COMMENTS BY THE PHS PRESIDENT

I am asked from time to time if the Pittsylvania Historical Society accepts contributions, gifts of historical significance, family heirlooms, antiques and relics.

We certainly welcome monetary contributions because we can always use money. We are grateful to the Chatham Garden Club for a recent sizeable check with the club treasurer Nancy Watson saying it was given "to help the historical society with some of its projects."

We appreciate a gift from Mary Carter who gave a set of heavy, iron chairs to the PHS to go in the town park. Wooding Hall, who is nearing his century mark, gave a momento from the Old Mark’s Men Store that flourished here in 1910.

The PHS appreciates these and wishes we could accept many of the available relics that have been offered...but the truth is that the PHS does not have the space for anything larger than a book.

It is my fond wish that some time in the future we can get a county museum to store and display the many historical relics that should go in it. - By PBM

LEARN ABOUT CHATHAM AT AUG. 15 MEETING

What do you really know about Chatham?

Here’s your chance to learn a lot about our county seat town and especially about the changes that have taken place in the past 50 to 75 years.

Camden Whitehead and Garland Turner will be the co-speakers at the PHS August meeting and will have some humorous and fascinating things to reveal that may surprise you.

The PHS meeting will be held the third Monday night, which will be Monday, August 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Old 1813 Clerks Office (back of Chatham Town Hall).

The subject for the August 15 meeting is "Looking Back At The Chatham That Existed Here More Than A Half Century Ago."

The headliners for the program are two of Chatham’s distinguished and well-known senior citizens, Cam Whitehead and Garland Turner, who have lived here about all their lives and know all there is to known about the town from "way back when."

Cam is a former longtime Chatham Councilman and Mayor. Garland is a former County Commissioner of Revenue for 24 years.

As co-speakers, they will tell about some unique happenings, changes that have taken place and report on some of the well-known "characters" of those days.

The program will be informative, historical and fun, fun, fun! You will learn some things about our town that you can pass on to your children and grandchildren.

Don’t miss it. Remember it is set for Monday, August 15.
Had Its Beginnings in 18th Century
Watson Memorial Methodist Chatham's Oldest Church

BY HERMAN MELTON

The horseman galloped into the clearing where campfires surrounding the brush arbor flickered in the cloudless dusk. He was Peter Doub. Presiding Elder of the Franklin Circuit of the Yadkin District of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who arrived on a typically hot July day to conduct a four day camp meeting in 1826. In those days it was not unusual for a hundred converts to "respond to God’s word" by joining the Methodist movement during such a four day camp meeting revival.

It largely due to the efforts of Circuit Riders such as the great Peter Doub that Methodism took root and literally exploded in Pittsylvania County between 1820 and 1840.

However, the movement had its beginnings in the 18th century and the Colonials most responsible for bringing Methodism in Pittsylvania were the Carters. Thomas Carter of Cumberland County (for whom a local chapter of the DAR is named) was a member of the Continental Army who moved his family to Pittsylvania after independence was achieved.

He and his wife Winnesfred founded the plantation home "Green Rock" on Green Rock Branch of Cherrystone Creek. Back in her Cumberland County home, she had been a follower of Francis Asbury, the first Methodist Bishop sent to America by John Wesley, the founder of Methodism in England.

Winnesfred wrote a letter to the great Asbury inviting him to include "Green Rock" in his itinerary. Sure enough, the indefatigable Asbury arrived

LOOK FOR THEASTERICK *

An asterick (*) beside your mailing address means that your membership to the PHS has EXPIRED. This also means that this is your final copy of The Packet if you don’t renew.

We don’t want to lose you, and we definitely want you to renew your membership to the PHS.

Please send $10 to renew your membership to Mrs. Jeannette Brown, PHS Membership Secretary, Rt. 1, Box 8K6, Chatham, VA 24531.
at the Carter home in September of 1799 and entered the following in his journal on the 26th:

"On Friday, we rode twelve miles to Carters (Thomas Carter of Green Rock) where a large company attended."

Being a man of low stature, Asbury needed something upon which to stand. The most convenient object available was one of Thomas Carter's leather covered liquor cases. Carter found the incident amusing. His wife did not, and saw to it that a portable pulpit was constructed for the use of all future visiting Methodist Circuit Riders.

Early 19th Methodist Circuit Riders spent much time in Pittsylvania while traversing its pioneer roads and fording its streams in scorching summer heat and in bitter winter cold in search of lost souls.

One of the "Horsemen of the Long Road" was the aforementioned Peter Doub who was born in nearby Stokes County, N.C. He was Presiding Elder of the Franklin Circuit in the old Yadkin District. As such, his circuit reached from the Blue Ridge through Pittsylvania County to the Halifax line. There were more than thirty churches on the circuit being served by three preachers. Six weeks were required for Doub to complete one round.

One of these churches, Hebron Meeting House, was founded by Doub in 1827. It was a log structure built on the pioneer road leading from Pittsylvania C.H. to Franklin County. The exact location of old Hebron cannot be determined but it is known to have been near the site of present day Hargrave Military Academy. Hebron was built on a three quarter acre tract of land donated by Robert and Catherine Wilson who were early Methodists. One of the Hebron Board of Trustees who acknowledged receipt of the deed and agreed to its provisions was Jeduthen Carter, a grandson of Thomas and Winnefred Carter.

Peter Doub went on to become a professor at Duke University, the founder of the first Methodist Church built in Greensboro and the founder of Greensboro College - a Methodist institution.

The log structure served this congregation for seventeen years before being moved to its present site in what was at that time the village of Competition.

A sanctuary was completed in 1844 and another was built in 1876. Members of the Watson family assumed an important role in the leadership of the church during those years. Thomas Jefferson Watson and Fletcher Bangs Watson and their progeny were responsible for much of the church's success.

Eventually, the church was named Christian Memorial in honor of John E. Christian who married Lizzie Watson of that prominent family. He became a professor at Virginia Tech and its interim President in 1886.

