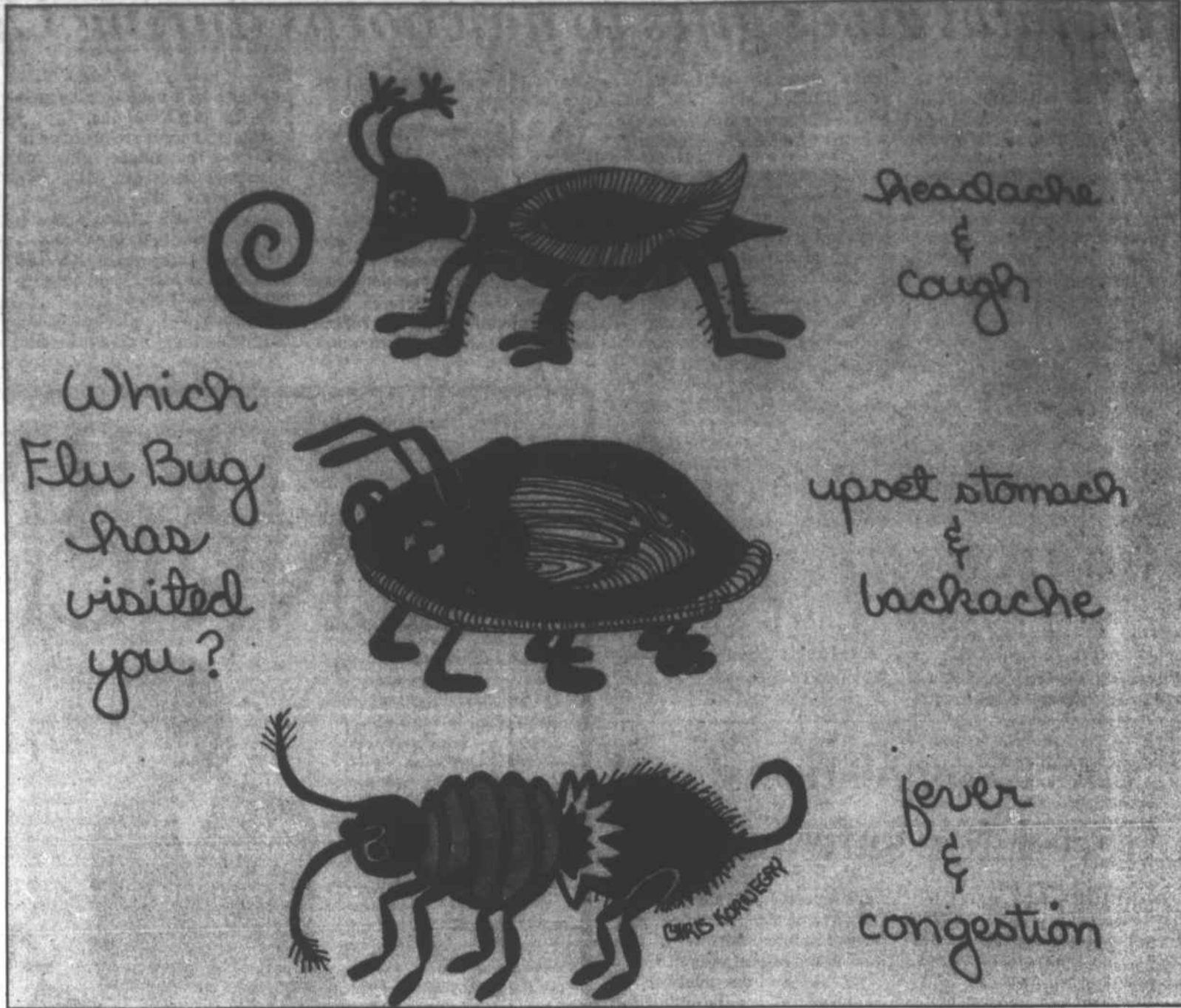
Those who cleared the Carolina wilderness to make new homes desired large parcels of land and tended to spread out in isolated family units.

The conditions of frontier life and the presence of innumerable waterways and swamps limited communication, hindered institutional life, and prohibited the observance of rigid social distinctions.

Carolínians resented the attempt to impose an artificial scheme of society upon them and they did not accede willingly to the Proprietors' vacillating government. If honors and titles were to be conferred, men like John Harvey, John Jenkis, and Richard Sanderson were deserving of them.

If public officials were needed, local men in great numbers were more capable than faraway proprietary cronies and flunkies who knew nothing of Carolina.

(Part 4 next week.)



Sharing the Christmas Story

Christmas Day is approaching fast. It is the day that brings all Christians together in the spirit of love and hope.

"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed."

"(And this taxing was made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)"

"And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city."

"And Joseph also went up from Gallilee, out of the City of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the City of David, which is called Bethlehem: (Because he was of the house and lineage of David:)"

"To be taxed with Mary, his espoused wife, being also great with child."

"And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered."

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there

was no room for them in the inn."

"And there were in the same country there were shepherds abiding in the fields keeping watch over their flock by night."

And lo, the Angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid."

"And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.'"

"For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

"And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,"

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will

toward men.'" "And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, 'Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which the Lord hath made known unto us.'"

"And they came with haste and found Mary, Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger."

"And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child."

"And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds." "But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart."

