

# The History of Strieby Congregational Church and School, Union Township, Randolph County, North Carolina

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## Cultural Heritage Site Application

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In 1880, former Randolph County slave the Rev. Islay Walden founded the First Congregational Church of Randolph County, as well as a school, under the auspices of the American Missionary Association (AMA), in an area called Hill Town in Union Township. In 1884, Rev. Walden was successful in obtaining a US Post Office for the community under the name of Strieby, thus the church and school were renamed, Strieby Congregational Church and School. The school continued until it was absorbed by the Public School system. The church and cemetery are still in use by descendants of the founding families.



**PRISCILLA (MAHOCKLY) HILL**  
"Granny Prissy"  
Circa 1805-1924

### Origins: The Hills and Hill Town

The central family around whom Hill Town grew, in what became Union Township, was that of Edward "Ned" Hill and his wife, Priscilla Mahockly, who were affectionately known as "Uncle Ned" and "Granny Prissy." Ned was reportedly a free man of color, however, he does not show up as a head of household prior to 1850. Priscilla on the other hand had a known slave background, but must have been freed around 1830, when she and Ned began having children. Some descendants have said she was from Maryland, but in 1850 she says she was born in North Carolina. (1850 census, p 102).

It is thought by descendants that Ned had a relationship with a white "Hill" family. The only Hill family in 1830 and 1840 that has free people of color in the household (though not named of course) was that of Samuel Hill, a prominent, local, Quaker lawyer and abolitionist. Samuel Hill and his family were members of the Uwharrie Friends Meeting, a preparative meeting for Back Creek Monthly Meeting. Sometime between 1840 and 1843 Edward "Ned" Hill became a free man of color living in the Southern District of Randolph County, most likely in the Uwharrie Mountain neighborhood he lived in most of the rest of his life. It was at this time that he bought a piece of property. One of the trustees on his deed of trust was Healy Phillips Lassiter, wife of Miles Lassiter, an African American Quaker who was also a member of Uwharrie Meeting. Healy and Miles lived in the Lassiter Mill area of what would become New Hope Township about 2-3 miles from what would become "Hill Town." (1850 census, p 102).

Ned and Priscilla had several children listed in the 1850 census: Charity, Calvin, Thany, Emsley, Mary and Sally. They lived next to Zeno Mose and his wife Sally and their children, Mary, Angelina, Oliver, James, Jane, Elizabeth, as well as Moses Winslow. Ned is listed as a laborer. Neither Ned, Priscilla, nor eldest daughter Charity could read or write according to the census.

There were other free people of color in the immediate area. It is difficult, however, to determine the boundaries of the various communities, because the census in 1850 only divides the county

into North and South. On, the other hand, the 1860 census divides the county into East and West. Nevertheless, it is possible to begin to identify the discreet communities. Among the families of color living within a few pages (5) of Ned in 1850 were the families of: Henley, Toney, Winslow, Mose, Phillips, Lassiter, Smith, Wallace, Baswell, and Williams. In fact within what appears to be only a few miles there were 92 people of color counted. Some of them are living in the homes of known Quakers. Others, like Miles Lassiter and Ned Hill, are living independently

**1850 census Randolph County -- Southern Section: Free Families of Color**

<b>Dwelling #</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Color</b>	<b># in house</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Comments</b>
770	Andrew Phillips	B	1		Home of Thomas Low
770	Margaret Phillips	B	1		Home of Thomas Low
772	Edward Hill	B	8	Laborer	
773	Zeno Mose	B	9		
777	Thomas Henley	M	1		Home of Polly Henley
783	Henry B Smith	M	6		
785	Jesse Winslow	M	1		Home of Louise Hill
785	Henry Winslow	M	7		
789	Jesse Wallace	B	1		Home of Henry Henley
789	Lucy Wallace	B	1		Home of Henry Henley
792	Charles Toney	B	6	Chairmaker	
794	Caleb Winslow	B	3		
795	Reuben Baswell	B	1		Home of Aaron Hill
796	Luzena Winslow	B	1		Home of Franklin Gardner
802	Tony Henley	B	4	Laborer	
		[			
804	Jack Lassiter	]	4		<b>Not listed as a person of color</b>
808	Miles Lassiter	B	8		Abigail Lassiter listed as farmer
813	Willie Lassiter	B	4	Painter	
822	Martin Horner	M	1		Home of Nathan Poston (sp?)
826	Laura Williams	M	1		Home of William Burney
841	Allen Floyd	M	1		
842	Lewis Phillips	M	1		Home of Eleazar Winslow
842	Green Henley	B	1		Home of Eleazar Winslow
842	Cynthia Phillips	M	1		Home of Eleazar Winslow
843	Ferebee Winslow	B	1		Home of Anna Henley
845	Emory Henley	M	1		Home of David Henley
848	Tamar Phillips	M	5		
852	Nathan Phillips	B	7	Miller	
854	James Walker	B	5		
	<b>Total</b>		<b>92</b>		

By 1860, the community of free people of color seems to have dwindled. The community only had 9 intact families and 4 individuals living in white homes, for a total of about 54 members. Ned and Priscilla's family had grown however. Calvin was now married with a child. Ned and Calvin were listed as Farm Laborers. Again living nearby were: the Anthony Henley family, the Colier Lassiter family, the Calvin Dunson family, Macam Polk (sometimes spelled Pope), Jack Lassiter and wife Charity, Thomas Conrad [sp] family, Nathan Hill (presumed oldest son of Ned and Priscilla) family, Micajah Cotton family, and Jack Henley with 2 apparent siblings living in the home of William Burney. [1860 Census, Free Families of Color]

1860 US Census Randolph County NC - Western Division: Free People of Color						
Dwelling #	Name	Color	# in home	Occupation	Comments	
1072	Jack Henley	M	3	Farm Laborer	Home of William Burney	
1075	Micajah Cotton	M	6	Farm Laborer	Wife: Harriett Polk	
1094	Ed Hill	B	7	Farm Laborer		
1095	Calvin Hill	M	3	Farm Laborer	Son of Ed "Ned" Hill	
1096	Anthony Henley	B	6	Farm Laborer		
1096	[sic] Cal Lassiter	B	6	Farm Laborer	Wife: Katherine Polk	
1097	Jack Lassiter	B	2	Farm Laborer	Uncle of Cal Lassiter	
1098	Calvin Dunson	B	6	Blacksmith	Wife: Nancy Lassiter	
1099	Macam Polk	M	1	Farm Laborer	Home of Winslow Thornburg	
1103	Thomas Conrad	M	8	Farm Laborer		
1114	Nathan Hill	B	6	Farm Laborer	Son of Ned Hill/Wife: Sarah Lassiter	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>			

