

FRANKLIN

COUNTY

HISTORY



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RANDOLPH

COUNTY

HISTORY

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a student at Ramsey Junior High.*

BY - CHERYL WARD



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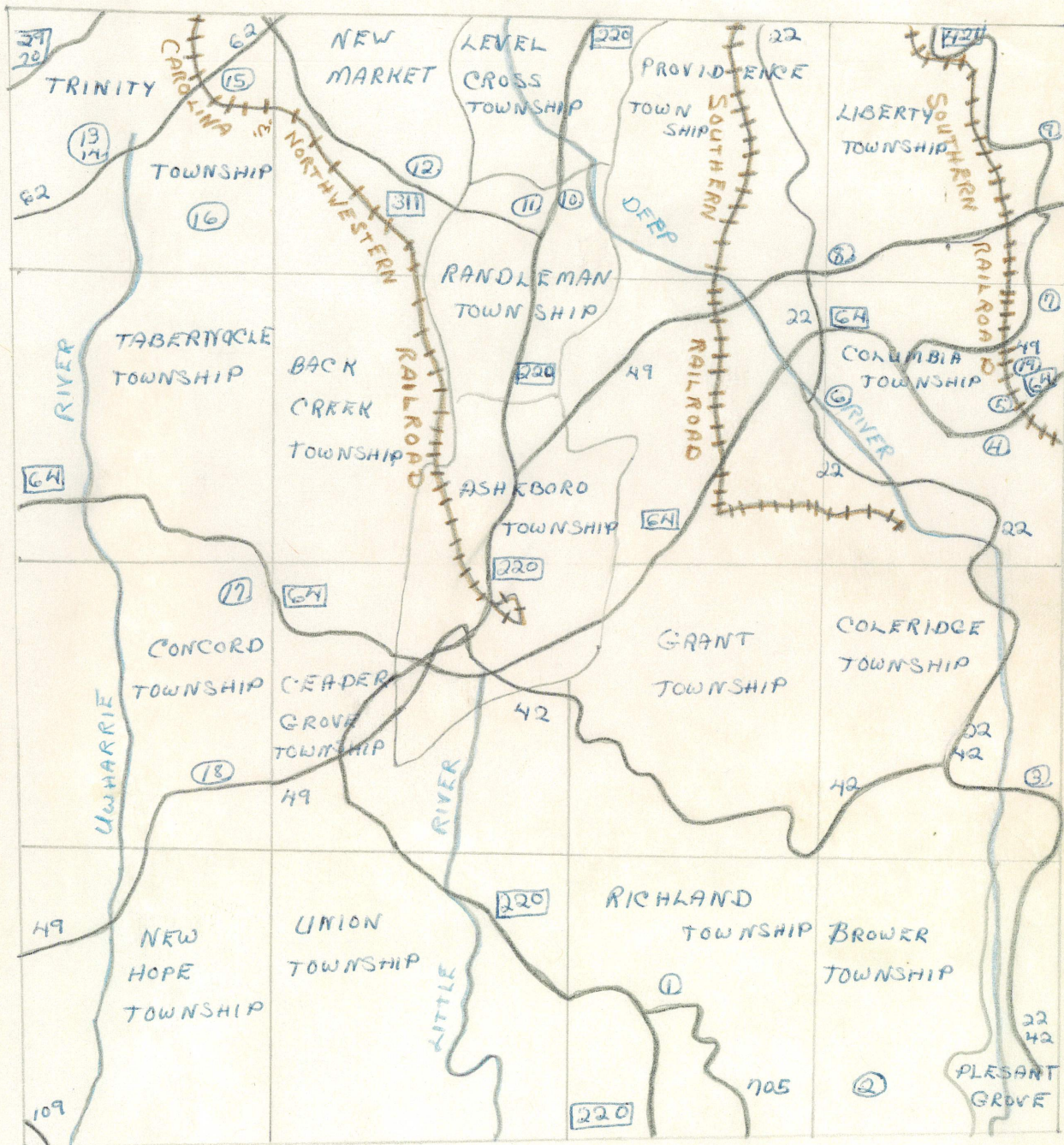
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School ④

Rivers ~

U.S. Highway [220]

State 705

Railroads +++++



FORMATION

OF

COUNTY

### Formation of Randolph County

The legislature of 1779 sitting at Halifax passed an act for forming a new county out of Guilford County to be called Randolph County. The County is located in the Piedmont Section and presents on the map in the Center of the State a beautiful compact square. The boundaries are Alamance, Chatham, Moore, and Montgomery, Davidson, and Guilford Counties.



## Why the New County was Formed

The reason given in the 1778 petition to the General Assembly for creating a new county was that "the great distance to Guilford County rendered it grievous and troublesome to the inhabitants thereof to attend the courts, assemblies, elections, and other public meetings."

The General Assembly granted the petition, and the new county was formed. It was named in honor of Peyton Randolph of Virginia, who in 1779 was President of the Continental Congress, then meeting in Philadelphia.

The act of the legislature directed that the first county courts be held at any place thought best, until a courthouse and jail could be built at a site to be fixed as the county seat.

To survey the county line between Guilford and Randolph the Assembly appointed Thomas Owen, Colonel John Collier, John Adineal,

Jacob Shepard, James Martin, and  
William Dent.



# Randolph In New District

By ROY RABON

It has been learned by The Courier-Tribune that Governor Bob Scott plans to enlarge the State Highway Commission, and that Randolph more than likely will be placed in a new division with Chatham and Montgomery Counties.

