

# CHATHAM COUNTY

1771-1971

Wade Hampton Hadley  
Doris Goerch Horton  
Nell Craig Strowd

Delmar Printing Company  
Charlotte, North Carolina

grist mill ground meal and Mrs. Brooks and her servants baked bread for the soldiers.

Offspring of distinction were Dr. Clyde M. Gilmore, Greensboro physician, who with his brother, Glenn, organized the Gilmore Plant and Bulb Company and developed Gilmore Farms, which include much of the original grant; Dr. James Edwin Brooks, instrumental in founding North Carolina Tuberculosis Sanatorium; William Tell Brooks, Wake Forest professor.

#### The Stewarts

James Stewart, Sr., was living on Robertson Creek in 1755. Four years later his son, John, took up land on Robertson and Brooks Creeks. John, Jr. fought under command of Col. John Luttrell in the Revolution. Charles Stewart lived on Haw River, purchasing land there in 1778 adjoining James Massey, Thomas Braxton, Joseph Foushee and John Stewart. Charles enlisted in Caswell's Company, 5th North Carolina Regiment, July 23, 1777 and served through the war, rising from ensign to captain.

#### The Marsh Family

Robert Marsh, who settled eight miles north of Pittsboro prior to the Revolution "was threatened with 30 lashes a month until he consented to join the Regulators." William Marsh (1751-1854) and his wife, Sarah Stewart, has 14 children, who married into the Waddell, Thompson, Andrews, Hackney, O'Daniel, Harris, Brooks, Edwards, Brantley, Dorsett and Cheek families.

#### Dorsett

The first Dorsett to come into Chatham County was Francis, a Baptist minister from Doersettshire, England, who settled on the east side of Rocky River. The Dorsetts were active Tories during the Revolution.

#### Foushee

Joseph and Charles Foushee settled between 1755 and 1758 in that part of Orange County which was to become Chatham. Among the descendants of Joseph was William, whose ten children included Dr. Robert Joseph Foushee, who practiced medicine in the county for 30 years. A granddaughter, Cornelia Frances, born 1826, married

the Rev. Isaac Newton Mann.

#### Mann

Just when Thomas Mann, first of the name in the county, arrived to develop holdings on Wilkerson Creek is not known, but it was after 1769. His son, Thomas Mann, Jr., was for 30 years a Methodist circuit rider. The Rev. Isaac Newton Mann was his grandson, and among Isaac's children were Dr. Ambrose W. Mann and Jefferson Davis Mann, a pharmacist.

#### Meacham-West

William Meacham came to Chatham County from Virginia and was living on Terrell's Creek at the time of his death in 1808. Three of his children married offspring of Thomas West, Sr., who purchased 190 acres on Robertson Creek in 1769. His daughter, Elizabeth, married Ignatius West, son of Thomas; his son, Joseph, married Mary West, and son, William, Jr., married Sallie West, both daughters of Thomas West, Jr. In 1774 Thomas, Sr., sold his land to Charles Stewart, and thereafter lived on Dry Creek. Richard West, son of Thomas Sr., had received a grant for land in the same area.

#### Mial Scurlock

Mial Scurlock, one of the founders of Pittsboro, lived just south of the town. Planter, surveyor, miller, he owned 1,000 acres of land, a mill on Roberson Creek, half interest in a mill of Haw River and personal property totalling 20,000 pounds. Of his 12 children, George was killed in the battle of Cowpens. After Mial's death in 1781 his widow ran the plantation and operated a tavern. A grandson, Mial, was killed at the Alamo. William, another grandson, who was one of Col. Fannin's men in the Texas Revolution, was captured at Goliath, but was not executed.

#### The Poe Family

Simon Poe, with other members of the family, came to Chatham County from Virginia as early as 1759 and settled near George's Creek. In the early years of the Revolution, Benjamin and Jessie Poe, came from Culpepper County. It was in the home of Simon's son, Stephen, that Chatham Court was held until the first

courthouse was built. Stephen was elected to represent Chatham in the Colonial Assembly of 1774, but died before taking his seat.

#### Dr. Clarence Poe

Clarence Hamilton Poe (1881-1965), born near Gulf to William Baxter and Susan Dismukes Poe, became assistant editor of *The Progressive Farmer* at the age of 16, and two years later he was made editor. In 1903 he purchased the magazine, and for the rest of his life used it as an instrument to promote improved farming and better living conditions throughout the south. In the thirties he launched a nationwide campaign for good health. The North Carolina Medical Care Commission was a direct result of his report to Governor Broughton and the General Assembly on the findings of a commission which he headed to investigate health needs of the state. He served on the American Commission on Hospital Care (1944-46) and in 1951 was appointed by President Truman to a committee on health needs of the nation. Dr. Poe married Alice Aycock, daughter of Governor Charles B. Aycock.

#### Harmon

Zachariah Harmon came from Virginia to North Carolina about 1760 and was living on Haw River near Pittsboro at the time Chatham County was formed. His son, Hezekiah, a Baptist minister of note, married the daughter of William Petty on whose land the town of Pittsboro was built. Hezekiah's daughter, Polly, married Bartholomew Lightfoot, who bought lot No. 91 in the new town.