When the cornerstone of the present sanctuary was laid in 1896, it was named Watson Memorial in recognition of the support given it by this devoted family.

1994 represents the Sesquicentennial year of the location of the church in the Town of Chatham. It should not be forgotten that it was founded by a remnant of old Hebron whose roots lay in some camp meetings more than 167 years ago. Its heritage is a proud one because of the life of its founder, Peter Doub, and because of the records of scores of outstanding Circuit Riders, latter day competent pastors and dedicated laymen.
How Southern Families Survived
Letter By Jefferson Davis' Widow Poses Real Mystery

BY PATRICIA B. MITCHELL

The following is excerpted from a "mystery" letter penned by Varina Davis, widow of Jefferson Davis, at their home, Beauvoir, in Biloxi, Mississippi in 1882. The letter was copied by Mattie S. (Mrs. Luther) Meadows of Chatham, Virginia in 1937 as a part of the WPA Writers Project Historical Inventory. The document was in the possession of Belle (Mrs. Scott) Carter of Chatham, Virginia. (She lived in the home located at 9 Aston Place.)

The letter appears to be incomplete. The overall subject is the survival of Southern families during the War Between the States. Mrs. Davis gave a heading to each topic, lending a sense of academic formality to the writing. As a result, one might surmise that it was a communication intended for general circulation, rather than to a single recipient. If any reader has seen this letter in some other context -- either a portion or its entirety -- the writer of this article invites your correspondence.

HOW THE WOMEN FACED THE WAR SITUATION. When this began to afflict the women, their powers of endurance were at once demonstrated to the world. The harbors were closed by the blockade. No supplies of clothing could be imported. The time came when the stock of cloth, shoes, medicine, machinery, indeed everything necessary to civilized people was nearly exhausted.

The people found themselves confronted with problems they must learn to solve. All these needs must be supplied by the women. The stores each family possessed of quinine and such other drugs as were needed for the diseases of a warm climate, was gradually relinquished for the use of the soldiers. Replenishment was impossible. Quinine had been proclaimed by the blockaders "Contrabands of War." The women turned undaunted to the indigenous Materia Medica. Decoctions of willow bark, of dewberry root, orange flowers and leaves, red pepper teas and other tisanes took the place of drugs. One heart-broken woman wrote to her husband, "twenty grains of quinine would have saved our two children, they could not drink the bitter willow tea, but now they are at rest, and I have no one to work for but you."

HOW CLOTHING WAS CONTRIVED. The sheep were sheared, the wool cleansed, carded and spun in the home. Small looms were set up, and the warp adjusted under the eye of the practical weaver. All the clothes for the plantation, as well as some cloth to exchange for other commodities, was woven for winter use. In the winter, the cotton cloth was made for summer. Pretty home spun checks, brown, black, blue, red or white were manufactured for the ladies' and children's frocks.

The ladies spun the wool and knitted stockings and socks for their families, also many for the soldiers. An officer's wife called to see the wife of the President and brought her, as the most acceptable present, a paper
pattern of a glove, like those she herself wore, beautifully embroidered, and fitted to her hand. This paper pattern is still extant and very precious to the recipient. It is very useful in providing President’s family with presentable gloves made from sleeves of old Confederate uniforms and cast off garments.

When new companies or battalions organized, for which flags were needed, the wives, sisters, and sweethearts of the men, sacrificed their best silk frocks to make the flags. They emblazoned them in such royal style, they are beautiful even to this day. The snippings left by the army tailors, pieces of gray and black, five or six inches across, were pieced together and then cut into jackets for the soldiers’ children. Very acceptable were those Joseph’s Coats proved to those who could boast no better covering.

**HOW WE LIGHTED OUR HOMES.** Lamp wicks were plaited by hand, and the oil was tried out of refuse pork. Sometimes wild myrtle berries were stewed until they yielded a pale wax which was used. I once saw five soldiers’ wives making clothing by this light, and while they sewed, they talked over the chances of their men coming home alive. Night schools were established in the basements of churches were poor ragged children were taught by ladies.

Great barrels of soap were made of the refuse of hogs killed for family and plantation use. When toilet soap was required, this need was met by a home cured ham boiled for family use, and the old-fashioned sweet flowers and herbs of the garden furnished the perfume. Hundreds of gallons of black berry brandy was made and sent to the hospitals for the soldiers.

**OUR COFFEE AND TEA.** In order that the wounded might have tea and coffee, substitutes were made for home use. (For tea,)...sassafras leaves, balsam, sage and orange leaves were steeped in hot water and sweetened with sorghum molasses. For coffee, parched sweet potato shavings, parched corn and wheat and parched carrots were used. All the coffee, tea, white or brown sugar were sent to the soldiers.

**READING MATTER AND STARVATION PARTIES.** The strong tensions upon the nerves of the women was not relieved by books and magazines. The newspapers were annals of ardent endeavor, triumphs and sorrows, wounds and death. All work and no play began to tell upon our nervous women. Some of them turned for relief, when their soldiers came home, to... starvation parties.

The placid gray haired women of today have covered with pride the scars of that dread struggle, but they are no less veteran conquerors in a mortal conflict in which every noble aspiration and human effort was called forth and answered with cheer.

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**NOTE: Patricia Mitchell is currently researching the use of medicinal herbs during the War Between the States. If you readers have knowledge pertaining to such, any information which you could share with her would be much appreciated and would be credited to you if used in a book. Please write to Patricia B. Mitchell, P.O. Box 429. Chatham, VA 24531.***

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**SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER MIGHT TELL**

If your ancestor has a SS number of 700 to 728, he probably worked for the railroad between 1937 and 1943. The SS numbers were designated at the same time the Railroad Retirement Pension was set up. Railroad pension records are available from the Railroad Retirement Board, 844 N. Rush St., Chicago, IL 60611.
"Before their dark secret was known, Fontaine and Moncie would wish they'd never met for there could never be an acceptable solution to the problem they themselves created. Although the two had little in common, they shared a birth place and date: Beaumont Plantation, May 5, 1817.