State Sen. Jeff Allen of Biscoe, D-Montgomery, and a long-time supporter of Governor Scott, will be named highway commissioner in the new division, according to informed sources. Allen worked full-time for Scott during the gubernatorial campaign last year, primarily in the eastern counties.

It had been rumored that Richard Earl Johnson, Randolph County Democratic party chairman, might be in the running for the new highway commissioner's post, but a source close to the governor told The Courier-Tribune that "Allen is the man."

The new highway division will be one of about nine or ten new divisions created by Scott, almost doubling the present number of highway divisions and highway commissioners.

The State is divided into 14 highway divisions, each with a commissioner. Randolph County is in the Eighth Division and John McNair of Laurinburg in Scotland County is commissioner. His term expires July 1, the date Scott plans to realign the highway commission.

The governor plans to have introduced soon legislation in the General Assembly that would increase the number of highway divisions from 14 to 23 or 24.

It's understood that Scott plans to wait until about July 1, the date the present highway commissioners' terms expire, to name new — and additional — commissioners.

One source close to Scott said that the governor plans to use these appointments to help insure passage of his proposed tax increases.

(?)

Scott has asked the General Assembly to impose a five-cent per pack tax on cigarettes and to increase the tax on whiskey by ten cents a bottle.

By dangling the appointments before the General Assembly, the governor stands to collect a few votes in the exchange. Sen. Allen, for example, would probably be unwilling to vote against the governor's tax package with the highway commission post in the balance.

The reason for the realignment, according to insiders, is to more evenly divide the number of the highway miles in each State Highway Commission division.

For example, Randolph, Chatham and Montgomery — the counties in the proposed new division — have about the same amount of highway miles as the remaining five counties now in the district.

The Eighth Division's eight counties have approximately 6,400 miles of roads, and roughly 2,560 of these miles are in Randolph and Chatham Counties.

This means there's only 3,840 miles in the rest of the district, and when Montgomery is added to the new district of Randolph and Chatham, then the mileage would be about even in both districts.

Other counties in the Eighth Division in addition to Randolph, Chatham and Montgomery are Moore, Hoke, Lee, Richmond and Scotland.

## Organization Meeting

Notice had been given that the citizens would meet on Monday March 8<sup>th</sup> 1779, at the home of Abram Reece. The Act of the Assembly was read. "Wherein Governor Richard Caswell had nominated William Cole, John Collier, Joseph Hinds, George Cotner, John Arnold, William Millikan, John Hinds, Jacob Shephard, Richard Owen, Windom Pearce and William Bell, William Merrill, John Towe, Cnoch Davis and James Hunter — Justices for holding the Court.

The Oath of Allegiance and the Oath of Office was administered by William Cole, Esquire. The Justice took their seats and organized the first Court in Randolph County only by electing William Bell, Sheriff; William Millikan, Register of Deeds and Absalom Latum, Clerk of Courts.



## The Cross Roads

Three Courts were held at the Abram Reece home. In the mean time, a small log house was built about four hundred yards East of the Cross Roads on the land of Stephen Rigdon and the Fourth Court was held here December 13, 1779. The General Assembly ordered that a court house should be built and on a five acre tract, a court house and jail were built.

The court house was a two story, hiproofed house and completed in two years. The nails used were made in a near by Smith Shop and the planks were sawed by hand. There was a small gallery over the doorway. The first Court was held in the new building March 1786.

The place was know as the Cross Roads at the two public highways, one from Old Salem to Fayeville, the other from Sallisbury to Hillsboro

passed by the Court House. In 1788 the Legislature passed a naming the new town Johnsonville in honor of Samuel Johnston of Adenton who was governor of the State - and Johnsonville became the first established town in the County. Courts were held four times a year. It was at the December 11th Term 1787, in Johnsonville that young Andrew Jackson presented a license from the Judges of Superior Court authorizing him to practice as attorney in the County Courts.

Jackson became a famous man and was elected the seventh President of the United States. The record of his attendance and practices at Court is in minutes of 1788 page 16. Session Rules of Court Order.

March Term 1786

The Sheriff and deputies must attend Court with their swords on and three constables shall carry white sticks six feet long to keep order. It is ordered that Captain Clark keep the keys of the Court House and keep windows and doors locked except on days for public business and for divine services. No one shall ride his horse into the Court House during the sitting of Courts.

A reward of twenty Shillings shall be paid for wolf scaps produced in Court. Isaac Kearns is allowed fifteen shillings in killing two wolves.

These and other Rules are recorded in the 1779 Court minutes.

Johnsonville was the typical County Seat of the times having small stores, hats and boat shops, and barrooms and taverns, both usual of the times.

Lots were sold and streets



laid off. County Fairs were held twice each year. Shooting matches, horse racing and other sports were lively affairs in the growing village.

The Court House had been at Johnsonville 14 years when agitations began to move nearer the center of the County for the greater convenience of the people. A convention was called at Johnsonville to consider the change, a petition was presented the Legislature for a change of location. This was granted.

Here Henley, Conveyed to the Justices (2) acres of undeveloped land for a new Court House for which he was paid ten shillings. The tract of land was almost in the center of the state and two Indian Trails crossed there.

The new location was named Asheborough in honor of Conel Samuel Ashe, a distinguished Revolutionary Soldier who was Governor of the State.

The Court House was located on the Salisbury Road (now Salisbury Street) and around it the village began to grow. The first Court was held June 12th 1793 in a small frame house which served for 12 years. In 1805 a (2) two-story frame house was built. It was sold for a store when a small brick house was built. This had to be torn down due to defect in construction and was rebuilt in 1835.

This Court House was remodeled in 1876, and was used until the present modern Court House was built in 1908 on Worth Street. The County Jail which had been frame structure was replaced by a brick building on the land adjoining the County Court House.

