

Life-long Valentines

From Page 1A

What is their secret of success after 65 years of living together?

"We put God first in our lives and we raised our children to do the same," said Corinne.

It may have been love at first sight for Howard.

Born in Hollis, NC, he was raised in Brook Park, Minnesota, graduating from Pine City High. His family moved to Kings Mountain in 1947 and he caught sight of 16-year-old Corinne at a baseball game.

Bethware High and Grover High were county rivals and they were playing in Shelby at city park. Corinne was cheering for Bethware and Howard was cheering for Grover. But Howard had been seeing another young woman at the time and he and his family were attending the same church that Corinne and her family were attending - El Bethel United Methodist.

Howard's attraction for Corinne struck and he actually met his bride-to-be in Ware's Peach Orchard. They had a peach fight, he said, adding, "I've been in trouble ever since." The couple dated for two years, Howard proposed Christmas 1949 and gave Corinne an engagement ring. They got married at Concord United Methodist Church Parsonage in Cleveland

County with members of their immediate families present.

Teasing his wife, Howard said he learned to say "yes mam."

Both admitted that in any marriage there are ups and downs but both said their marriage had 'more ups.'

They have a close knit family and the fourth week in June every year for the past 32 years they celebrated their anniversary with the whole family at North Myrtle Beach, SC. Howard said they rent a house and their five children and their families join them.

The children are Wayne and Faye Pressley Swofford of Newton, Michael and Melissa Finley Swofford of Mooresville, Dianna and Dale Blanton of Middleburg, Fla., Cindy and Steve Jones of Winnemucca, Nevada, and Robert and Janet Edwards Swofford of Durham. The family also includes nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Howard, who retired from J. E. Herndon Company, served in the US Navy two years, one month and 13 days. "I came back from the Navy and like a lot of other veterans worked at Margrace Mill inspecting cloth," he said. He worked three years in an airplane factory in Columbus, Ohio, and also formerly worked for Sterchi's Furniture in Kings Mountain.



HOWARD AND CORINNE SWOFFORD IN EARLY YEARS

Mrs. Swofford operated her own business, Swofford's Upholstery, from their home, retiring about five years ago. Her handiwork is also displayed on the sofa and chairs of her beautiful living room. "I loved to upholster furniture for people but decided to retire," she said. Corinne went back to work for the school system as a substitute cafeteria worker, and loves it. She also worked in earlier years at Bost Bakery, Roses 5&10, Sears, and Spectrum Fibers.

The couple has traveled in nearly all 50 states in their travel trailer. They also enjoy gardening and yard work. Corinne is finance chairman at El Bethel United Methodist Church where they are members.

Corinne, one of five children of Ed and Wilma Adair

Reynolds, has one living sibling, Myrtle Greene of Hickory.

Howard, one of eight children of Robert and Ethel Greene Swofford, has one living sibling, Roy Swofford of Boiling Springs.

The family pet is "Hershey," a spoiled Terrier-Chihuahua mix, who has the run of the house.

Mrs. Swofford will celebrate her 83rd birthday Feb. 24, 2015.

Mr. Swofford will celebrate his 89th birthday April 4, 2015.

Both belie their age in the activities and enthusiasm for life that they share together.

Valentine Day, the day for lovers, is February 14. Obviously Corinne and Howard Swofford are life-long valentines.

50 years: a marriage endures and grows



The two Kings Mountain natives met at Central School and married in 1965.

From Page 6

his own advice. After about 40 years working a number of "good jobs" in local textile factories, he went back to school to earn his GED. Following that, he went to work for Cleveland Community College, where he retired in 2010.

Nowadays, the couple fills their days doing things they love together. That includes watching movies, especially Westerns starring Clint Eastwood and John Wayne. And they have a date with "Judge

Judy," the popular civil claims court show every day at 3 p.m. Their most important shared activity, though, is visiting their grandchildren, the oldest of which is Logan Smith, a scholarship athlete at The Citadel in Charleston, S.C. They are also members of Grover's Bethany Baptist Church.

After 50 years of marriage, one thing they never did was adapt pet names for each other.

"Nope. She calls me Gary and I call her Linda," Gary said.