## Birth of Hill Town

With the end of the Civil War, there were more families of color with the ability to choose where they wished to live. While the Uwharrie River and its streams which included the Lassiter's Mill area of New Hope Township seemed to be a magnet for many of these families. On the other hand, the adjacent Uwharrie mountain area of Union Township that would become known first as Hill Town and then Strieby seemed to attract very few. Although in the Uwharrie there was an active gold mine, a federal distillery, as well as sawmills for the dense pine forests, most families in either area seemed to be either farmers or farm laborers. According to the census, by 1870, in all of New Hope Township there were a total of 201 people of color. By contrast in Union Township, there were 4 families and 5 individuals living and working in white homes, for a total of 26 people of color. [See 1870 Census]



By 1880, however, the Uwharrie community in Union township had grown significantly to 10 families, for a total of 60 people. By this time, several of Ned and Priscilla's children had married and their families settled in the community. Because of the large number of Hill family members now living in the community, it began to be known as "Hill Town." The community also included a young minister and teacher, the Rev. Islay Walden, who had been educated at Howard University and the New Brunswick Theological Seminary (New Jersey). He was a former Randolph County slave who had returned to bring both the gospel and education to the community. Walden would also serve those living in the nearby Lassiter Mill area in New Hope Township. That community included another 9 families and one individual in a white home for an additional 60 people. Thus, altogether, the community that would be served by this minister and teacher comprised about 120 people. [See 1880 Census]

1880 US Census Randolph County - Union Township: Families of Color								
Dwelling #	Name	Color	# in home	Occup	can't read	can't write	In School	Comments
15	Thomas Potter	B	3	Farmer	2	2	0	Wife: Mary Jane Hill
16	Edmund Cranford	B	4	Farmer	1	2	0	Wife: Sarah "Sally" Hill
17	Calvin Hill	B	10	Farmer	6	7	2	Son of Ned Hill
18	Benjamin Luther	B	8	Cooper	2	2	2	Wife: Bethany Hill
19	Priscilla Hill	B	4	House	0	0	0	Widow of Ned Hill
20	Nathan Hill	B	10	Farmer	2	6	4	Son of Ned Hill/Wife:Sarah Lassiter
21	Emsley Hill	B	7	Farmer	0	1	0	Son of Ned Hill
21	Mary Tony	B	1	Farm Lab	0	0	0	Boarder-Unemployed 10 mos
21	Islay Walden	B	1	Minister	0	0	0	Boarder:Bro-in-law-Emsley Hill
27	Henry Sanders	B	3	Farmer	0	0	0	Wife: Julia Lassiter
28	Samuel Sanders	B	9	Farmer	4	6	5	May be Father of Henry Sanders
	Total		60		17	26	13	71.7% total literacy
1880 US Census Randolph County - New Hope Township: Families of Color								
Dwelling #	Name	Color	# in home	Occup	can't read	can't write	In School	Comments
1	Calier Lassiter	B	6	Farmer	1	1	3	
1	Mary Polk	W	1	At home	1	1	0	home of Calier Lassiter/Mother-in-law
2	Nancy Dunson	B	6	House	1	1	0	Sister of Calier Lassiter
7	Wiley Hill	B	1	Servant	0	0	0	Home of Fredric Garner/Son of Nathan Hill
9	Spencer Cameron	B	4	None	0	0	0	2 grandsons are farm workers
11	Antone Davis	B	9	Farmer	4	5	0	Lydia Hearn, mother-in-law; Nancy Davis, mother
12	William Davis	B	10	Farmer	5	5	0	Probable brother of Antone Davis
13	Garretson Garner	B	6	Farm Wrl	3	4	0	
18	Ande Smitherman	B	6	Laborer	0	1	0	Son-in-law of Nancy Lassiter Dunson
20	Harriett Cotton	B	9	House	1	4	0	Widow: Micajah/Probable sister of Kate Polk Lassiter
29	Adline Davis	B	2	Servant	0	1	0	
	Total		60		16	23	3	73.3% overall literacy
The following families are in New Hope Township but not near Lassiter's Mill or Strieby								
Dwelling #	Name	Color	# in home	Occup	Can't read	can't write	In School	Comments
44	Candis Burney	B	3	Servant	3	3	0	Home of Nancy Burney
46	James Haywood	B	5	Laborer	5	5	0	
61	Raner Dorsett	B	4	Servant	2	2	0	
64	Brock Kearns	B	7	Farmer	2	4	4	
65	Brazilla Ingram	B	3	Farmer	0	1	0	
67	Kate Stokes	B	1	Servant	0	0	0	In home of Nixon Ingram
69	Jiles Ingram	B	1	Serv/Lab	0	0	0	In Home of Manley Riley
71	Clinton Ingram	B	3	Farmer	0	0	0	
73	John Kearns	B	5	Farmer	0	2	0	
76	Jesse Ingram	B	4	Farmer	3	3	1	
86	Randel Ingram	Mu	3	Farmer	2	2	0	
87	Charley Cross	Mu	5	Farmer	1	1	0	
95	Calvun Taylor	B	2	Farmer	2	2	0	
96	Edmon Reves	B	2	Farmer	1	1	1	
97	Wilborn Taylor	B	4	Farmer	2	2	0	
97	Harriett Cotton	Mu	2	Home	1	1	0	in home of Wilborn Taylor
99	Mariah Russell	B	1	Servant	1	1	0	In home of Dovie Varner
109	Julius Hill	B	1	Laborer	0	1	0	In home of Sandy Lassiter
110	Charity Butler	B	7	House	5	5	0	
116	Frank Stafford	B	1	Servant	0	0	0	In home of Calvin Hancock
132	Fannie Birkhead	B	2	House	2	2	0	
134	Marc Stokes	B	4	Farmer	4	4	0	
136	William Stokes	B	6	Farmer	2	2	0	
168	Steven Lewis	B	2	Laborer	2	2	0	
186	George Steed	B	7	Farmer	4	4	2	
202	Jeremiah Davis	B	3	Farmer	3	3	0	
202	Eva Davis	B	2	Farmer	1	1	1	
	Total		90		48	54	9	89.5% overall literacy







Old Strieby Church,  
circa 1971, just before  
demolition to build the new  
church

### Strieby Church and School

The gospel message of justice delivered by the American Missionary Association (AMA) and its educational efforts in Southwestern Randolph County were not new when the Rev. (Alfred) Islay Walden returned to preach and teach in 1879. There had already been an early church community called Rocky Branch which met at the Uwharrie Friends Meeting that had been laid down in the 1850s. There had also been the ministry of the Rev. Daniel Worth, an AMA missionary in that time period who preached in that part of the county and may have been the minister at Rocky Branch as well as in the Salem Church area. What made Walden's witness different was that he was a former slave, not a white man. He was from Southwestern Randolph County, he was returning to his people. This time the establishment of a church and school for the people of Hill Town and neighboring Lassiter Mill was permanently sustained by the self-determination of its people. Uwharrie Friends Meeting, Rocky Branch Church, the Rev. Daniel Worth had all been stepping stones along the way.