#### Johnson

In his "Revolutionary War" address on July 4, 1876, Henry A. London stated that Benjamin Johnson, then 106 years old and the oldest man in the county, distinctly remembered having seen foraging parties come to the home of his father on Rocky River. Benjamin was the great-great-grandfather of Lemuel Johnson.

#### George Gee

George Gee, ardent patriot, fought in the Revolution. He lived a short distance southeast of the present town of Siler City. A son,

Henry McNeill, gave the land for Gee's Grove Chapel. Men of the Gee family were skilled cabinet makers.

#### Emerson

James Emerson, Sr., (Emberson) received a grant for 400 acres of land on Rocky River and Tick Creek in 1780 and another grant for 200 acres on Bear Creek in 1789. He had arrived in the area much earlier, as he was prominent in the Regulation movement. After the Battle of Alamance he was one of 12 Regulators sentenced by Governor Tryon to be executed. His sentence and that of five others, was respited and in 1772 he was pardoned. Seven sons of one of his descendants served in the Confederate Army at the same time. The Emersons have married into the Gilmore, Evans, McPherson, Freeman, Stuart, Dowd, Brantley, Kelly and Dunlap families.

#### Dunlap

Samuel Dunlap moved from Moore to Chatham County prior to 1830 and settled on Pig's Branch. His son, Dr. Bryant Green Dunlap, served with the 26th and 63rd Regiments, CSA, and practiced medicine near Glendon until his death in 1867. Another son, Henry Overton Dunlap, was a major in the 30th Regiment of North Carolina Militia. Henry's sons, John and Isaac, were involved in large lumber operations and operated Chatham's only home-owned railroad, the Bonlee and Western. Many descendants live in the county and have ties by marriage with such old families as Lea, Clegg, Bynum, Headen, Bray, Brooks, Terrell, Buie, McIver and Hunter.

#### McIver

Three groups of the McIver family came from Scotland to the Carolinas, and all have descendants in Chatham County. Roderick A. McIver (1816-1880) settled near May's Chapel. Beginning in 1772 and continuing until the next century, the family of Kenneth McIver of the Isle of Skye came into Chatham County.

In 1870 John McMillan McIver moved from his native Moore County to Gulf, where he became a successful farmer, merchant and pioneer in the milling business. He was graduated from the

Mary Alice Green

(1879-1959) - Born near Goldston, the daughter of John Green, Mary Alice was sponsored by the Woman's Society of the North Carolina Annual Conference and sent in 1919 to Shanghai for evangelistic work. She was interned by the Japanese in 1943, Miss Green was a direct descendant of Abel Green, who in 1787 received a grant for land in the Beaumont community.

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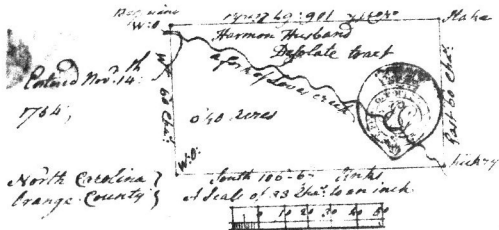
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In addition to the above, family notes and records supplied by the following have been used: Harold Broughton, Durham; Miss Catherine Paschal, Wake Forest; John Hudson Emerson, Cary; Mrs. Malvein Stewart, Mrs. C. R. Hackney and Mrs. Thomas F. Richardson of Huntsville, Texas; Miss Kathryn Reynolds, Houston, Texas; Mrs. Willard Hodges, Dallas, Texas; Mrs. Nancy Thomas, Greensboro; Leon Ellis, Seaford, Delaware; Mrs. J. G. Brown, Newport News, Va.; Dr. C. Nash Herndon, Winston-Salem; Garland Stout, Greensboro; Mrs. James Dixon, Snow Camp; Mrs. Ola T. Neal, Upper Fairmont, Md.; Mrs. Thomas A. Atwater, Orange County; and the following within the county: E. H. Foust, Jr.; Mrs. Angus Currie; Clyde Edwards; Mrs. Worthy Pendergrass; Mrs. Harry Horton; Mrs. C. N. Bray; Mrs. M. M. Fox; Willie Dixon; Mr. and Mrs. Brown Lane; Mrs. Jessie Ruth Seagroves; Mrs. Henry Bynum; Dr. Lois Crider; Grady Vestal; Mrs. Byron Clapp; Wade Hampton Hadley; Mrs. Henry Blair; Mrs. Herbert Jourdan; Mrs. Wade Durham; Mrs. John M. McIver; Mrs. J. W. Gee; Lemuel Johnson; Lewis Lutterloh; Murray Andrew; Mrs. P. J. Reitzel; and Mrs. C. A. Simmons.



This plan represents a tract of land surveyed for Harmon Husband on the fork of Love's Creek (called Desolate Tract) in the waters of Rocky River. Beginning at a white oak then running west up Love's Creek 60 Cha: to a white oak then South 106 Cha: by links cross the fork to a hickory. Then East 60 Cha: to a Stake then North 106 Cha: by links to the first station containing six hundred and forty acres of land surveyed the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August 1757.

James Cha: Corrier  
John Johnson }  
Sahua Bradlog }

M. G. Smith

Survey of Harmon (Herman) Husband's "Desolate Tract" of 640 acres on a fork of Love's Creek, made August 22, 1757. Location was in southern part of Siler City area. Land grant from Earl of Granville was issued August 5, 1758.