PUBLIC NOTICE
(For Lease Of Municipally-Owned Property)

TAKE NOTICE, that the City of Kings Mountain, North Carolina, does have intentions of entering into a Lease with the Cleveland County Family YMCA, Inc., with the City Council for the City of Kings Mountain, North Carolina, authorizing by Resolution, the execution of a Lease at the February 24, 2015 City Council Meeting, and the properties which will be considered for Lease, would be as follows:

- Facilities Included:** The recreational building and playing fields (presently leased by the Cleveland County Family YMCA), located at Cleveland Avenue and Deal Street, within the City of Kings Mountain, North Carolina. That also included in the leased facilities would be the Davidson Park fields and facilities. Excluded from the Lease will be the walking track, which is located adjacent to the Cleveland Avenue facilities and also the Mayor Rick Murphrey Children's Park.
- Term of Lease:** Twenty (20) Years.
- Method to End Lease:** If breach believed to have occurred by either party, then upon forty-five (45) days notice. If circumstances are simply just wanting to end the Lease, either party may give twelve (12) months notice to the other party.

That also, this Lease Agreement automatically terminates if the Operational Services Agreement terminates.

- Rental:** One (\$1.00) Dollar per year.
- Repairs and Maintenance:** The City shall be responsible for the repairs necessary for normal wear and tear of the facilities. The YMCA shall be responsible for any repairs necessary which are not to be considered normal wear and tear.
- Utilities:** The YMCA shall be responsible for the payment to the City for any and all utilities which are used and consumed by reason of their use of the leased premises.
- Inspection and Access:** The City has a right for inspections in order to assure that the premises are being maintained appropriately.
- Alterations, Construction and Remodeling:** No major remodeling or construction may occur upon or to the leased facilities without the express written permission and consent of the City.
- Use of Leased Premises by YMCA:** The YMCA shall only make use of the leased premises for the providing of recreational type activities and may not assign the Lease without the written consent and permission of the City
- Use of Leased Premises by City:** The City retains the right to continue its July 4th Celebration on the leased premises.
- Insurances:** The YMCA will carry hazard insurance in the event of fire or other types of casualties, covering all of the leased premises.

The YMCA shall also carry a minimum of Three Million (\$3,000,000.00) Dollars in coverage for liabilities for property damage and personal injuries to users of the leased premises.

The City will also be covered under the policies and is entitled each year to verify that coverages remain in effect.

- Indemnity for Liability:** The YMCA shall be responsible for claims arising out of the use of the leased premises by those on the premises, engaged in activities of the YMCA, and will defend the City in any kind of litigation which may be brought. That the YMCA will also be responsible for those claims which might be brought.

That in addition to the Lease for which this Notice is being published, there is also being executed by the City of Kings Mountain with the YMCA an Agreement which is an Agreement whereby the YMCA will be operating and providing recreational programs at the leased premises.

- Assignment:** There may be no assignment of the Lease Agreement without written permission from the City. KMH3653

Thursday Bible Study

A Bible study, "The four Blood Moons," is being taught each Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church. The public is invited.

School: report cards released statewide

From Page 1A

a B, while ones garnering 55-69 points would get a C. D schools were those scoring between 40-54 points. A score of less than 40 earned an F.

About 70 percent of schools statewide made above a C, while 23 percent of schools received a D and 6 percent received an F.

"The report card as far as parent information is a valuable source of information, but the letter grade component only serves as a single indicator," said Greg Shull, the Cleveland

County School's Director Communication. "It's a part of a larger story, including personnel, school safety factors and economic factors."

Shull said opinion is mixed both at the local and state levels about the usefulness of assigning letter grades.

"I think it's early to say whether it's good to have this," Shull said. "As people dig through the report, they'll find more specific information that's explanatory. You can never have too much information. Nevertheless, the grade

doesn't reflect how the school is doing as whole. It's just one indicator based on a limited set of data."

North Carolina is one of 16 states that use the letter grade system to help describe school performance, and each state calculates grades in different way.

Economic indicators
More than half of students live in poverty at all of the schools that received an F and at 97.9 percent of schools that received a D, according to a web site that tracks public education policy in North Carolina.