### The Rev. (Alfred) Islay Walden

The Rev. (Alfred) Islay Walden was born a slave circa 1843 in Randolph County, North Carolina, the son of Ruth Gar[d]ner and Branson (Gar[d]ner), according to his obituary in the *Congregational Yearbook*, of the Congregational Church, published in 1885. (National Council, 1885) However, other research indicates his father was a Free Man of Color, William D. Walden Jr. (Garner, 2009, p. 52) Though his first name was "Alfred," he dropped that name after a tragic lynching involving a man named "Alfred." (Walden, 1873, p. 9)



As a young man Islay reportedly worked as a laborer, hotel servant, and at the gold mines of Randolph County. His math abilities and quick mind were recognized early in his life by his master, who was the first to call him a "poet," after hearing his first rhyme recited upon

the death of an ox. Shortly after Lee surrendered he learned of his freedom from his master. (Walden, 1873, pp. 7-8; 1877, pp. 5-6)

In the winter of 1867-68, though nearly blind, Walden walked to Washington, D.C., determined to get both eye-glasses and an education. There he supported himself by selling poems and political ballads on the streets, doing manual labor, and organizing Sabbath schools for black children. However, he did not stay in Washington, for reasons that are not known. Instead he went on to New Brunswick, New Jersey, supporting himself by giving lectures and selling his poetry. In New Jersey, he met a professor from Rutgers College who befriended him. The professor was able to convince the Second Reformed Church to give Walden a scholarship that enabled him to return to Washington DC to study at Howard University. (Walden, 1873, pp. 8-9; 1877, p. 7)

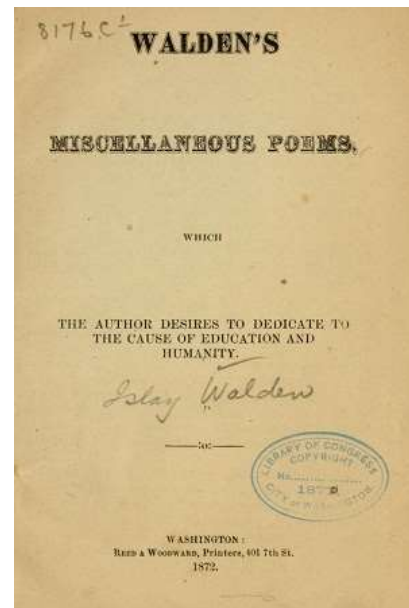
Walden earned his degree from Howard's Normal program in 1876. He then returned to New Jersey to attend the New Brunswick Theological Seminary (NBTS) where he became the second African American to graduate with a divinity degree. During his years there, despite his own poverty and compromised eyesight, he put his teaching skills to work and established a mission school for poor African Americans. (Walden, 1877, p. 7; NBTS, e-story)

### Walden's Poetry

In 1873, while a student at Howard, Walden published his *Miscellaneous Poems*, "which the author desires to dedicate to the cause of education and humanity." An introductory recommendation therein by J. L. H. Winfield, of the War Department, encouraged people to purchase the volume. Among his comments he stated, "... whatever may be the faults of metre, critics will not lose sight of the eloquence, originality and real beauty of thought that are found in his work." There was also an introductory biographical essay written by C. C. Harper ("C.C.H."), founder of the American Colonization Society. He commented that he found it remarkable that only a little over a year before Walden was illiterate. (Walden, 1873, p. 9)

Most of the poems in this volume are a reflection of his personal experiences and emotions. Joan Sherman, Professor Emerita of English Literature at Rutgers University included Walden and his poems in all three of her books on 19<sup>th</sup> century African American poetry. In her 1992 *Anthology* she wrote,

*His frankness, affectionate regard for people, naïve waggish humor, and natural joy in living give special charm to verses on love and such homespun occasions as eating at school, ice skating, and needing a winter overcoat.* (Sherman, 1992, p. 221)



In 1877, while studying at NBTS, he published *Walden's Sacred Poems with a Sketch of His Life*. These poems are more spiritual and reflect on various biblical passages, especially the psalms. Dickson Bruce wrote in his book, *Black American Writing from the Nadir: The Evolution of a Literary Tradition 1877-1915*, that

*At the center of Walden's poetry was a deep devotionism. The poems focused on an emotional relationship between the believer and God and on the hope for a heavenly union.* (Bruce, 1992, pp. 22-24)

Both of his collections have been reprinted in recent years and made available to the public once again. His poems are considered today to be important examples of 19<sup>th</sup> century African American poetry and are included in several anthologies as well as poetry websites. While Walden's poems provide a glimpse into 19<sup>th</sup> century African American thought, it was his work in ministry and education that ultimately has had the greatest impact. Walden, like many other former slaves who had been prohibited from learning to read, greatly valued education and understood the immense transformative power it could have for his people. He was a perfect example of what African Americans in the Reconstruction Period set out to accomplish: to transform and "uplift" the community of former slaves spiritually, morally, and educationally.

### Return to Randolph County

After Walden was ordained in 1879, he turned down a lucrative position in New Jersey in order to return to the Lassiter's Mill area of New Hope Township, in Randolph County, North Carolina, under the auspices of the American Missionary Association (AMA). There he established a Congregational church and "common school," as AMA one or two teacher schools were called, in an area in the Uwharrie Mountains called "Hill Town." It is likely that he decided to take this post because it was in the same community where his sister, Sarah (Callicutt) Hill, wife of Emsley Hill, lived. The church was first called Promised Land Church. According to Aveus "Ave" Lassiter Edmundson, in an article that appeared in *Asheboro Magazine* in 2011, Priscilla Hill, (affectionately known as "Granny Prissy") helped build the brush arbor that was used as this early meeting place. (Grant, 2011, p. ).