The earliest inhabitants of this section were the Catawaba Indians. Here was their hunting ground and over it they chased the buffalo and built wigwam fires. There can still be found





This is the Randolph County Court House, located in Asheboro (the county seat). It was built in 1908 on Worth Street. The County Jail was built on the land adjoining the County Court House.

arrow points, pottery, and other Indian relics. One of the interesting relics is the large rock which is said used by the Indians for cooking. This rock is about three miles southeast from Ramseur. Tradition is that there was an Indian burying ground between Ramseur and Franklinville. The Indian Trading Path dating from the 17th Century from Virginia to the Catawba and Wauhatchie Indians crossed Randolph County a few miles North of Asheboro. The state historical Commission has placed a marker at this crossing.



## The Early Settlers

The early settlers came from New England, Pennsylvania and Virginia, and were Germans, English, Quakers and Scotch-Irish. They came seeking religious liberty as well as homes. They were self reliant and not afraid to work. They bought land from Lord Granville. They were farmers, carpenters, and black smiths. Their first concern was to build a home, a church, and a school, Among the settlers ministers and doctors came.

1779 Tax List

Randolph County, North Carolina was formed in 1779 from Guilford and its boundaries have remained unchanged to the present. Settlers first began coming in the 1740's to the Randolph area, which at that time was part of Bladen County.

The tax list of Randolph taken in 1779 - the year that the County was formed - showed that there was 879 taxables in the County at that time. Among an average of five persons per family. There were approximately 4000 persons in Randolph County in 1779. The tax list was arranged by districts showing the following information on each taxable: the number of acres of land, money on hand, bonds, notes and other holdings. The 12 wealthiest men in the county in 1779 were: William Bell, Harmon Cox, John Wilburn, Hamon Miller, Elisha Mendinhall, William Searsey, Samuel Parks, Joseph Thomson, William



Hunter, John Barton, John Needham,  
William Merrel.

The tax listers were:

Shepperd, Jacob	Pearce, Windsor
Cole, William	Millikan, William
Hinds, John	Hinds, Joseph

The original tax list is in the  
State files at Raleigh, North Carolina  
and a copy of the same is preserved  
among the Randolph County Archives.

## Randolph County Items

Randolph was originally densely wood, and the land was fertile with many small creeks that emptied into the rivers. There was plenty of fish, fowl, and venison for food, also there were many wild animals — so many that a bounty of 15 shillings were offered for the scaps and ears of wild cats and wolves produced in the Court. The Indian tribes known to have lived are the Sapona and Catawba Indians. Many arrow heads and pieces of pottery have been found near old company grounds.

The trading path through North Carolina was used by the Indians and first explorers and the routes of this path was in Randolph County near what is now Asheboro.

The early settlers came here from Pennsylvania and were English, Quakers - Germans and Scotch-Irish — they came for the fine climate the



fertile lands - many built mills along the streams where people ground corn - William Bell's Mill and Walkers Mill 1782-1783 were used by Cornwallis men to grind grain for their men.

The Uwharrie Rivers - the Deep Rivers have been used by the early settlers since before the County was formed.

The early settlers were strong believers in religious liberty, and they established churches and schools for their children - Randolph County has many historic churches, among these Sandy Creek Baptist, 1755. Bells Meeting House was a historic church - Old Union was organized in 1786, Bishop Frances Asbury mentions in his Journal crossing the Northern part of Randolph and describes his Journey.

First Census

When the first census (1790) was taken, Randolph with a population grown to 7,276 had only 452 slaves, and in 1815 the number had risen to 1,092.

In 1850 out of a population of 15,832, Randolph counted 1,640 slaves and 392 free Negroes.

Today Negroes form only 8.5 per cent of the population.

## Randolph County of Militia

Shortly after the Revolutionary War the North Carolina General Assembly passed an act for organizing the militia in each county of the state for regular military training and discipling.

The first Court of the Militia of Randolph County met September 16, 1801, at the County Seat. Governor Richard Caswell commissioned: John Collier, Richard Owen and Joseph Shepherd Lieutenants and major of the regiment.

There were nine companies in the county districts and the first captains were:

Shubal York	Colon Steed
Joseph Smith	John Brown
Dobson Burrow	Charles Duncan
Robert Redding	John Craver
Samuel Moffitt	

The companies drilled twice a year in their own locality and the entire regiment met at the County Seat once a



year for General Muster held, for several days. The officers begin in full uniforms with plumes in their hats. Drums and fifes made martial music for these public reviews.

The Muster Fields were in the South East section of Asheboro.

The Courts of Militia were maintained until the war between the states.

The officers were constantly changing and this accounts forming Colonel, Majors and Captains in the County.

The minutes of the Court of the Militia from 1801-1839 is preserved among the Randolph County archives.



# Randolph Civil Air Patrol Rescue Squad Of The Air

TO THE thousands who travel the airways of the nation, Civil Air Patrol is a symbolized surety.

An auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, CAP cooperates with the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA), the American Red Cross, and other agencies.

Of foremost concern to CAP is the welfare of fellow citizens and the national security. By participating in simulated as well as actual rescue and search missions, plus various study courses, CAP senior members are able to up-grade their skills as licensed pilots.

Basic objectives of the

By Gayle Cox

CAP program are promotion of civil aviation and flying safety.

"Last year the Civil Air Patrol was responsible for saving 47 lives. And as a matter of record, 70 per cent of inland searching in this country is done by the CAP," said Ford Coleman in a recent interview. He serves as transportation officer for the Randolph Composite Squadron.