Luke 2: 1-19

From each of our staff at The Perquimans Weekly, we wish you and your family a Merry Christmas, and the best of wishes for a Happy New Year.

A Chat With Jane

By Jane Williams

As we make our own preparations to celebrate the day this year, let's take the time to pause and remember the reason behind the festivity.

It is only fitting and proper that the story of the first Christmas should be shared among neighbors and friends during this holiday season, so this week I'd like to share that ageless story with you.

Letter to the Editor

Christmas is such a wonderful time of the year! Just the mere site of sparkling lights on Christmas trees, the soothing sound of Christmas carols, and the joy of buying gifts for loved ones, make us all feel a bit special!

Children especially seem to radiate with joy and great expectations about the gifts they hope to receive.

Unfortunately, many gifts become "expensive junk" before Christmas Day ends! The novelty and excitement of the toys long hoped for often die within hours after our children receive them.

So, what is the answer to this sometimes overwhelming problem? TIME! In addition to the wonderful gifts we buy for children at Christmas time, give the priceless gift of TIME each day, "with you."

Even though our society demands more and more of our time apart from our families, we, as loving and caring parents, must dictate to society that "our children" will receive "Prime Time" from us on a daily basis.

"How can this be done, you say?" Try the following suggestions:

Step One: Decide how important your child is to you;

Step Two: Make up your mind to spend more time with your child on a daily basis;

Step Three: Ask your child how he/she feels about this issue;

Step Four: Develop a plan together with your child (Example: Monday to Friday — 8:00 to 8:15 p.m., Weekends — 1-3 hours);

Step Five: Plan specific things to do at first (Read to each other, watch a favorite TV program, play a game, take a walk, just talk, chop wood, etc.) The main thing is to spend some time with your most prized possession —

YOUR CHILD; and Step Six: STICK TO YOUR PLAN. If you have to change, follow through.

This is just an example of just how easily you can find a way to spend more time with your child. Try to develop your own plan while there is TIME! All too quickly do our children grow up and leave us.

Remember, the only TIME we have is NOW — TOMORROW may never arrive! Let's start enjoying our children TODAY.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
Carolyn Williams Modlin
Perquimans Central School

Hertford featured in magazine article

Hertford and Perquimans County are the topic of a very interesting and informative article included in the December "Crosstalk." The magazine, published for employees of Carolina Telephone, devotes five pages to the local area, including many photos of area folks and sites, plus some interesting comments by Mayor Bill Cox.

countywide water system. Not only a provider of clean, clear water for county residents, the system is an attraction for interested industry. The availability of an ample supply of clean water is a priority in attracting new industry.

Improvements in public school facilities is an indication the county has a keen interest in education. County planners have displayed a remarkable ability to preserve existing structures, avoiding higher building costs, plus retaining a bit of history as well.

An active Industrial Development Commission is an important part of attracting industry and working with existing businesses and industry.

The commitments made by the recently formed Committee of 100 will help provide funding for development activities.

While all of this has been developing, Hertford and Perquimans County has retained much of its past heritage. Many owners of historical properties have been very careful in retaining the appearance of their holdings, and a very active interest in the past helps provide pride for the future.

Agriculture and related industry is still the leader of the local economy, and will remain so for years to come. However, modern farming practices will require fewer and fewer individuals in the future, and the once-sound base for taxation will no longer be able to carry the load. New industry and new blood will be needed for progress to continue.

To most of us, the lifestyle afforded by a small community is the style we have decided we prefer. None of us really want our community to become so progressive that we lose this important asset.

Point of View

by: BILL NIXON

The article, written for "Crosstalk" by The Daily Advance's Jill Adams, portrays Hertford as a small town with an eye on progress. Special emphasis is placed on the pride area residents have in their past, to include their Indian heritage.

For some interesting reading, even for those that think they know all there is to know about Hertford, a copy of "Crosstalk" is probably available for your reading at your local office of Carolina Telephone.

Very often, it is difficult to fully appreciate the advantages of small-town living. It is even harder to notice changes around us, changes that often mean an improvement in our daily lives.

As noted in the article, many improvements, not always easily recognized, have been made in the past ten years in the county.

One of the biggest accomplishments probably receiving less notice from local residents is Missing Mill Park. I can well remember when this area was no more than a dump. It now is a display of local determination. Of equal importance is the

Looking back

20 Years Ago
By VIRGINIA WHITE
TRANSEAU

HERTFORD CHOSEN FOR AREA MEETING: Perquimans County citizens with an interest in agriculture met with several officials from North Carolina State in Hertford on Thursday to discuss topics of mutual interest.

County Extension Chairman R. M. Thompson said the meeting would be a part of a series of similar meetings scheduled across North Carolina.

The object of the meetings, Mr. Thompson explained, is to let local people share their ideas with the college officials and to get a report on the college's agricultural activities.

LOCAL POST OFFICE

REVEALS CHANGES: Postmaster W. W. Bill White of the Hertford Post Office says that beginning December 7 and lasting through December, the five day a week deliveries will be on a six-day week basis.

MAIL BOXES IN COUNTY DAMAGED: It has been reported that within the past week several rural mail boxes in this county have been damaged by being blown up or just torn up.

This is a very serious offense and carries a stiff penalty if the guilty one or ones is or are apprehended.

Hertford Postmaster W. W. Whitestated it was not his desire to cause anyone any trouble, but the mail box vandalism has been reported to the Post Office.

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