"While Fontaine enjoyed status and a life of ease as the eldest son of a successful Virginia planter; Moncie, daughter of a slave, would never even know the name of the white man who sired her. Before it ended, both scion and slave would be drawn into a grisly vortex that could only end in violent death and a ride into darkness."

Suggested by a mass murder that took place in the Pleasant Gap area of the county in 1840, the story moves forward to encompass action during the early part of the Civil War. The author has done extensive research in order to ensure that the life and times of this era are historically correct.

Published by University Editions, an imprint of Aegina Press, RIDE INTO DARKNESS will sell for $10.95 plus shipping/handling and tax for residents of Virginia. An order blank is inserted in this issue of The Packet. $1.00 per book will be donated to Pittsylvania County Historical Society for all orders using the enclosed insert.

Kenyon McCann (pen name of Helen Melton) and her husband, author/historian Herman Melton, live in Chatham, Virginia, in a turn-of-the-century Victorian house. RIDE INTO DARKNESS is her first published novel.

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Callands Festival slated October 1

Mark your calendar to attend the Callands Festival (Potpourri) which is held annually on the first Saturday in October which means it is set this year for October 1.

This unique and historical festival is sponsored by the Pittsylvania Historical Society and the Callands Volunteer Fire Department.

James "Mack" Doss is and has been chairman and general manager-director for the past 12 years. He does a wonderful job of arranging this annual event. (His address is Box 774, Danville, VA 24543, home telephone (804)-836-2335.)

The festival is held at the historical Callands Courthouse (10 miles west of Chatham). There are all kinds of arts, crafts, exhibits, skits, music and food.

Admission is free including free admission to 1767-1777 restored courthouse and clerk's office - and plenty of free parking.

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Pittsylvanians Play Key Roles In Three Great Battles

BY HENRY H. MITCHELL

Recent D-Day commemorations bring to mind the incomprehensible bravery and sacrifices of Pittsylvanians during America's most brutal and dangerous conflicts.

Up through World War II the organization of Army units was based on the local militia, and as a result historians can single out the contributions of groups of men from specific localities during particular military actions. Following are notes on three major battles from three centuries, in all of which Pittsylvania soldiers played crucial roles.

THE MAULING OF CORNWALLIS

In her book An Intimate History of the American Revolution in Pittsylvania County (a few copies still available from the Society), Frances Hurt details the desperate Race to the Dan during the late winter of 1781 in which General Nathanael Greene decoyed and dodged northward across the Carolinas to save his ragtag American army from British General Cornwallis and his well-trained, well-supplied troops.

Escaping in an armada of small boats in the nick of time across the obstructive Dan River into our neighboring Halifax County, Greene rested, retrained, resupplied and recruited his army to a strength sufficient to deal Cornwallis a mauling blow at Guilford Courthouse on March 15.

In her History of Pittsylvania County (also available from the Society) Maud Carter Clement asserts that "...every able man in (Pittsylvania) County who could possess a gun was present" at the battle of Guilford Courthouse. There with other Virginia militia they formed the second line between the front line of North Carolina militia and the rear line of Greene's Continentals.

Both the North Carolina and Virginia militia were largely raw recruits, but the Virginia soldiers were commanded by veteran officers. The main body of British troops swept through the front line and smashed into the Virginia militia, including the Pittsylvania, who fought well before falling back in a relatively orderly fashion. By the time the British hit the third line, the contest became so fierce that Cornwallis ordered guns turned on the mass of troops, British and American alike, apparently to prevent a British retreat. Greene withdrew to save his army further destruction, so Cornwallis claimed the victory even though a fourth of his army was gone. A member of the British parliament stated that another such victory would be the ruin of the British army.

After Guilford Courthouse, Cornwallis moved east and north, eventually seeking refuge in the supposedly safe shadow of British naval might -- at Yorktown. There, as the trap was sprung by Washington and the French, four companies of Pittsylvania militia were again present.

But Yorktown and the surrender could not have happened without the set-up punch delivered -- to a significant extent by Pittsylvania -- at Guilford Courthouse.

PIECKETT'S HIGH WATER MARK

A number of articles in Maude Clement's War Recollections of the Confederate Veterans of Pittsylvania County (also reprinted as part of the Writings of Maude Carter Clement) describe the role of Pittsylvania units at
the Battle of Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. There the 42 regiments and 15,000 men, including hundreds of Pittsylvaniaans, of Pickett's Division moved at parade step off the slope of Seminary Ridge across the valley. The brigades of Generals Kemper and Garnett formed the first line, with that of General Armistead following. When Kemper's men attempted to storm the stone wall atop the hill, Armistead ordered his brigade, 75 yards from the wall, to double quick, which broke into a run and then a full charge.

According to Color Corporal James Carter Jr. of Chatham, "When the brigade reached the wall there were very few men left and Armistead, turning to Lt. Col. R.W. Martin (also of Chatham) said, 'Colonel, we can't stay here.' Col. Martin replied, 'Then we'll go forward!'" Martin later wrote, "Armistead himself, with his hat on the point of his sword that his men might see it through the smoke of battle, rushed forward, scaled the wall and cried, 'Boys, give them the cold steel.'"

Pittsylvaniaan J.W. Whitehead Sr., wrote, "We had driven the Yankees from behind the stone wall, captured all artillery in front of Armistead's Brigade, and the victory up to this point was complete. But reinforcements arriving for the enemy and none for ourselves, that was the end of our dearly bought victory."

Approximately two-thirds of Pickett's Division were casualties, including Gen. Armistead (mortaly wounded as he manned a captured artillery piece) and Lt. Col. Martin (his left leg shattered). James Carter Jr. reported, "The flag of the 53rd Virginia Regiment had been carried to the farthest point in the enemy's lines that day. Of its ten guards, eight were killed outright -- (Robert Tyler) Jones and myself severely wounded." (Company I, 53rd Regiment, known as the Chatham Greys, carried the colors for the brigade.)