Surviving Church Bench from Old Strieby Church In the Home of Aveus Lassiter Edmundson (Photo by Margo Lee Williams, 2014)

Walden's job as AMA missionary, however, was to plant a permanent congregational church for the community. This church was called the First Congregational Church of Randolph County. It would eventually be named Strieby Congregational Church and School, after a prominent Congregational minister and Corresponding Secretary of the AMA that Walden admired. Kate Lassiter Jones believed that it was Rev. Strieby who helped Walden found the church, but it was apparently the Rev. Joseph Roy, the Field Superintendent, who assisted. In Roy's 1879, Field report he stated, "*The Field Superintendent assisted him in organizing a Congregational Church of thirty members.*" (Roy, 1879, pp. 33:334-335, in Garner,

2009, pp. 6-7) Roy stated that a man in Hill Town offered "three acres of land and timber in the tree for all the lumber needed for a church school-house, and that man was an ex-slave." (Roy, 1879, pp. 33:334-335, in Garner, 2009, pp. 6-7) He may have been referring to Ned Hill. In 1880, Walden, as agent for the AMA purchased a six acre plot of land from a neighboring white family, Addison and Cornelia Lassiter on which the church was built.

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Deed made this the 22<sup>d</sup> day of May A.D. 1880 by Addison Lassiter and wife Cornelia Lassiter of the County of Randolph and State of North Carolina to W. W. Hubbard Treasurer of the American Missionary Association and his successors in office. Witnesseth that the said Addison Lassiter and wife Cornelia in consideration of Seventy five dollars to them in hand paid by Selby Walden Agent. Pastor of the first Congregational Church of Randolph County. The receipt of which is hereby acknowledged have bargained and sold and by these presents do bargain sell and convey to the said W. W. Hubbard Treasurer of the American Missionary Association and their successors in office a certain tract or lot of land in said County on the waters of Neamair's Creek bounded as follows:

Beginning on a white oak running west one degree north to a pile of rocks for a corner. Spanish oak dogwood & hounwood for pointers. Thence south about 1/2 west 10 ch to a white oak. thence east one degree south to a post oak in original line. Thence north on original line to the beginning containing 4 acres more or less.

To have and to hold the aforesaid tract or lot of land and all privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging to the said Association and their successors to them and their only behoof. and the said Addison Lassiter and wife Cornelia Lassiter covenant that they are seized of said premises in fee and have the right to convey the same in fee simple that the same are free from all incumbrances and that they will warrant and defend the said title to the same against the claims of all persons whatsoever.

In testimony whereof the said Addison Lassiter and wife Cornelia Lassiter have hereunto set their hands and seal this the day and year above written

Witness  
Jonathan Lassiter

Addison<sup>husb</sup> Lassiter  
Cornelia Lassiter

Personally appeared before me Jonathan Lassiter a Justice of the Peace of Randolph County, Cornelia Lassiter wife of Addison Lassiter and acknowledged the due execution of the aforesaid deed of conveyance and the said her





in the *American Missionary*, Walden's ministry and career were cut short by his untimely death from Acute Bronchitis (more likely pneumonia) on 2 February 1884, at age 40 *The American Missionary* eulogized him,

*... He rallied the people, developed a village with school-house and church, secured a post-office and became postmaster. Here he labored four years, blessed with revivals, and was honored by the people, black and white. His wife an educated and judicious missionary teacher, was of great assistance to him in all his work. ...* (Garner, 2009, 32)

He was buried in the Strieby Church Cemetery. (National Council, 1885)

### Eleanora (Farmer) Walden

Despite Walden's death, his desire for a legacy of education and spirituality lived on at Strieby. His widow, Eleanora Farmer Walden, continued as the principal teacher as well as postmistress. "*Mrs. Elenora Walden continues the school work of her husband, greatly confided in by the people.*" (Garner, 2009, p. 33) The ministerial work was assumed by the Rev. Zachariah Simmons who was the pastor at Salem Congregational Church.

In 1888, Henry Ruffin Walden, a cousin of Islay Walden, married Eleanora Walden, Islay's widow (North Carolina, Marriages, 1759-1979). Henry was apparently about to enter his last year as a student at Hampton Normal School (Hampton, VA). He graduated in 1889 and returned to Strieby to become a teacher there.

(Garner, 2009, pp. 41-42) This seems to indicate that Strieby had become a two teacher school, since Eleanora was still a teacher there. In 1891 Henry wrote an article for *The American*



Strieby Church Cemetery,  
Photo by Margo Lee Williams, 1982

*Missionary* about the teaching and missionary work at Strieby. It was during this time that a separate schoolhouse was built.

*... I took my axe one day and had some of the rest follow me into the woods, and there we cut the foundation of a school building. ... (Garner, 2009, p. 44)*

*We must have a school building because it is needed. The school has a good reputation far and wide, among both white and colored. (Garner, 2009, p. 45)*

Sadly, Eleanora Walden died in early 1892. Her obituary appeared in the March 1892 issue of *The American Missionary*. Therein it stated

*At the time of her death, she held the position of Principal of Garfield Academy, at Strieby, was postmistress, and was working very hard in a series of meetings which were being held and in which several of her pupils had found the Saviour. (AMA, 1892, vol. 46 (3): 91; Garner, 2009, p. 47)*

Eleanora was also buried in Strieby Cemetery.

Henry Ruffin Walden, who had gone on to become the teacher at the AMA's school at Salem Church (in Concord Township), returned to Strieby to take over Eleanora's duties as teacher and postmaster. In 1893 he wrote another article for the *American Missionary Magazine* wherein he discussed the importance of focusing on the youth as the carriers of social and religious change.

*I could go on and produce many illustrations to show that the channel is so deeply fixed with the old that it cannot be changed much. The only way we can remedy this is by these good societies organized among the children. I think the Y.P.S.C.E. (Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor) has done much good. The prayer-meeting held once a week with the children, in the school-room, is wonderful. They long to see the evening come when they can spend a half-hour in singing and praying. (Garner, 2009, pp. 48-49)*

In 1898, Henry Walden married Theodosia Hargrave, also a teacher (North Carolina, Marriages, 1759-1979). By 1910, he and his new family had moved to Richmond County, where his wife was a teacher. At some point Henry, like his cousin Islay, became a minister serving Congregational churches in Charlotte and High Point, where he died in 1950, at age 84. (Garner, 2009, pp. 49-50)

### Strieby School and Public Education

As public education became more available, some AMA "common schools" closed or were "upgraded." Strieby reportedly upgraded.