Coleman and Lt. Walt Gordon, who is commander of the

squadron here, explained the various goals of CAP in general and, more specifically, on the local level.

The Randolph Squadron has intersecting goals and duties.

They conduct air search and ground rescue missions, emergency communications and aerospace education with training.

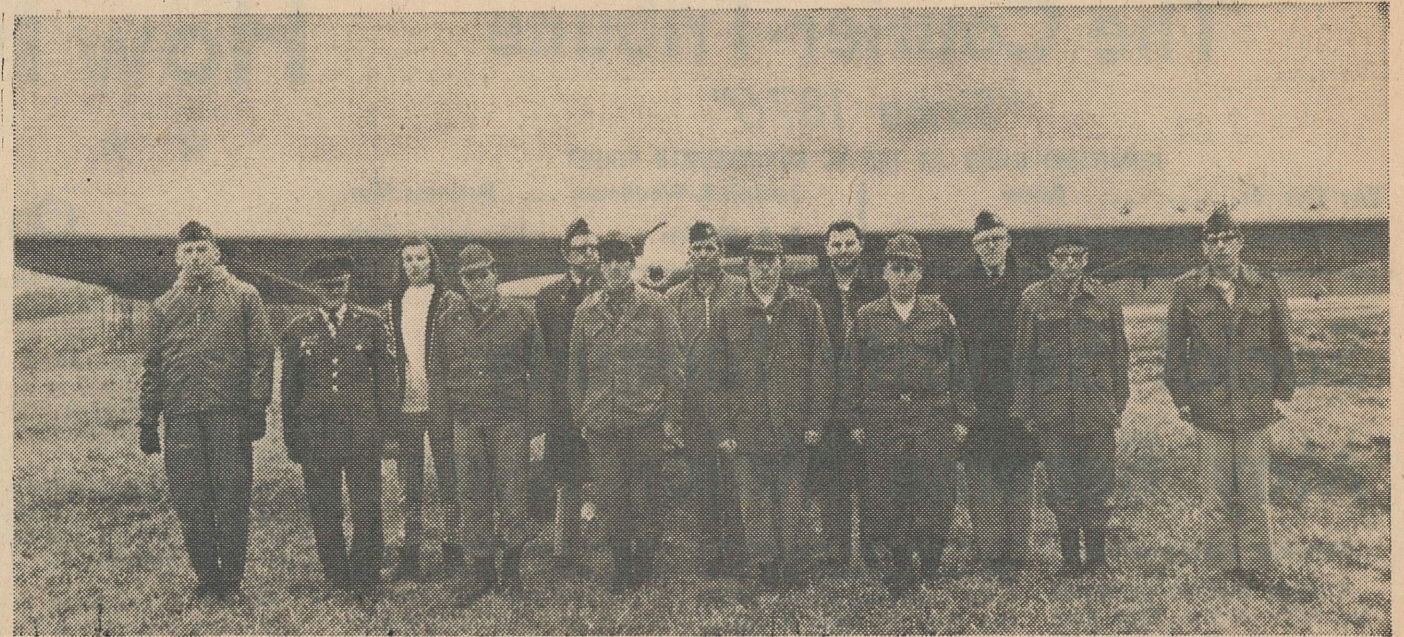
And perhaps most importantly, their young Cadets receive similar training on moral leadership (by the chaplain, Rev. Daniels) physical fitness, general leadership and the same aerospace education.

General instructor for the cadets is Bill Miller.

SOME OF the specific missions flown by the local squadron have been as near as Ulah and as far away as Hendersonville.

"We had one mission in Hendersonville this year. We had to look for a lost aircraft that went down between Knoxville and Asheville. Three aircraft got on that from Randolph," Gordon pointed out.

Last year there was one major mission at Ulah where a plane crashed. Members of the Randolph Squadron went down to



RANDOLPH SQUADRON — Pictured before their L-4 aircraft are senior members and cadets who help comprise the local composite squadron of Civil Air Patrol. They (first row, 1-r) Walt Gordon, R. E. Saunders, Michael Varner, Perry Cooper, Ray Garne, Alan Simmons, Barry Gatlin, Edward

Gatlin, and (second row) Betty Gordon, Ford Coleman, Keith Hayes, Bill Miller and Bill Ryckman. Members are given the opportunity to help "mould potential leaders in aerospace fields".

guard the wreckage for the owners and the FAA.

"Our assignment was to keep the plane crash as it was, intact, until it was released by the FAA. We prevented anyone walking off with parts that might have been valuable to the investigation," the commander told a reporter.

Gordon also pointed out that the FAA makes investigations on 95 per cent of crashes, 100 per cent in cases where there has been a fatality or injury.

And what about the other 5 per cent?

"That would include times when damage is estimated under \$300, when, for instance, a plane taxis in and scrapes a wing tip on the hangar. They don't file a report on that," Gordon said.

LT. GORDON indicated that a continuous patrol is not maintained here, although in

some sections of the State particular situations require a patrol.

Usual flight missions include locating downed aircraft and lost or missing persons. For instance, overdue hunters and fishermen are often sought by the CAP.

One of the biggest life-saving missions is transporting serum and blood from one point to another. And the CAP works directly with Civil Defense, engaged largely in radio communications and evacuation procedures.

Practice missions may be called by the squadron commander at any time without advance warning. This tests the preparedness of CAP's senior members.

ORGANIZED just since 1966, the Randolph Squadron is well beyond what might be termed as the fledgling

phase. There are 17 senior members, one the wife of Lt. Gordon and the only woman senior member, and 13 cadets between the ages of 13 and 18.

In the brief three years as an organized body, senior members have realized a need for sheltering their equipment. They now concentrate a major portion of their energies and efforts on a new hangar at the airport.

The 35' x 48' hangar, to be located adjacent to the T-hangars, will house the CAP-owned aircraft, an L-4 military designation for "piper cub", two pick-up trucks, motor trailers and generator flying equipment.

There are other incidental pieces of equipment such as desks, chairs and typewriters for an office. Tentative plans include using available room space in an airport building temporarily.

General expenditure for construction of the hangar amounts to a \$4,583 total. However, this immediate debt has already been taken care of.

The squadron had to borrow the money from a loan company and will try to repay the amount within the next year or so.

"We'll pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps," said Coleman.

"There'll be donations, we feel sure, because Asheville people are so generous where there's a worthwhile need. We'll also sponsor fund-raising projects much like the car washes we've sponsored in recent weeks," he said.

A white elephant sale will be conducted Saturday, March 7, with all proceeds going toward the hangar debt.

All persons desiring to donate items for the sale are invited to telephone Ford Coleman at 625-5464 or 625-5181.



HISTORICAL SITES



## The Lost City

But where are the Keyauwees and where was their fortified city? The Keyauwees utterly vanished, absorbed perhaps in some stronger tribe they joined for protection against the savage Senecas. For 230 years Keyauwee Town was as mysteriously lost as were its citizens.

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Then, in the late 20's, a young archaeologist - minister, Douglas Rights of Winston-Salem, re-read Lawson's description:

Five miles from this River (the Uwharrie) to the North-west, stands the Keyauwees town. They are fortified in with wooden Puncheons. . . . Nature has so fortified this town with Mountains that were it a seat of War it might easily be made impregnable; having large Corn-Fields joining to their Cabins,

and a Savanna near the Town at the Foot of these Mountains, that is capable of keeping some hundred Heads of Cattle. And all this environed around with very high Mountains, so that no hard Wind ever troubles these Inhabitants. . . . The earth is of a Red Colour and seems to me to be wholly designed by Nature for the Production of Minerals. . . .

These Indians made use of Lead-Ore, to paint their faces withal, which they get in the Neighboring Mountains.

. . . . At the top of one of these Mountains is a Cave that one hundred Men may sit very conveniently to dine in. . . .

. . . . Near the Town is such another Current as Heighwaree.

Armed with a soil survey map of Randolph, Douglas Rights starts his hunt. He traced Lawson's route from

from Trading Ford on the Gadkin, estimating the distance he would travel to reach the town.

The first stream after the early surveyor crossed the "Heighwaree" would be Carraway Creek.



## Old Town Discovered

On this creek, Rights believes he found old Keyauwee Town. It is in a beautiful valley, surrounded by the knobs of the Duharries. Natives still say the Carraway is named for "the Carraway Indians", and the similarity between this name and Keyauwee cannot be ignored.

On the top of Ridge's of Rich's Mountain, in a mile west, is a "strange rock formation," great boulders strewn over acres, providing large rock shelters, one of which must have been the "cave" Lawson mentioned.

On this creek, is Poole's wheatfield. For a hundred heedless years it had been plowed and re-plowed. Nevertheless, a team from the University, headed by

Geoffrey Coe, in one summer found abundant evidence of an Indian settlement.

### Relics Found

Arrowheads, stone axes, beads of shell and trade beads, pottery, tobacco pipes, fire pits and other artifacts were recovered. Several graves were opened. The plow and souvenir hunters had long since removed much more interesting evidences of Keyauwee.

The digging revealed human bones in the firepits, mixed in with those of animal bones, and the discovery led to the speculation that perhaps the Keyauwees, or earlier occupants of the site, had been cannibalistic.

The Keyauwee excavation in the 30's was the first archaeological project in North Carolina.



William Bell's Mill

Bell's historic mill was built about 1782 or earlier. The original mill has been replaced by one that older generations say is essentially the same type of structure as the original. It is a structure of interesting primitive construction.

For generations Bell's Mill has been a point of historical interest because Cornwallis' troops camped here and used Bell's Mill to grind their grain. They then moved on to Walker's Mill on Sandy Creek. While the British troops were at Bell's Mill, a number of them died from wounds and were buried "above the water marks of the stream." Their graves were marked by slabs, now gone, that have been seen by many living today.

There are many traditions

about Cornwallis' visit — his visiting with Mistress Bell — the hiding of money — and even that a cannon was buried on the Bell property.

There are many traditions and many facts connected with Bell's Mill which make interesting history.

Today the old mill is known as Walker's Mill for later owners. The home place of William Bell is located about two miles from Sophia. It is on an grassy hilltop. A tree has grown up from the cellar and through the roof of what may have been Martha's kitchen.

The place is now owned by Mister Carl Johnson who allows the old place to stand for its historic interest.

## Randolph County Historical Highway Markers

### Trading Path

Colonial Trading Path dating from 17<sup>th</sup> Century from Petersburg, Virginia, to Catawba and Wapahaw Indian Settlement.

### Cox Mill

Headquarters of David Fanning, noted leader of North Carolina Tories 1781-82 stood  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles east near Beane Mill, in Romseur, North Carolina.

### Sandy Creek Baptist Church.

Mother of Southern Baptist Association. Founded 1755 by Reverend Shubael Stearns, whose grave is here. North Carolina Highway 62.

### Trinity College

Union Institute 1839, Normal College 1851. Trinity College 1859



moved to Durham 1892. Duke University  
1924. At Trinity Highway 61.

Jonathan Worth.

Governor 1865-1868. State  
Treasurer 1862-1865. On United States  
Route 64, Asheboro, North Carolina.  
Home was one block South.

The Plank Road

Marks the Route of the Fayetteville  
to Salem Road 129 miles long. Built  
1849-1854. Erected on North Fayetteville  
Street near Randolph County Hospital.

Highway Marker at ———

Bells Graveyard

New Market Township to the  
Revolutionary Patriots of the County.  
Erected by Randolph County Historical  
Society 1953.

Balfour Graveyard.

Cedar Grove Township

In memory of Colonel Andrew  
Balfour of ———

Revolutionary Memory ———  
Murdered by Tories March 10, 1782  
Erected by Andrew Balfour  
Daughters of American Revolution -  
1955

## Some Historic Places of Randolph

### Sandy Creek Baptist Church

Mother of Southern Baptist Churches, founded in 1755 by Reverend Shubal Stearns of Boston, Massachusetts 1771, and is buried near the meeting house. His grave is plainly marked.

### Cox Mill

Headquarters of Colonel David Fanning, noted leader of the North Carolina Tories 1781-82. The mill stood near site of present marker in Ramseur.

### Franklinville

Colonel David Fanning's men camped in this section during the Revolutionary War. Andrew Hunter an ardent advocate of liberty, lived near and was marked by Fanning as a victim for murder. From the bridge may be seen historic "Faith Rock",



over which Hunter plunged 50 feet into the river and escaped Fanning's men on Colonel Fanning's own fine horse "Bay Doe".

### Cedar Falls

Cedar Falls is the site of the first cotton mill, established in Randolph County (1839). Much of the original mill remains. In 1775 the lands of the village and on both sides of the river were granted to Herman Husband by the Earl of Granville.

The Baptist Church organized 1844 has been in constant use 104 years. In the church yard is the grave of Colonel Benjamin Elliott, Col of the Militia 1800, Clerk of Pleas, 1779, and Quarter Sessions and Member of Senate 1831-33.

### Balfour Grave Yard

In Cedar Grove Township in a rugged spot in a group of trees.



# Memories Are Of Good Times And Days Past

KATHLEEN WILLIAMS sat on her side porch and strummed her "rabbit box" dulcimer.

She smiled vaguely, remembering the days of yesteryear, when folks gathered on the edge of Central Falls and "had good times" just to be together.

Miss Williams, 66 years old, lives in a rambling farmhouse filled with mementoes of those years.

"What mementoes! What years!" she sighs when talking to an occasional visitor.

"I remember . . . when Clyde Tysinger, Wilbur Cranford and some of their friends used to come over from Ashboro and bring their musical instruments in nighttime gatherings . . ." she reminisced.

" . . . We'd play here in my store, and folks would gather 'round and spend the evening.

"Play in your store," the visitor inquired.

"Yes, right there. See that little building with the little advertisement nailed to it?"

Across a dirt driveway,

By Henry King

shaded by the limbs of a gnarled peach tree, a small, weather A-roof building stood almost forlorn in appearance.

It is not visible from the main road on the edge of town, and it is necessary to come up the driveway over-towered by huge oak trees to see it.

"How long has the store been closed?" Miss Williams was asked, and she gave the startling reply: "It is still being used.

"Oh, hardly anyone ever comes anymore;" just once in awhile somebody will buy something. Somebody who lives close by.

"Want to see inside?" she offered. Digging deeply into an apron pocket Miss Williams brought out an old key, rose from her porch rocker and led the way to the old building.

Slowly the door swung open, as the latch was released, and the panorama of

a country store of the 1920's came before the eyes.

The store built in 1923 by Miss Williams' parents, Albert and Cindy, is unchanged from that date.

Only the merchandise on the shelves has been replaced from time to time as it was sold off.

"I still sell most everything a little country store is supposed to sell, except perishable stuff. I don't have facilities or sell enough to keep that kind of merchandise," she said.

The tiny store has the usual run of cans of beans, boxes of matches, or jar of jelly, but the flavor of days of long ago is what pervades the place.

An old timey metal scale on the counter; an iron leg sewing machine, a wooden stool, and calendars on the wall from many years past, all give the feeling that one has stepped into the rural, roaring Twenties.

"This used to be the gathering place for most folks around here who wanted to get together in the evening for socializing," she recalled.



KATHLEEN WILLIAMS AND "RABBIT BOX" DULCIMER

... She Remembers Good Old Days

"Oh, this was not the only store around Central Falls, but somehow people liked to come here. They felt like it was like a community building, I reckon."

Miss Williams picked up a small, box-like object from behind the counter. "Do you know what this is?" she asked, pointing to two small brass terminals.

"It is part of a coil and a 'shocking box' that we used often in our shennannigans around here. We'd hook it up and shock unsuspecting folks, then we'd laugh up a storm.

"Had a salesman come in here one day, a long, long time ago. He was leaning against the counter when I pressed the button. You should have seen him throw his pencil and notebook high in the air and then dance from the current!"

The nighttime gathering place is quiet now, and visitors seldom come to spend time with Miss Williams. However she has a keen memory for times and places and her home is a veritable museum of souvenirs of the "good old days."

"I remember . . . when they were building the new, concrete bridge here in Central Falls. Right alongside it was the nice old covered bridge. The year was 1929, I think.

" . . . I took my old camera and went down along the river and took some pictures of the old bridge as it was being taken down.

"Look at this picture I took. Now isn't that a nice, clear picture of the old covered bridge?"

Miss Williams led the way to her parlor, and there the nicest collection of local musical instruments to be found locally was on display.