The Gettysburg ground temporarily taken by Armistead, Martin and the Chatham Greys is often referred to as "the high-water mark of the Confederacy."

**BREAKING THROUGH AT OMAHA BEACH**

The U.S. Army's 116th Infantry Regiment of the 29th Division, and the 16th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Division managed to land on Omaha Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Maud Clement, in her *The Turn of the Wheel*, also reprinted in the Writings of Maud Carter Clement, notes that the 116th was composed of National Guard units from Virginia: Bedford (Co. A), Lynchburg (B), Harrisonburg (C), Roanoke (D), Chase City (E), South Boston (F), Farmville (G), Martinsville (H), Winchester (I), Charlottesville (K), Staunton (L) and Emporia (M). Numerous Pittsylvaniaans were found in these units.

Dr. Yale Kramer, in his article "Day at the Beach" (*The American Spectator*, August 1994) notes that the Omaha Beach battle plan devised by Allied generals utterly failed, but through astounding acts of individual ingenuity and heroism, the German defenses at Omaha were destroyed anyway.

The 116th's men had not seen combat before, were dumped by landing craft at the wrong location, lost their supporting artillery and armor in the rough seas, and were almost totally decimated by heavy fire from the cliffs -- and by drowning under the weight of their packs -- when they jumped off their landing craft into the water.

General Norman Cota, in a move reminiscent of Armistead and Martin (can't stay here -- must go forward), rallied his seasick wounded remaining soldiers to attack the seemingly impregnable strongholds above them.

As Kramer says, "Individual men -- a succession of individual men, on their own, or leading small groups of ten or twenty, not under orders or according to some master plan, but out of a sense of desperation, or responsibility to their
comrades, or honor, or pride, or all of them mixed together -- began driving vital wedges into the German defenses all along the Omaha front. By mid-afternoon the Americans had overrun even the strongest of the German positions on Omaha."

**WHAT ABOUT TOMORROW?**

It is impossible to list the many hundreds of Pittsylvania heroes involved in these three dramatic events of American and world history: the volunteers at Guilford, their great-grandsons at Gettysburg; and their great-grandsons at Omaha Beach.

Great-grandchildren of the Omaha Beach generation are being born right now. If they should be faced with dire challenges of the magnitude seen by their forebears, will they succeed? Will they exhibit the miraculous balance of loyalty yet individualism, subordination yet ingenuity, shown by these great men who went before them?

Will they have intelligence enough for great accomplishment in this life, yet wisdom enough to know that there are ideals which are worth the sacrifice of life itself? Will they be heavenly minded enough to have a strong sense of morality and justice, yet earthly-minded enough to carry it out?

Our hats are off to the heroes of yesterday. Our prayers go up for those generations of Pittsylvanians -- and Americans -- yet to come.

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**HISTORY PLAYS A POSITIVE PART IN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH**

While some people have no interest in history, a genealogical researcher finds history to be a part of their work. To determine the location of member of a family it is necessary to trace deeds and that means proving historical facts.

One may trace a family several generations back and suddenly there seems to be a brick wall ahead such as who owned the land before this family or who inherited it or bought it?

Some researchers are fortunate to be able to trace their family ancestors back to the time America was being discovered and settled. Perhaps the trace has led to an Englishman who came to America and was given many acres of land because he paid the transportation of a number of people to come and help settle on the land. Who owned the land?

This land belonged to the Indians as they were called because Columbus thought he had discovered a route to India.

The Indians really left Israel and came to America. They were the Nephites or the people of Lehi who left the place of the Tower of Babel because their language became confused and confounded, and they could no longer communicate with each other.

These people became a warring people, savage and wicked. They were divided into many tribes, the Nephites, Lamanites, Jaredites etc. and became the tribes known and referred to as Cherokee, Blackfoot, Saponi, Monacan, Iroquois and many others. Some of these tribes lived in the area that is now Pittsylvania and Campbell Counties.

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- by Mrs. Lonnie Crosby, Gretna, VA

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Every parent believes in heredity until their child starts acting goofy.

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Packet Contributor Featured
At Mississippi Literary Festival

Our own society member and regular contributor to The Packet, Patricia Mitchell, was honored in June by being invited to speak at the fifth annual Natchez Literary Celebration in Mississippi.

The three-day festival carried out the theme "Mississippi's Literary Heritage: Black and White and Read All Over," and culminated in the presentation of the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award to Mississippi Author Eudora Welty.

Patricia's topic was "Good Food, Good Folks, Good Times: The Role of Southern Food in Southern Culture," which she presented as a slide-illustrated lecture to the large gathering in the Natchez Municipal Auditorium. Pittsylvania Historical Society members were treated at our May meeting to Patricia's unique blend of humor and serious research. Those of us who heard her in Chatham fully understand why she was sought after as a speaker in Natchez.

Patricia, her husband Henry, and children Sarah, David and Jonathan were hosted by the event organizers: the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the National Park Service, and Copiah-Lincoln Community College.

"They even gave us our own private house for the duration of the confederance says Patricia. "The Southern hospitality the Natchez folks showed us was extraordinary. We had a marvelous time!"

TIP ON FINDING ADOPTION RECORDS

"In Re" means in "in regards to something." That something for a genealogist just might be an adoption record. You can sometimes find adoptions listed in the county record books where divorce and probate records are filed. The courts are very clever and instead of putting adoptions under "A", they place them under "I". In these record books, generally open to the public, they are indexed alphabetically. The first rule is never to say you are looking for an adoption, but rather say divorce or probate. Then turn to the "I" index and find "In Re". Under this category you will find In Re: petition to change name, petition to adopt, etc.