*In 1905, the community led by Talledegan Reverend O.W. Hawkins, pastor and principal, erected a larger building with the intent to transform its institution from common school into a graded and normal school. Local blacks donated four thousand feet of lumber, nails, and other material, and were doing the construction themselves. The AMA promised only forty dollars for school furniture. (Richardson and Jones, 2009, p. 14)*

By the 1920s, like other AMA common schools across the South, Strieby became part of the North Carolina public school system. This was consistent with the AMA's belief that basic elementary education was the state's responsibility and that the AMA's mission was to extend education beyond the elementary level to high school, "normal" school, and college. Nevertheless, the AMA also acknowledged that the common schools had "*assisted its churches,*" and had "*stimulated interest in public education.*" (Richardson and Jones, 2009, p. 14)

### Education at Strieby

When Strieby School began circa 1881, schools only provided three months of classroom teaching. This did not change until the 1920s when it was increased to 4 months. In 1927, the classroom time increased to six months, and then in 1929, to eight months. The eight-month term remained until after the 1930s when nine-months became the norm. (Auman, 1976, p. 19)

Circa 1920, schools in Randolph County were divided into township areas. New School Committeemen were elected for the new districts. Many schools were consolidated into one new school, thereby reducing the total number of schools. Strieby District was represented on the Committee by Zill Lassiter (who lived in the Lassiter Mill area of New Hope Township), grandson of Miles and Healy Lassiter and B.H. Hill (Brazilla Harrison Hill of Strieby proper), grandson of Ned and Priscilla Hill. (Auman, 1976, p. 1)

In the late 1920s leaders of the school districts believed that consolidation would improve the quality of education. Petitions from various areas were received by the School Board. Delegates from the three schools of color in Southwestern Randolph County (Red House, Salem, and Strieby), asked the School Board to consolidate these three schools. Teachers at Strieby during this time were: Amanda Capel (1921-23); Vella A. Lassiter (1923-24); Annie Mae Hill (1925); Clara Cranford (1926-27); Eunice K. Brown (1929-30). (Auman, 1976, pp. 19-20)

Surviving student, Aveus Lassiter Edmondson (now 101 years old), remembers that the school had about 4 or 5 rooms, each devoted to a different age group. The teacher would go from room to room giving age appropriate lessons. The school day, she stated, was from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm each day. The day began with prayer and there was a prayer before lunch, but there were no special religious services. There were no special chores or responsibilities that the students had with regard to the maintenance of the school beyond the basics of keeping one's space neat. Alas there was no library at the school.



Figure: Aveus Lassiter Edmondson, 101st birthday, 4 July 2014



Thus, Strieby School continued well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, producing teachers, doctors, nurses, ministers, and others for the African American community of Southwestern Randolph County and beyond. Among local graduates who came back to Strieby to teach there were Sarah (Smitherman) Lassiter (1940, with the combined “common school”), daughter of Mary (Hill) Smitherman and Charlie Smitherman, and wife of Ulysses “Grant” Lassiter; and Novella “Vella” Anna Lassiter (1923-24). Grant and Vella Lassiter were brother and sister. They were also grandchildren of Colier Lassiter. Both Sarah and Vella are buried at Strieby.



Sarah (Smitherman) Lassiter  
1902-1975

### Impact of Strieby Church and School

The impact of Strieby Church and School on the community of “Hill Town” cannot be overlooked. According to the 1870 census, there were only 4 independent households of families of color in Union Township, containing 21 individuals. In 1880, when the Rev. Islay Walden first started the church and school, Hill Town, in Union Township, had grown to 10 families containing 60 people. Already 13 children were attending school, according to the 1880 census. By the 1900 census, the community included 21 families, containing 101 people, with 33 children in school.

1900 US Census Randolph County - Families of Color								
Strieby - Union Township								
Dwelling #	Name	Color	# in Home	Occup	Read	Write	In School	Comments
69	A(sp?) Holmes	B	9	Farmer	4	0	5	
80	Anthony Davis	B	8	Farmer	3	3	1	
82	Henry Walden	B	4	Farmer	3	3	1	Julia (Ritter) Walden - Mother-Midwife
83	Edward Stratton	B	4	Minister	2	2	0	From: South Carolina
84	Charles Gray	B	1	Day Labor	0	0	0	
90	Josiah McCloud	B	9	Farmer	8	7	4	
91	John McRay	B	4	Farmer	2	1	1	
92	Stephen Lassiter	B	1	Day Labor	0	0	0	
93	James Lilly	B	10	Farmer	6	6	7	
103	Richard Wallace	B	7	Day Labor	6	5	4	
104	Sherman Hill	B	4	Farmer	1	1	0	Son of Ned Hill
105	Calvin Hill	B	5	Farmer	3	3	0	Son of Ned Hill
106	Brazilla Hill	B	4	Farmer	4	4	2	
107	Israel Coble	B	6	Farmer	2	2	0	
108	Alexander Hill	B	3	Farmer	1	1	0	Priscilla Hill - Mother/Widow of Ned Hill
109	William Fisher	B	5	Farmer	4	4	2	
110	Dockery Potter	B	3	Farmer	2	2	0	Grandson of Ned Hill
111	Julius Hill	B	6	Farmer	2	1	2	Son of Ned Hill
112	Charity Potter	B	3	Day Labor	3	0	1	Daughter of Ned Hill
113	Mary Smitherman	B	5	Day Labor	2	2	3	Daughter of Ned Hill
	<b>Total</b>		<b>101</b>		<b>58</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>57.4% Overall Literacy</b>
Elsewhere in Union Township								
162	Noah Cagle	B	2	Farmer	0	0	0	2 white boarders not counted
164	John Bean	B	1		0	0	0	Son of Rachel Bean - "W"
169	Charles Smith	B	1	Servant	0	0	1	Home of Nathan Luck
	<b>Total</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0% Overall Literacy</b>

By the 1910 census, the community had seen some out-migration, but it still had 17 families with 77 members, and 22 children in school.