Fondling the "rabbit box" dulcimer which she had brought inside, Miss Williams explained that it was rightfully called a French Dulcimer. "But we have always

called it a rabbit box dulcimer. Doesn't it look like a rabbit box?" she exclaimed.

"Adam Williams, papa's uncle made it. He didn't have anything to work with except a hatchet, knife and a hammer. I don't know of another one in the country like it," she said.

In Miss Williams parlor is an accordion, piano, a regular guitar, a steel guitar, a dulcimer, mandoline, violin, two autoharps and a roller organ.

"Yes, I used to play them all," she explained, "but I don't play much anymore. Hardly ever pick them up, except to show them to folks."

Pointing to a regular type dulcimer, Miss Williams said "That's an old one, all right. Mama used to put it down on the floor when I was a baby, then she'd give me a stick to beat on it, to keep me busy and entertained."

She took a crank in her hand and applied it to the roller organ. Out came sweet melodious tunes, which brought a smile to her face.

"Remember the old time organ grinder and his monkey? This is the same type of music. The only difference is that this is a cabinet model," she commented.

"I even used to have a swimming pool," Miss Williams said, looking out the window towards a now partially collapsed building.

The building of brick walls, still standing but toppled roof was used as a swimming pool in the summer and a flower house in the winter.

"We'd flood it in early spring, then use it for a pool all summer. In the fall we'd drain it, then put our potted plants in it for safekeeping in freezing weather."

A new-found puppy came dashing in through the hole in the back screen door and jumped up on Miss Williams as she sat down again.

"He's grand company," she said, patting the frisky pet.

Miss Williams shoo'd several goats off the side porch as the visitor was leaving and exclaimed, "They get to be spoiled just like young 'uns, if you let them."



CENTRAL FALLS CONCRETE BRIDGE COMPLETED IN 1929

... Overshadowed Old Covered Bridge



The marked graves are:  
 ("Colonel Andrew Balfour of Revolutionary  
 Memory")

"Murdered by a band of Tories  
 March 10, 1782"

"Elizabeth Dayton  
 Wife of Conel Balfour  
 Died 1818"

"Andrew Balfour Junior  
 Son of Colonel Balfour  
 Born October 22, 1776  
 Died December 31, 1827"

Colonel Andrew Balfour, an ardent  
 advocate of liberty, was murdered by  
 Colonel David Fanning's band of  
 Tories in a very cruel manner. The  
 name of Colonel Balfour is commemerate  
 in the Balfour Masonic Lodge Number  
 88 of Asheboro.



Archdale

A Quaker village was first called Bush Hill later changed to Archdale in honor of John Archdale, Quaker Governor 1694. Indians were living in the groves, long years after the first settlers arrived. The Tomlinson and English and Pettys were among early settlers.

Trinity College

In the northwest corner of Randolph County, Brantly York founded a school in 1842. From York's school grew Trinity College, which was moved to Durham in 1839, and 1924 the name was changed to Duke University.

Marlboro Friends Meeting House

Old Union Methodist Church, site of early camp meetings once known as Bell's Meeting House.

In the vicinity of these churches

in Bell's Mill now Walker's Mill. During the Revolution Cornwallis marched through the county and camped on Deep River, moving up the river to Guilford Court House. They camped at Walker's Mill on Sandy Creek on the night of May 28, 1771.

In this section lived Mattie Bell, Ruth Farlow, Nancy Clark, and Jane Millikan whose courage fitted the stirring time in which they lived.

### 220 - Randleman

Once called Dicks, the Union Factory is one of the early manufacturing towns. Some of the early landmarks may still be seen around the site of the Union Factory established in 1848.



## Other Markers On Historic Sites

(Tablet on the Andrew Hunter Bridge at Franklinville.)

To the Revolutionary Patriots  
of Randolph County  
By Guilford Battle Chapter  
Daughters of American Revolution  
Dedicated 1908

. . . . .

(Confederate Monument erected 1911 by  
the Randolph County Chapter)  
(United Daughters of Confederacy)  
In perpetual memory of the Confederate  
Soldiers of Randolph County  
The monument stands in front of  
the Randolph County Court House.

. . . . .

Bronze Tablet placed by the Asheville  
Rotary Club in memory of Randolph  
County patriots who lost their lives in  
World War II. In the main corridor of  
Randolph County Court House.

. . . . .

( Located in the Western Uwharrie Hills is the Hoover Grave Yard, ancestors of President Herbert Hoover.)

Andrew Hoover was born in Germany 1723. He came to America in 1738, and settled in Pennsylvania 1746, then moved to North Carolina in 1774, and died in 1794.

There are 23 graves of Hoovers in this plot near Victor Parker's Mill.



## Old Covered Bridge

There is no county in North Carolina where the blending of the old and the new seem to harmonize with such a degree of serenity as in Randolph.

Two miles of a three lane highway stands the longest covered wood bridge in the state.





## Randolph Relic Visited By Society

Skeens Mill covered bridge was one of the interesting places visited by the Randolph County Historical Society membership Sunday while on a bus tour of the western section of

the county. The bridge may be a project of restoration by U. S. Army Engineers. (Staff Photo)

# Army To Aid County In Saving Bridges?

By HENRY KING

Randolph County might get an assist from the United States Army in preserving its two covered bridges, members of the local historical society were told Sunday.

In the first leg of a county historical tour the group stopped at Pisgah covered bridge heard guide tour leader Tom Presnell relate the history of the span.

During the brief lecture an

official of the society said that during the recent Cherokee Trail exercise he had talked with several officers of the military group about projects the Army was initiating in the county.

The officers said that the U. S. Army engineers generally carried on improvement programs in the exercise area as part of "the goodwill gesture toward the civilians" that they needed to cultivate in their role

as guerrillas.