- - From Hood Co. Gen. Soc., Cranbury, TX 76048

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MEANING OF "GRASS WIDOW"

In the colonial times, when there was no divorce law, a husbandless mother of a child was called a "grass widow." It is explained a girl who took up prostitution was said to have "gone on the grass." If such girl became the mother of a child she would claim to be a widow - and she was scorned and called a "grass widow."
August 1994 Queries
(Free to members to aid others with similar interests.)

Seeking information about the application for marriage of Benjamin BLAKELEY and Rachael THOMAS in Pittsylvania County, VA Aug. 29, 1809, and any other information about BLAKELEYS that may be available. Write to Norma SWITZER, 8022 East 2nd Ave., Mesa, AZ 85208.

Researching HALEY, MINTER, STULTZ, GRAVELY, BURNS families of Pittsylvania and Henry Counties, VA. Gabriel HALEY was b. Aug. 10, 1803. His marriage bond says he was son of Thomas HALEY. Please write to Teddy Beatty LINDSEY, P.O. Box 296, Dexter, NM 88230.

Searching ancestors and descendants of Lemuel SMITH and Bethenia PERKINS. Especially interested in connecting Lemuel SMITH and wife Susannah to Lemuel and Bethenia. SMITH and PERKINS families moved from Pittsylvania County, VA to North Carolina (in Surry, Stokes, Randolph and Chatham Counties in N.C.) in the late 1700's. I am hoping to prove Lemuel SMITH (husband of Susannah) is the son of Lemuel and Bethenia SMITH. Write to Sherry S. MELTON, (g-g-g-granddaughter of Lemuel and Susannah) 4238 Irish Potato Rd., Concord, NC 28025.

Seeking information on Britton BAILEY in Sussex Co., VA in 1780's to possible 1820's, also James B. BAILEY who married Nancy ROACH in Henry Co., VA August 1795 and James Britton "But" BAILEY who was born in NC or VA about 1776 or 1779, son of Thomas and Sarah BAILEY, and Britton BAILEY, who married Lucy ANDREWS in Feb. 1789 in Sussex, VA. I will exchange data. Ronald H. LIVINGSTON, 2214 Wildwood, Clute, TX 77531.

Will exchange information with anyone working on the families of Martin WEBB. Their daughter Martha, married Thomas, son of Thomas and Winnifred Nallie DILLARD about 1760. Write to Mrs. Joseph MIONE, 1718 Ridgemont Drive, Wichita Falls, TX 76309.

Seeking the names of the parents of Sarah PAYNE (PAINE), born 1763, Amelia Co., VA. She married Daniel MOTLEY, July 1783 and lived in Pittsylvania Co., VA. Write to Jean Y. FISH, 5100 John D. Ryan Blvd., Apt. 533, San Antonio, TX 78245.

Seeking information on Jesse ASHLOCK and Anne SCOTT who were married on Sept. 6, 1785; John SCOTT and Sophia MURRY who were married on Feb. 28, 1782; and Nimrod SCOTT and Wilmoth WALTERS who were married on ???, all in Pittsylvania Co. Seek proof that William ASHLOCK, b. 1783 in VA or NC, was illegitimate son of Jesse. Who was Richard ASHLOCK in the 1782 tax lists of Pittsylvania Co. with two white dependants and three slaves? Write Ty ASHLOCK, 3135 Comanche NE #254, Albuquerque, NM 87107.

Seek John PENICK, died age 77, m. Mary J. BALL. She was 17-years-old on 1850 Jefferson County Tennessee census listed in household of Henry LEWIS. She died giving birth to John Lewis PENICK b. 20 November 1858 listed in household of Robert P. and Sarah ROBERTSON as Pimnoch age two on 1860 Fayette County Tennessee census. John LEWIS said he had two half brothers and two half sisters. Jane Wells PENICK, 302 West Fern Ave., Foley, AL 36535.
(QUERIES -- CONTINUED)

Need information on Cub Creek John CALDWELL'S son John Jr. (b. ca 1715, Ireland; d. when, where?) and his family who probably lived in Charlotte, Halifax and or Prince Edward Counties. How was Joshua WORLEY connected to this family? Will repay xeroxing and postage. Imogene M. TERRY, 5019 Vicksburg Drive, Tyler, TX 75703.

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I am researching the BURDETT(E) family. Jarvis BURDETT was born in ca 1759 in Caroline Co., VA. He moved to the Pittsylvania area and served three times in the war (enlisted in Bedford Co). He married Nancy BILLUPS in Bedford Co. Nov. 27, 1786. He farmed at Smith Mountain near Monroe City and died March 28, 1838. I would like to find information on his wife, his brother William. Amy help or leads would be greatly appreciated. Janet Anderson FARRIS, 138 Lexington St., Valparaiso, IN 46383.

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Sg parents, any other information, for g-g-g-grandfather, (Thomas?) Bird PARKS, b. Pittsylvania County, VA 11 June 1779. With brother Welcome PARKS, (b. Pittsylvania Co., 4 Oct. 1781) and older sisters: Mary (?), Peggy, Milly (?), was in Oglethorpe Co.,GA before 1800. Bird and Welcome married in Oglethorpe Co., raised families, and are buried in Coweta Co., GA. Tom PARKS, 7286 Tara Dr., Villa Rica, GA 30180.

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DOSS/CREWS/DILLARD: Need further information on William DOSS b. 1785 Pittsylvania County, m. 29 April 1812, Pittsylvania County to Martha "Patsy" CREWS. She married (2) Nicholas DILLARD. William d. ca 1815. Did he serve in the War of 1812? William and Patsy had two sons, James Andrew DOSS, b. 15 Aug. 1813, and William DOSS, b. 1815. Mrs. Barbara Doss MCKINLAY, 2740 La Cuesta Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90046.

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Looking for information on George ROBERTSON, sometimes spelled ROBINSON. Born in 1740, married Lucy HOPKINS, died in Pittsylvania County in 1793. He had two daughters, Elizabeth and Jane, who are both my ancestors. Jane married Charles Frederick ENGLISH and Elizabeth married John Craghead. T.M. ELEFANT, 2890 Norcrest Drive, San Jose, CA 95148.