1910 US Census Randolph County - Union Township								
Dwelling #	Name	Color	#in home	Occup	Read	Write	# in School	Comments
6	John McRay	B	7	Farmer	3	3	2	
9	Thomas Chandler	Mu	8	Farmer	2	1	4	Jina Coble servant
22	Israel Coble	B	9	Farmer	4	4	1	
23	Jane Edie	Mu	2	Farmer	1	1	0	
24	Ulysses Hill	Mu	7	Farmer	3	3	3	
25	Elizabeth Hill	Mu	2	Farmer	1	1	0	
26	Stephen Hill	Mu	2	Farmer	0	0	0	Priscilla Hill: Mother
27	William Fisher	B	4	Farmer	4	4	1	
28	Brazilla Hill	B	3	Farmer	3	3	0	
29	James Shamburger	B	5	Farmer	4	4	3	
30	Thomas Loflin	B	4	Farmer	2	2	0	
31	Hines King	B	2	Minister	2	2	0	From: Connecticut
32	Dockery Potter	B	5	Farmer	4	3	1	Charity Hill Potter: Mother
33	Julius Hill	B	6	Farmer	4	3	3	
34	Angeline Davis	B	3	Farmer	1	1	0	
35	Mary Smitherman	B	6	Farmer	5	5	4	
43	Richard Wallace	B	2	Farmer	2	1	0	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>		<b>45</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>22</b>	58.4% literacy overall

In 1920, just before the consolidation of the Strieby, Salem, and Red House schools (all schools for children of color), there were 14 families, with 68 individuals. The closing of the gold mines and resulting loss of extra income, along with the growth of factories elsewhere encouraged out migration. Nevertheless, all 15 children at Strieby, who were school-age were in school, and the entire adult population of 52 could read, with only 1 of those marked as unable to also write. It should be noted that these numbers do not take into account the families that lived in the nearby Lassiter Mill area of neighboring New Hope Township, who were also educated at Strieby.

1920 US Cenesus Randolph County - Union Township								
Dwelling #	Name	Color	#in home	Occupatn	Read	Write	in school	Comments
154	Bertis Smitherman	Mu	6	Farmer	6	6	0	Mary Smitherman -mother
155	James Davis	B	3	Farmer	3	3	0	
156	Winburn Hill	Mu	2	Farmer	2	2	0	Thanie Redwine - mother
157	Sylvester Simmons	Mu	4	Farmer	2	2	0	2 children not in school
158	William Fisher	Mu	2	Farmer	2	2	0	
159	Arthur Hill	Mu	6	Farmer	3	3	1	3 children not in school
160	Julius Hill	Mu	8	Farmer	5	5	2	2 children not in school
161	Stephen Hill	Mu	1	Farmer	1	1	0	
162	Brazille Hill	Mu	2	Farmer	2	2	0	
163	Dockery Potter	Mu	5	Farmer	4	4	2	1 child not in shool
164	Allie Davis	Mu	8	Farmer	5	5	2	Jane Edie-Mothr; 2 children not in school
165	Israel Coble	B	11	Farmer	9	8	4	4 dchildren not in school
166	Ulysses Hill	Mu	9	Farmer	7	7	4	2 children not in school
167	Charity Potter	Mu	1	Servant	1	1	0	
	<b>14 families</b>		<b>68</b>		<b>52</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16 children not in school were underage</b>
					<b>100% literacy of all who were of age</b>			
					<b>76.5% literacy of the total population</b>			

Even though now shrinking, the small 1870 community of “*Hill Town,*” containing only a couple of African American families, primarily the family of Ned and Priscilla (Mahockly) Hill, had grown to be a thriving community center for local African Americans with church, school, and Post Office called “*Strieby.*”

### A Civil Rights Story: Vella Lassiter

Vella Lassiter was one example of both the legacy of educational excellence encouraged by schools in the American Missionary Association tradition, as well as their stance against injustice. Born Novella Anna Lassiter, “Vella” was the second of thirteen children (twelve of whom survived) of Winston and Ora (Kearns) Lassiter, of the Lassiter Mill community in Randolph County, North Carolina, and members of Strieby Church.



NOVELLA ANNA “VELLA”  
LASSITER, 1894-1994

Vella attended Strieby Church School. From there she went on to Peabody Academy in nearby Troy, and finally to Bennett College, in Greensboro. Vella graduated in 1913 from the Normal program and eventually earned her Master’s degree from Miner Teachers College, in Washington, DC. (Miner became part of DC Teachers College which became the foundation for the Department of Education at the University of the District of Columbia.) Vella went on to become a teacher, first back at Strieby, and eventually at a school in Reidsville, in Rockingham County, North Carolina, where she taught for 40 years. She was close to her family and often came home on weekends to visit.



So it was in 1937, when she was returning to Reidsville Easter Monday afternoon. She was on the first of her two bus trips. The first bus would take her from Asheboro to Greensboro, about 35 miles away in Guilford County. From there she would take a bus to Reidsville. She had bought her ticket and was seated on the bus – next to a white person; the bus was crowded; there were no more seats. The bus driver apparently objected to Vella sitting next to a white person. Vella was asked to give up her seat, get off the bus, and wait for the next one. Anyone who knew Vella knew she was

a force of nature. Vella said “No.” The bus driver attempted to force her off the bus. Vella resisted. Eventually two policemen were needed to drag her to the door and throw her onto the sidewalk. She would later tell people there was no way she would make it easy for them to throw her off that bus. After all, she had bought a ticket and she was just as good as any white person. (Jones, 1993, pp. 343-344)

Vella called one of her brothers to come and take her to Reidsville, but she also called her cousin, prominent High Point, North Carolina, African American attorney, T. F Sanders. With his assistance. Sanders sought assistance from the prominent Winston-Salem attorney, F(ranklin).W. Williams. Williams had ties to the NAACP. With Sanders’ and Williams’ help, Vella sued the *Greensboro-Fayetteville Bus Line*, on the grounds that they had sold her the ticket for that specific bus trip and consequently were required to transport her. To everyone’s surprise they won the case in a jury trial in November of that year. She was awarded \$300 in damages. The bus company appealed to the North Carolina State Supreme Court. Two years later in 1939, the decision was upheld by Judge Allen H. Gwyn. (*The Carolina Times*, 1939, p. 6) Vella had

won. In reporting the victory on 18 August 1939, *The Carolina Times* newspaper, published in Raleigh, wrote that

*Possibly the most significant victory regarding the rights of Negroes was won in Randolph County last month when attorney P. W. Williams, prominent Winston-Salem lawyer emerged victorious in a suit against the Greensboro-Fayetteville Bus Line. (p. 3)*

Her success was particularly significant because there was only one other lawsuit like it that had gone to the NC Supreme Court and won before hers, that was a 1914 housing segregation lawsuit in Winston-Salem. (Gershenhorn, 2010, p. 85; & Williams, 2013). As previously mentioned, Vella is buried at Strieby.

### Strieby Today

Although the school is now gone, Strieby Church continues to hold services, in the new church building (built in 1972), 134 years after its founding. Services are currently led by the Rev Winston Lassiter. The Rev. Winston Lassiter is the son of the late Leonard Lassiter, nephew of



The Rev. Winston Lassiter and the Rev. Tanya (Le'gette) Lassiter [2006]

Grant and Vella Lassiter, a great grandson of Colier Lassiter, and great-great grandson of Miles Lassiter. Strieby Church still holds its annual Homecoming-Revival Services in August. Strieby descendants continue to bury their loved ones in the cemetery.

The last full time African American residents and descendants of the original community members were Arthur Hill, whose home still

stands across the road from Strieby Church and Cemetery (though overgrown by forest), and Bertis Smitherman, whose former home faces High Pine Church Road. Both Arthur Hill and Bertis Smitherman were great grandsons of Ned and Priscilla (Mahockly) Hill. Arthur Hill was also a great grandson of Miles and Healy Lassiter, and grandson of Colier and Kate Lassiter. Arthur Hill died 13 September 1980, and Bertis Smitherman died 9 Jan 1982. They are both buried in Strieby Church Cemetery.



Arthur Hill Home across from Strieby Church, picture taken 1982 by Margo Lee Williams

### Strieby Church Cemetery Burials

Listed here are those burials with headstones or other funeral home markers identifying who are in the graves. There are other alleged burials, primarily those who died in the early years when it was not common to place headstones. The Table here identifies the name of the deceased, the dates of birth and death, and the deceased's relationship to the core founding families

of Ned and Priscilla Hill, of Strieby, or Colier and Kate Lassiter of Lassiter Mill. There are a few names, however, whose relationship to the community is not known.

1. Blair, Marion R (Dr.) (b. 23 Jul 1931 - d. 19 Mar 2001) – <i>Former Pastor</i>	2. Cagle, Ross (b. 24 Jun 1909 - d. 7 Jun 1973) – <i>Grandson of Anthony Davis (1900 census)</i>	3. Carter, Faye Lassiter (b. 22 May 1926 - d. 13 May 2010) – <i>granddaughter of Colier &amp; Kate Lassiter</i>	4. Edmondson, Clarence E (b. 17 Dec 1909 - d. 21 Jul 1982) – <i>Husband of Aveus Lassiter Edmondson, granddaughter of Colier &amp; Kate Lassiter</i>
5. Epps, Marie Hill (b. 9 Sep 1928 - d. 2 Sep 2002) – <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Great Granddaughter of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill/Great Granddaughter of Colier Lassiter</i>	6. Everett, Edna Lassiter (b. 9 May 1900 - d. 24 Jun 1980) – <i>Great Granddaughter of Colier &amp; Kate Lassiter</i>	7. Fisher, Coleen C (b. 10 Aug 1889 - d. 6 Nov 1906) – <i>Great Great Granddaughter of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i>	8. Fisher, William (b. 1861 - d. 16 Feb 1906) – <i>Husband of Elizabeth Hill, great granddaughter of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i>
9. Franks, Faye Lassiter (b. 1 Dec 1926 - d. 12 Dec 1977) – <i>Great Great Granddaughter of Colier &amp; Kate Lassiter</i>	10. Gray, Ira W (b. 2 Feb 1907 - d. 7 Mar 1982) – <i>Husband of Lovell L. Gray, granddaughter of Colier &amp; Kate Lassiter</i>	11. Gray, Lovell L (b. 22 Jul 1902 - d. 21 Sep 1981) – <i>Granddaughter of Colier &amp; Kate Lassiter</i>	12. Hill, Alton (b. 6 Mar 1923 - d. 27 Apr 1974) – <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Great Grandson of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i>
13. Hill, Arthur H (b. 13 Sep 1887 - d. 13 Sep 1980) – <i>Great Great Grandson of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i>	14. Hill, Charles (b. 1918 - d. 1979) – <i>Great Great Grandson of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i>	15. Hill, Clarence Hayes (b. 26 May 1917 - d. 14 May 1958) – <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Great Grandson of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i>	16. Hill, Lizzie (b. 1864 - d. 1936) – <i>Wife of Arthur Hill, granddaughter of Colier &amp; Kate Lassiter</i>
17. Hill, Lizzie A (b. 17 Oct 1835 - d. 20 Dec 1888) – <i>Wife of Barzilla “Zill” Hill, grandson of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i>	18. Hill, O J Nettie (b. 15 Jul 1835 - d. 20 Dec 1888) – <i>Wife of Clarkson Hill, grandson of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i>	19. Hill, Priscilla (b. 1792 - d. 1911) 119 Years Old – <i>Wife of Ned Hill</i>	20. Hill, Zell H (b. 1864 - d. 1933) – <i>grandson of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i>
21. Jones, David (b. 21 Feb 1923 - d. 7 Jan 1924)	22. Jones, George H (b. 3 Aug 1904 - d. 3 Feb 1994) – <i>husband of Kate L. Jones, granddaughter of Colier &amp; Kate Lassiter</i>	23. Jones, Kate L. (b. 1906 – d. 2006) – <i>Granddaughter of Colier &amp; Kate Lassiter</i>	24. Lacey, Bernice Bell (b. 1933 - d. 1979)
25. Lassiter, Amos P (b. 4 Dec 1863 - d. 16 Dec 1930) – <i>son of Colier &amp; Kate Lassiter</i>	26. Lassiter, Avon (b. 24 Aug 1933 - d. 28 May 1950) – <i>Great Great Grandson of Colier &amp; Kate Lassiter</i>	27. Lassiter, Dwayne (b. 20 Nov 1963 - d. 1 Apr 2004) – <i>Great Grandson of Colier &amp; Kate Lassiter</i>	28. Lassiter, Elbert John (b. 31 Mar 1937 - d. 2 Mar 1971) – <i>Grandson of Colier &amp; Kate Lassiter</i>
29. Lassiter, Harriett J (b. 1 Feb 1862 - d. 1 Mar 1942) – <i>Wife of Amos P Lassiter, son of Colier &amp; Kate Lassiter</i>	30. Lassiter, Harris S (b. 7 Feb 1889 - d. 31 Jan 1964) – <i>Grandson of Colier &amp; Kate Lassiter</i>	31. Lassiter, Katie (b. 7 Mar 1832 - d. 19 Dec 1906) – <i>Wife of Colier Lassiter</i>	32. Lassiter, Novella A (b. 4 Sep 1894 - d. 2 Jan 1994) – <i>Granddaughter of Colier &amp; Kate Lassiter</i>