Fixing up the covered bridges and the adjacent grounds would come under such an engineer program if local groups or societies requested it, the officers intimated.

The Randolph County Historical Society is presently trying to acquire deeds to the immediate acreage around the bridges, and if it is obtained they will request army assistance in restoration and upkeep of the relics.

Pisgah covered bridge spans Little River. It was built about 1920. It is approximately 40 feet long, and only cost \$40 to build. The only repairs ever made to the overall structure was the replacement of the shingle roof with a tin roof.

In relating covered bridge

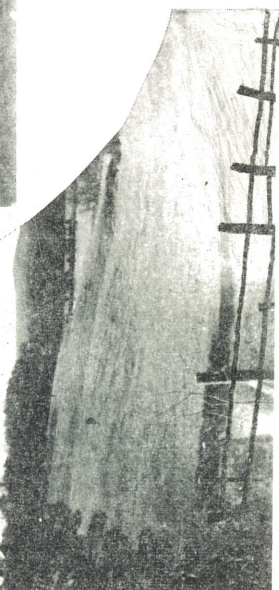
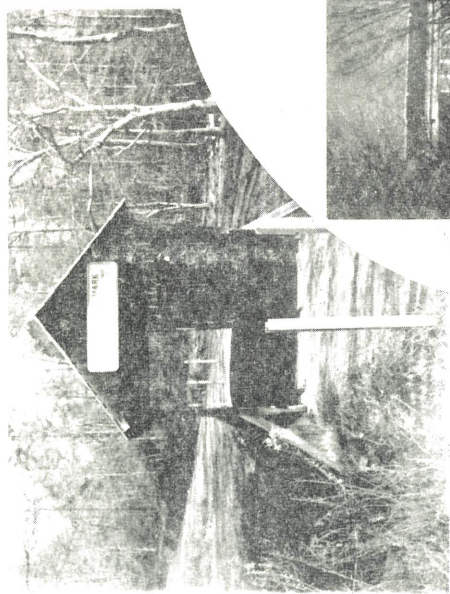
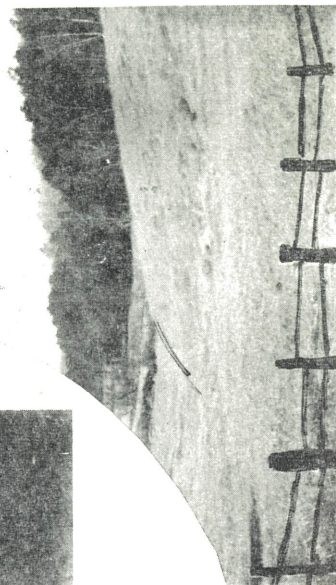




One of the few remaining covered bridges in North Carolina, two of which remain in Randolph County near Asheboro. This bridge is located north of Highway 64 between Lexington and Asheboro, North Carolina.

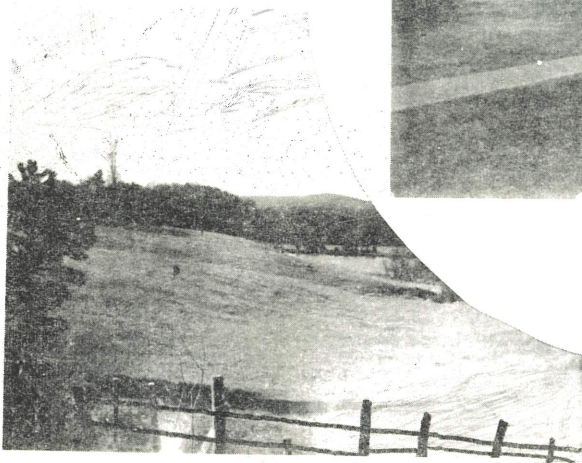
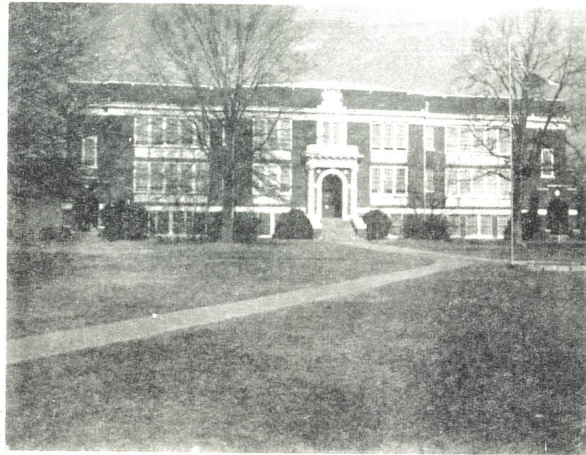
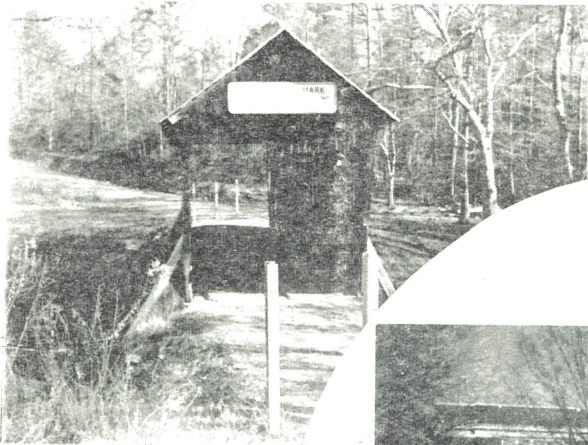


# Landmarks





# Landmarks



Love Thy  
Neighbor