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Who was the father of Meredith JENNINGS, b. 1787 VA? Was it Robert JENNINGS - wife Susannah? And was John JENNINGS, (d. before September 1782) the father of Robert? All information will be appreciated and reciprocated. Lois (Jennings) JOHNSON, 7887 S. Forest St., Littleton, CO 80122.

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William SEVERS married Catherine PECK in 1793 in Montgomery Co., VA. She was daughter of Geo and Catherine PECK and seemed to have Jacob and Geo Jr. as brothers. There were three other Geo PECK marriages in Montgomery Co. The older George married Mary LANISCO about 1800. Another married Caty WISER d/o Adam WISER. Jacob PECK married Eve WISER d/o Adam WISER 1796 and was a ME minister. Anything additional appreciated. Charles SEVERS 5117 Euclid Louisville, KY 40272.

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Would like to correspond with anyone researching BINGHAM and ULAND (ULEN/YOUILLEN). Edmund BINGHAM, Sr., b. 1774 VA., married Lucy BAYES (d/o John II) on 8 Jan. 1795, and died 23 Oct. 1852 Greene County, IN. Who were Edmund's parents? His daughter Elizabeth b ca 1798 Pittsylvania County. VA married Jonas ULAND 16 Aug. 1813 Pittsylvania County. Jonas was b ca 1791 and died before 1834 Poplar Camp, TN (on way to IN). Were Thomas ULAND and Elizabeth GLASS (d/o Dudley) (married 28 June 1790 Halifax County, VA) parents of Jonas? Any lead appreciated. Please write Sue KOTTWITZ, Route 1, Box 50, Falcon, MO 65470.
(QUERIES -- CONTINUED)

Seeking information on Benjamin Blakely, b. about 1790, son of James and Rebecca BLAKELY; married Rachael THOMAS, daughter of John THOMAS in Pittsylvania County in 1809. They were possibly the parents of Allen BLAKELY of Laurel County, KY. Please contact Nancy O'BANNON, 115 East Loma Vista Dr., Tempe, AZ 85282.

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Seeking information My g-g-great-grandfather William T. GAULDEN died 1841 in Pittsylvania County. He was a Revolutionary soldier. His wife Malissa (Dicy) Burnett GAULDEN died 1871 in Pittsylvania County, Virginia. Who were Malissa's parents and where are she and William T. GAULDEN buried?

Jabez S. GAULDEN was a son of the above. He was killed 3 July 1863 Picketts Charge Gettysburg, PA. His widow Cinthia Dodd GAULDEN was born, married and died in Pittsylvania County. She was the daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth Harris DODD. Where in Pittsylvania County did she live and where is she buried? Write to Virginia Gauldin BOND, 58151 Peckham Lane, Washington, Michigan 48094-2747.

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Seeking information about my ancestor Christopher DAVIS who married Martha EDWARDS and their descendants. Also seeking information on his parents William and Lucy Meade DAVIS m. 1804 and grandparents? John and Francis DAVIS d. 1807. All three couples had too many children to list. I am also seeking any information on following surnames: GILBERT, RAMSEY, HERNDON, STEPHEN, PEARSON, MEADE, EDWARDS. Please write to Deborah PITEZEL, 7485 Hazelcrest, Hazelwood, MO 63042.

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Looking for parents of John CRADDOCK of Pittsylvania County, VA and wife, Mary HENDRICKS. Two children, Priscilla married John NEAL in VA and Frances married Rezin Byrn in TN. John d. 1792/93 in VA. Mary married Robert BUMPASS in 1793 after John's death and went to TN. Any information on these people will be helpful. Write Patsy Hodge, 1015 N. Hicks Ave., Winslow, AZ 86047.

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Would like to correspond with anyone who has done research on the WALTON family of Pittsylvania County, VA. My relative Gideon WALTON married Martha Maria WALTON in 1831 in Halifax Co. but he died in Pittsylvania Co. in 1851. I need information on their parents. Write Margaret D. STUDEBAKER, 8339 Avignon Dr., Bon Air, VA 23225.

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Need information on Thomas T. WILMOTH Sr. and wife. He was land dealer and trader from Halifax, Charlotte, Brunswick, Lunenburg and Prince Edward Counties, VA. He died Dec. 21, 1794. CH: Thomas m/ Mary d. Dec. 21, 1794. John lived in Halifax Co., VA. William my ancestry went to NC. Joseph went to Ohio, George, Jeremiah lived in Halifax Co., VA. Write to Lula B. TONER, 28448 E. 121 St., Coweta, OK 74429-5971.

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Would like to correspond with GILPIN researchers to exchange information, locations, etc. My line is in Tazewell County, VA but before Civil War mostly unknown. Write Carolyn CARVER, 118 East Anderson St., Fairlea, WV 24901, telephone (304)-645-3825.

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Would appreciate any information or leads on the Thomas A. LE GRAND and/or William Henry STILL families. We know W. H. STILL and his wife (Emily LE GRAND) were married in Virginia on October 22, 1835, and that they lived in Pittsylvania County. We also know that William STILL advertised his Tavern and 275 acres (in Appomattox) for sale in November 1845; in 1850 he and his family relocated to east Texas. Need to know origin, parentage, other family members and anything of interest. Please contact Homer A. STILL: 7222 Kenyon Avenue; Hesperia, CA 92345.
BOOK ON HENDERSON TO COME OFF PRESS IN DEC.

Bob Henderson of 119 Pinewood Drive, Greer, SC 29651, whose Hendersons migrated early from Pittsylvania County before the RW is writing "Hendersons of Early South Carolina Part 3 (1850-1870)" which will be published in soft cover.

The book is designed around the Hendersons listed in the 1850, 1860 and 1870 SC Census. Bob is inviting short Henderson biographies to be included by 1 August 1194 (please give sources). Publication is planned for December 1994. The book will include hundreds of Hendersons born 120 to 210 years ago.

Pre-publication price is $16 plus $2 for S & H. After publication the price will be $18 plus $2 S & H (as available). (See address above.)

Bob's other book, "Our House of Henderson: A Documented History of One Henderson Lineage From the Time of Colonial America to 1991" covers the period of time that his Hendersons were in Pittsylvania. Hardcover $29.95 plus $3 S & H. If you have any questions about either book, you may call Bob Henderson at (803)-877-2424.

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TIPS FOR RESEARCHING PERIOD BEFORE 1850

Figure on three generations per 100 years.

Men's first marriages were about at age 24, women at age 20, usually to someone nearly the same age.

Neighbors married neighbors, and families and neighborhoods stayed together.

Children were born about a year after marriage and subsequent births occurred.

Women tended to outlive men.

Women rarely moved to another location alone.

Men sometimes returned to a prior residence to find a spouse.

Older widowers liked to marry women much younger than themselves.

Civil War service records help locate male ancestors born before 1840.

Pioneers moving west generally stayed on a latitude with their home county.

Consider researching a New England heritage for an ancestor with a "virtue" name like Patience or Silence.

Children often carried on the grandparents' names and follow a middle or first name as a link to the mother's or grandmother's maiden name.

- - Williamson Co. Gen. Soc., Round Rock, TX 78680

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HISTORY ACCORDING TO STUDENT BLOOPERS

One of the causes of the Revolutionary War was because the English put tacks in their tea. Finally the colonists won the war and no longer had to pay for taxis.

Delegates from the original states formed the contented Congress.

George Washington married Martha Curtis and in due time because the father of our country.

Abraham Lincoln became America's greatest precedent. He was born in a log cabin which he built with his own hands. He said a horse divided against itself could not stand. On the night of April 14, 1866 Lincoln went to the theater and got shot in his seat by one of the actors, named Will Booth. This ruined Booth's career.

The first World War was caused by the assignation of the Arch-Duck by a surf which ushered in a new error in the anals of human history.
Interesting Items Gleaned From 120-Year-Old Chatham Newspaper

BY PRESTON MOSES

An old faded copy of the Chatham, VA Tribune dated Aug. 20, 1874 was given to me by W. Earl Allen, former President of the Bank of Chatham, and one of our most respected senior citizens in the county.

I find it most interesting, and I am therefore printing excerpts from this 120-year-old newspaper.

The featured local article was about the "Gala Day In Chatham." It read as follows: "The young, the gay, the graceful, the fair and the venerable laid aside the conflicting cares of life and gathered in thongs to witness the daring tilting of the modern chivalrous knights in a grand tournament last Saturday at the Chatham race track."


S.M. Millner won the first honor in the tournament and got the honor of crowning Miss Jennie C. Tredway of Chatham as the Queen of love and honor at the ball that night in Hotel Chatham.

Lee Millner won second honor and crowned Miss Bettie Younger of Cascade as the first maid of honor.

J.D. Hunt won third honor and crowned Miss Mattie Barksdale of Danville.

John E. Hughes was Chief Marshall for the tournament, George E. Coleman, William M. Tredway Jr. and J.D. Coleman were the judges, and W. I. Overbey was manager.

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S.S. Hurt, Clerk of Court, reported to the Tribune the sale of 104 acres of land near Fall Creek Depot on the L & D RR to W.S. Robinson for $325. Also the sale of the Hurley House in Chatham to S. R. Fitzgerald for $510; and the sale by Col. W.E. Sims, commissioner, an estate near Sandy Creek to George W. Jones for $4,000.

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The Tribune reported an accident thusly "M.T. Smith of Lynchburg was on his way to his plantation in Pittsylvania County in his buggy accompanied by his wife and two small children.

"The horse became unmanageable when one of the reins broke. Mr. Smith was thrown out and injured considerably when run over by the wheels. With Mrs. Smith and the children still in the buggy, the horse ran away and upset the buggy when it hit a tree with great violence and caused painful injuries to the three. They are confined to be at the residence of Major Scruggs in Chatham."

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Chatham Postmaster J.W. McKensy gave notice of "uncalled for mail" in the post office and advised the persons unless they came and picked it up within 30 days it would be sent to the dead letter office in Washington, DC. The persons to whom the letters were addressed were G.T. Amos, Chris Cobsman, Miss A.J.
Perkins, Miss E. J. Reynolds and Miss Mary Wilson.

The editorial in the Tribune pointed out - "The great need of Chatham is suitable accommodations for persons wishing to become residents of this town. Every house here is occupied, and two or three families are crowded together in the same buildings.

"Cheap, convenient homes suitable to men of small means would be readily occupied by good tenants and would double the population in the next few years!"

The Tribune editor warned against the R.R. "Adams Express" exclaiming, "It is nothing short of a swindle and humbug in its operation along our newly built railroad. It does not deliver packages and charges much more than what the regular railroad company charges.

"Here is an illustration. A large box which Gen. Mahone's Express brought from New York to Lynchburg for 85 cents; Adams Express charges us $1.25 for the same box from Lynchburg to Chatham and does not deliver.

"We advise our readers to have nothing to do with the so called Adams Express."

The Tribune displayed a sense of humor by printing this in the regular news column as follows: "A young lady of Chatham, who attended a wedding of a friend, put a piece of the wedding cake under her pillow and went to bed with the happy belief that she would dream of her future husband.

"That evening at the reception the young girl had eaten a large dish of ice cream, a large serving of strawberries, several sweet cakes and two large pickles. She now says she would rather remain single all her life than marry the man she saw in her dreams."

YEATTS REUNION AT CREWE SEPT. 11
A reunion of descendants of William D. Yeatts and Mary B. Lipford, and William S. Yeatts and Elvira C. Coleman of Pittsylvania County, VA will be held Sunday, September 11, 1994 in Crewe, VA. For more information contact Donald A. Yeatts, 19 Azalea Drive, Newport News, VA 23602, telephone (804)-877-2457.

REYNOLDS FAMILY REUNION IN CHICAGO SEPT. 22-24
The Reynolds Family in America dates from the year 1622 when Christopher Reynolds arrived in Jamestown, VA. The Reynolds Family Association (RFA) was organized in 1892 and includes all Reynolds families, regardless of when the earliest ancestor arrived in America or how the name is spelled. The reunion is open to anyone who wishes to attend.

RFA will hold its 1994 reunion September 22-24, 1994 in Chicago, ILL at the Days Inn, 644 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago IL 60611. Thursday, the first day, will be devoted to family history research at the noted Newberry Library. The formal reunion will be in the hotel on Friday and Saturday.

BARKSDALE FAMILY REUNION OCT. 9
The Barksdale family reunion will be held Sunday, Oct. 9 at the St. John's Episcopal Church near Mt. Airy, Va. For information write to Irene Fry, Route 2, Box 169, Gretna, VA 24557, telephone (804)-656-1735.
I love reading the Pittsylvania Historical Society publication The Packet and I look forward to each issue. Each page is interesting. Dorothy B. Ingham, Box 1778, Clarksville, VA.

I really enjoy reading The Packet and especially the article about the legal questions that was raised about the courthouse in 1806. My g-g-g-grandfather, Samuel Mayhew, was listed as one of the petitioners — it made my day. Chris D. Hardy, 3003 Trenton St., Hopewell, VA 23860.

I saw your notice in the Evertoni Genealogical Helper. Our family lived in your area in the early 1800's. I would like to become a member of your society. Mrs. Shirley Still, 7222 Kenyon Ave. Hesperia, CA 92345.

I am having some research done by Steven Harris in Pittsylvania County, VA of my family line, and I am enjoying the information I am getting. I look forward to The Packet. James H. VanDenbury, 305 Swan Hill Drive, Bigfork, MT 59911.

I am interested in Pittsylvania County, VA history and have started to look for my Barbor/Barbour family in that area. I read references to this family line in The Packet which a friend passed to me. I am enclosing membership fee. Olga Montgomery, 806 East Johnson St., Garden City, KS 67896.

I am tracing my Davis ancestors and there are lots of Davis ancestors in Pittsylvania County, VA. My g-g-grandparents alone had 12 children and some are still living in Pittsylvania County. I have decided to join the PHS. Deborah Davis Pietezel, 7485 Hazelcrest, Hazelwood, MO 63042.

My query was in The Packet and it was a pleasant surprise to receive a call in response from my third cousin, Bob Bayes. In fact, it was exciting for both of us to find each other and to exchange material. Barbara Kynette, 1142 Judson, Evanston, IL 60202.

Carl and I are hoping to be in Virginia and trust we can visit some of the places called home way back when. Enclosed is check for 1994-95 membership and also is enclosed a query for The Packet. Lois Jennings Johnson, 78875 Forest Street, Littleton, CO 80122.

I enjoyed The Packet spring edition and particularly the article entitled "Known Locations of the Graves of Revolutionary War Soldiers." T. Richard Ferrell Jr., 2138 Seven Lakes S., West End, NC 27376

Enclosed is my check for my membership renewal. I can honestly say that this is one of the few checks I truly enjoy writing. I subscribe to a number of publications, but The Packet is the one I eagerly await to read the treasures contained in each issue. Robert L. Oakes, 10003 West 97th Terr, Overland Park, KS 66212.

I was delighted to see the article about Mrs. Claude Swanson in The Packet by Patricia Mitchell. Mrs. Swanson was at Eldon for only four or six weeks in the summer — and was busy entertaining — and canning things from the garden to take back to Washington. Mrs. Anna Whitehead Kenney, 1060 Showalter Drive #216, Blacksburg, VA 24060.
NOW IS THE TIME TO RENEW YOUR PHS MEMBERSHIP FOR 1994-95
Make $10 check payable to: PITTSYLVANIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Mail to: Jeannette Brown
Route 1, Box 8K6, Chatham, VA 24531

HOW TO FIND ANCESTOR'S HOMESTEAD LAND
Would you like to find the exact location of your ancestor's homestead property? There are seven states where homestead records were cross-indexed by the landowner's names. If your ancestor acquired land under the 1862 Homestead Act, or bought land from the government, his application will be on file. Files include a four-page questionnaire filled out by the homesteader listing names of family members and other personal information. Write: Civil Archives Division of the National Archives and Records Services, GSA, Washington, DC 20409 to learn if your state of interest is among the seven. Then write, giving your ancestor's full name and any other information you may have.

 SEAMAN'S PROTECTION CERTIFICATES
If your American ancestor went to sea in the 1800's, he may have applied for a Seaman's Protection Certificate to protect him from imprisonment by Great Britain and other powers. This program lasted from 1796 to 1897. The applicant presented proof of citizenship and paid a fee of 25 cents. Every three months a list of seamen was sent to the Secretary of State, Washington, DC abstracting each seaman's age and physical description. Write to the Archives Division, National Archives and Records, Washington, DC 20408.

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THE PACKET is the quarterly publication of the Pittsylvania Historical Society for members and those who are interested in the history of their families and the area in which they lived.

PITTSYLVANIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

To order, write SUSAN WORLEY, Rt. 2, Box 223, Chatham, VA 24531

History of Pittsylvania County, Virginia by Maud Carter Clement. The history of the county, reprinted in hard cover. $24 postpaid.

Pittsylvania: Homes and People of the Past by Madalene Fitzgerald. Photos, descriptions of scores of homes, priceless notes about former owners. 1 hard cover. $20 postpaid.

Eighteenth Century Landmarks of Pittsylvania County, Virginia by Madalene Fitzgerald and Frances Hurt. Revised, completely indexed. Soft cover. $12 postpaid.

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