33. Lassiter, Ora (b. 29 Apr 1874 - d. 12 Sep 1951) – <i>Wife of Ulysses W(inston) Lassiter, son of Colier &amp; Kate Lassiter</i>	34. Lassiter, Sarah Smitherman (b. 6 Sep 1896 - d. 29 Jul 1975) – <i>Wife of Ulysses (George) Lassiter, grandson of Colier &amp; Kate Lassiter</i>	35. Lassiter, Ulysses (b. 18 Dec 1902 - d. 25 Jan 1989) – <i>Grandson of Colier &amp; Kate Lassiter</i>	36. Lassiter, Ulysses W (b. 30 Dec 1871 - d. 26 Nov 1937) – <i>Son of Colier &amp; Kate Lassiter</i>
37. Lassiter, Wade J (b. 21 Apr 1911 - d. 21 Mar 1986) – <i>Grandson of Colier &amp; Kate Lassiter</i>	38. Lassiter, William J (b. 26 Apr 1896 - d. 8 Mar 1995) – <i>Grandson of Colier &amp; Kate Lassiter</i>	39. Laughlin, Charles Harrison (b. 16 May 1916 - d. 26 Aug 1977) – <i>Great Great Grandson of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i>	40. Laughlin, Dwight E (b. 17 Jan 1949 - d. 18 Jan 1971) – <i>Great Great Grandson of Colier &amp; Kate Lassiter; Great Great Grandson of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i>

41. Laughlin, Lester Madison (b. 27 Nov 1914 - d. 25 Jan 1998) – <i>Husband of Ruth Lassiter, great granddaughter of Colier &amp; Kate Lassiter</i>	42. Loflin, C Edward (b. 14 Oct 1913 - d. 23 Jul 1977) – <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Great Grandson of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i>	43. Loflin, Rozina Hill (b. 10 Aug 1882 - d. 21 Nov 1943) – <i>Great Granddaughter of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i>	44. Loflin, Thomas E (b. 10 Sep 1876 - d. 9 Jul 1927) – <i>Husband of Rozina Hill Loflin, Great Granddaughter of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i>
45. Loflin, William Emory (b. 3 Sep 1909 - d. 27 Jul 1927) – <i>Great Great Grandson of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i>	46. McLeod, Jerry (b. 1826 - d. 26 Apr 1908) – <i>Husband of Tima S Waldon McLeod -- sister of Henry R Walden, daughter of Julia Ritter Walden</i>	47. McLeod, Tima S Waldon (b. 8 Nov 1852 - d. 4 May 1908) – <i>Sister of Henry R Walden; &amp; Daughter of Julia Ritter Walden</i>	48. McRae, Edgar, R(aymond) (b. 2 Jul 1918 - d. 21 Mar 2004) – <i>Great Great Grandson of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i>
49. McRae, Ivy W (b. 14 Feb 1912 - d. 24 May 1996) – <i>Wife of Edgar R McRae; Niece of Henry R Walden</i>	50. McRae, Jerald W (b. 4 Dec 1925 - d. 3 Jan 1974) – <i>Great Great Grandson of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i>	51. McRae, Lugena (b. Unknown - d. 1992) – <i>Great Great Granddaughter of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i>	52. Potter, Lloyd W (b. 12 Apr 1912 - d. 27 Feb 1968) – <i>Great Great Grandson of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i>
53. Potter, Norma B (b. 6 Aug 1912 - d. 4 Sep 1965) – <i>Wife of Lloyd Potter, Great Great Grandson of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i>	54. Ratliff, Abbe M (b. 24 May 1929 - d. 30 Jun 2009) – <i>Great Granddaughter of Colier &amp; Kate Lassiter; Great Great Granddaughter of Micajah &amp; Harriet Cotton</i>	55. Redwine, Thane (b. 1849 - d. 1922) – <i>Daughter of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i>	56. Smitherman, Bertis (b. 21 Jun 1884 - d. 9 Jan 1982) – <i>Great Great Grandson of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i>
57. Smitherman, Harrison (b. 1 Jun 1894 - d. 14 Jun 1977) -- <i>Great Great Grandson of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i>	58. Smitherman, Mary (b. 1866 - d. 29 Jun 1931) – <i>Great Granddaughter of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i>	59. Smitherman, Roy (b. 20 Oct 1887 - d. 3 Sep 1889) -- <i>Great Great Grandson of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i>	60. Smitherman, Sallie M (b. 6 Mar 1898 - d. 27 Mar 1961) -- <i>Great Great Granddaughter of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i>
61. Smitherman, Winston (b. 1 Sep 1894 - d. 24 Jul 1980) -- <i>Great Great Grandson of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i>	62. Speed, Alice Lassiter (b. 1 Apr 1898 - d. 16 Nov 1986) – <i>Granddaughter of Colier &amp; Kate Lassiter;</i>	63. Spruill, Geraldine Finnie McMillion (b. 30 Sep 1944 - d. 5 Nov 2006)	64. Walden, Julia (b. 1820 - d. 15 Jan 1907) – <i>Mother of Henry R Walden &amp; Tima S Walden McLeod</i>



<p>65. White, Delia Theodoeia (b. 20 Oct 1898 - d. 14 Feb 1997) – <i>Granddaughter of Ned &amp; Priscilla Hill</i></p>	<p>66. Laughlin, Ruth L. (b. 10 Mar 1922 – 24 Jun 2000) <i>Great Granddaughter of Colier &amp; Kate Lassiter</i></p>	<p>67. Walden, The Rev. Islay (b. ca 1844 – d. 2 Feb 1884) – <i>Brother of Sarah Hill, wife of Emsley Hill; first Pastor and Postmaster</i></p>	<p>68. Walden, Eleanora W. (b. 1858 – d. 1892) – <i>Wife of the Rev. Islay Walden, and Henry Ruffin Walden; first Principal and Teacher; Postmistress</i></p>
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STRIEBY CHURCH CEMETERY, 5 JULY 2014.  
PHOTO BY MARGO LEE WILLIAMS



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