Likewise, schools that

received As and Bs were far more likely to have a lower poverty rate.

Legislation requiring School Performance Grades was passed in 2013. Policy-makers created this system to provide more transparency of school performance. The N.C. General Assembly wanted to put an A through F system in place for transparency, state school leaders have said.

Information about every public school in Cleveland County and in the state of North Carolina can be found at www.ncpublicschools.org/src/.

Local author: to speak about women in Civil War

From Page 1A

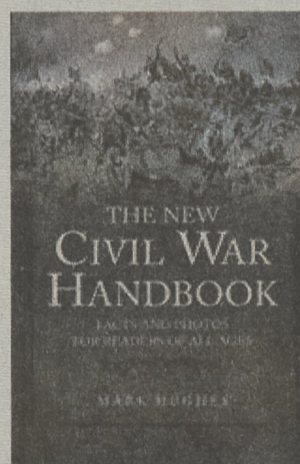
write frequently at the war and the time period.

His talk Thursday, which is part of a lecture series at the museum that coincides with the museum's exhibit titled "Pioneering Women of Cleveland County," will focus on the role of women in the war.

"You don't hear about the women who went off to help with the fight," he said Thursday from home on Dixon School Rd., which he shares with his wife Patty, and daughter, Anna Grace. "You don't hear about the women who were spies. You don't hear about the women that went to England and tried to raise money for the Confederate effort."

In past appearances at the museum and other venues, Hughes has given presentations about Civil War cemeteries (and the federal government uneven efforts to bury the war's dead), African-Americans' roles in the Civil War and other aspects of that fractious time period in American history.

The author of five books (which include "Bivouac of the Dead," "The Unpublished Roll of Honor" and "Confederate Cemeteries,



Vols. 1 and 2," he's also working on a new book, which could see print as early as this summer, called "The Confederate Book."

Hughes, a Cleveland, Ohio, native who graduated from Kings Mountain High in 1969, said he enjoys seeing people make connections between their own lives and the narratives that unravel through their learning about history in the area.

"I hope people who come will learn something about the Civil War that they didn't know," he said.

His "Civil War Handbook" is brimming with interesting facts and stories about the Civil War. It's also chocked full of scores of clear and poignant photographs from the war that divided a nation 150 years

ago. In fact, Hughes said he perused more than 5,000 photos to arrive at the ones he eventually used in the book.

A peak inside "The New Civil War Handbook" - some quick facts.

-- Four of First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln's brothers and two of her brothers-in-law served in the Confederate Army.

-- About \$6.2 billion (in 1865 dollars) was spent on the war.

-- Approximately one of every four Union soldiers was born outside the U.S. Of immigrants who served, Germans formed the largest group, followed by the Irish.

-- William H. Carey, a former slave who served as a sergeant in the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, was the first African American awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The other programs in Kings Mountain Historical Museum's 2015 Lecture Series will include:

- "Famous and Infamous Women of North Carolina" lecture & book signing by Randell Jones, based on the book "Scoundrels, Rogues, and Heroes of the Old North State." Wednesday, March 4, 6 p.m.

- "Women of the Revolution" lecture & book signing by Sharyn McCrumb, based on the book King's Mountain. Saturday, April 11 at 2:00 pm

- "Radium Halos" lecture & book signing by Shelley Stout. The book is an historical fiction based on the true events of the Radium Dial Painters, a group of female factory workers who, in the early 1920s, contracted radiation poisoning from painting glow-in-the-dark watch and clock dials with radium-based paint. The narrative transcends the Radium Dial case, reflecting much about our cultural attitudes toward work, women, mental illness and aging. Saturday, May 9 at 5:30 pm

The museum's exhibit focusing on pioneering women in Cleveland County turns through May 23. Admission is free. To find out more about upcoming exhibits and events, visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.kingsmountainmuseum.org/"](http://www.kingsmountainmuseum.org/) \n \n [blankwww.kingsmountainmuseum.org/](http://www.kingsmountainmuseum.org/) or call [HYPERLINK "tel:\(704\)739-1019"](tel:(704)739-1019) \n \n [blank\(704\)739-1019](tel:(704)739-1019). You can also follow the museum on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest.