Journal of the New Bern Historical Society

Vol. VII, No. 2 November 1994

TABLE OF CONTENTS

JOURNAL OF THE NEW BERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The JOURNAL OF THE NEW BERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY is a semiannual publication of the New Bern Historical Society, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the rich heritage of New Bern. Articles, letters, photographs, and memorabilia relevant to the history of New Bern and Craven County may be submitted to the editor for review. (Post Office Box 119, New Bern, North Carolina 28563)

NEW BERN THROWS ITS BIGGEST PARTY EVER

For a bunch of damnyankee soldiers
from New Jersey?

Richard K. Lore

This old town has always been willing to celebrate most any occasion in grand fashion. After independence the Fourth of July was cause for revelry, and on certain selected occasions such as the opening of the Palace (first and second times) and the 1910 bicentennial celebration everybody turned out for rounds of parties, parades, and general foolishness. Similarly, when George Washington and Harry Truman swept through town, each of these gentlemen received a royal and enthusiastic welcome.

But if you review almost 300 years of New Bern celebrations, none stands out quite so vividly as the welcome once given to the Ninth New Jersey Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Mind you, this outfit's first visit to New Bern on March 14, 1862, did not prompt anything like a party from the few New Bernians still left in town on that fateful afternoon. On this initial visit the Ninth New Jersey was in the company of about 10,000 other Yankee soldiers led by General Ambrose Burnside. To be sure, some native Unionists were happy to see this army arrive but they were few in number, and the smoke from thousands of barrels of burning rosin and the Trent River railroad bridge afire on New Bern's waterfront dampened everything except a brief period of pillaging.

The occasion for the biggest New Bern party was the last expedition of the Ninth New Jersey to New Bern. The troops assembled in Philadelphia, took a train to Cape Charles, Virginia, where the soldiers boarded a steamer to Norfolk, caught another train to Goldsboro, North Carolina, and ended

with a final train ride to their New Bern destination. Upon the arrival of the soldiers of the Jersey Ninth, four companies of North Carolina troops and a huge contingent of townspeople and Confederate veterans were on hand to greet these Yankees. Following a rifle salute a great shout of welcome went up, and New Bern proceeded to provide its New Jersey guests with a seemingly endless round of receptions, parties, banquets, and speeches as well as a grand parade during the two-day affair.

Could it be that New Bern had suddenly turned Unionist and forsaken the Confederacy? Or perhaps the Jersey Ninth was composed of southern sympathizers who had been secretly working for Jeff Davis? To resolve the puzzle one should note the date of this last mission. It occurred in May of 1905, fully 40 years after the bloodiest conflict in American history. This last expedition by the old veterans of the Jersey Ninth was to honor and immortalize their dead and to revisit the terrible times of their youth.

Perhaps the highlight of the first day's events on May 17, 1905, occurred during a speech given by John Boyd Davis, Speaker of the New Jersey House of Assembly. The speech was given during a large public reception held at the courthouse: ". . . Governor Glenn [of North Carolina], I present to you, or rather return to you, representing the people of North Carolina to whom it belongs, the flag of the Beaufort Plowboys, taken from them in battle by the soldiers of New Jersey".

To the contemporary reader the return of a captured battle flag might seem a trivial matter, but in that romantic age battle flags had enormous symbolic meaning. Soldiers on both sides competed to become the flag bearer, and every man would protect the flag at all costs.

The "Plowboy" flag had been captured by the Ninth New Jersey on the outskirts of New Bern during the war. As might be expected, the return of the tattered and bullet-riddled old banner precipitated several minutes of "indescribable enthusiasm"

and a "prolonged volley of cheers" on the part of the Confederate veterans in the audience. The return of the flag was viewed by the Southerners as an unprecedented act of generosity. Thereafter, the Jersey Ninth could do no wrong in the hearts of their former enemies.

The details of the two-day celebration are documented in a marvelous, handsome, little book (available in New Bern's public library) that was published by the New Jersey State Commission For Erection of a Monument. The celebration was also extensively covered by THE NEW BERN WEEKLY JOURNAL in a series of articles in the May 1905 issues of this newspaper. Alas, the reporter who covered many of the events for the local paper got some of his facts confused: Cedar Grove Cemetery was referred to as Maple Grove Cemetery, and the same report had the battle of New Bern's date as March 18, 1861, rather than March 14, 1862.

On the evening of the first day receptions for the New Jersey group were held by The Daughters of the Confederacy and an encampment of Confederate veterans where the visiting members of the Ninth New Jersey presented their hosts with a silk United States flag. The rooms were filled to overflowing, and the beautiful flag was much admired. Next day this flag was proudly borne by the Confederate veterans in the grand parade.

The second day began with the arrival by train of Governor Stokes of New Jersey and his staff. He was greeted by Governor Glenn of North Carolina, a salute of 17 guns, and two companies of North Carolina troops at present arms.

After an informal reception a massive parade formed on Broad Street and began the procession to National Cemetery. Over 500 people marched in the parade, including bands, the visiting members of the New Jersey Ninth, several companies of North Carolina militia, a large contingent of Confederate veterans, representatives from all the surrounding counties, and the governors of New Jersey and North Carolina as well as numerous members of their

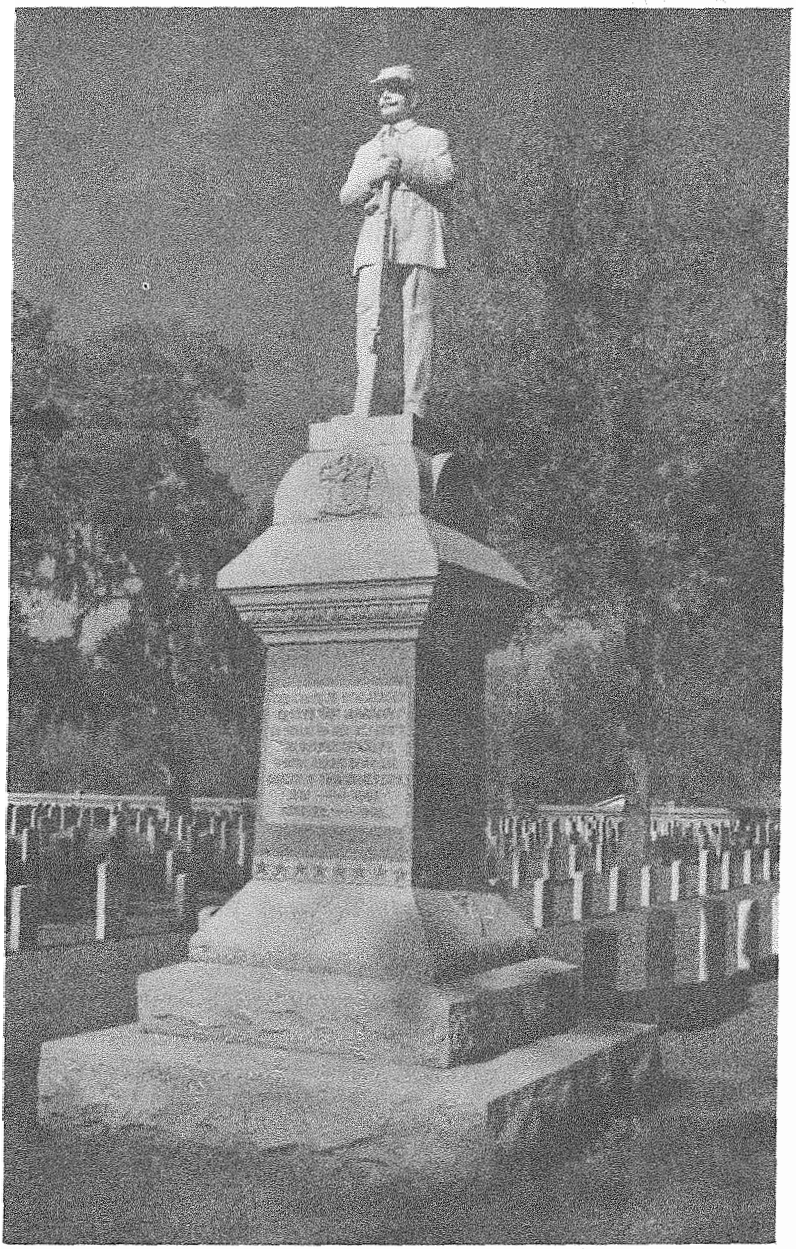
staffs.

The procession stopped once, at Cedar Grove Cemetery, where the Jersey soldiers and the Confederate veterans joined forces to decorate the Confederate Soldiers Monument. Upon arrival at the National Cemetery 5,000 people were assembled to witness the unveiling ceremony and listen to the numerous speeches given on that beautiful spring afternoon. On signal four women--two from New Jersey and two from New Bern--unveiled the handsome monument to the soldiers of the Ninth New Jersey Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

The monument is still there. With a vigorous cleaning in July of this year it looks as good as ever. Carved of granite, it depicts an enlisted man at parade rest. He sports a stylish moustache, and he wears his field hat at just the slightest tilt.

The festivities ended with a banquet held at the Hotel Chatawka (later known as the Hotel Governor Tryon on the site now occupied by BB&T on Tryon Palace Drive) on the night of the parade. One might think that here was the opportunity for the New Bernians to get their subtle revenge: serve those Yankees a giant meal of barbecue, greasy hushpuppies, even greasier french fries, topped off with banana pudding, and watch them writhe in agony after the meal. Such was not the case; most of the above items of gastrointestinal destruction are of more modern vintage. The 31-item meal included littleneck clams, soft-shell crabs, Lynnhaven oysters, roast turkey, chicken salad, and ox tongue. For dessert fresh fruits and North Carolina berries were available as well as assorted nuts, layered raisins, Neapolitan cream, assorted cakes, bunt (hollow or concave) wafers, and munns (Can anyone identify this item?), extra dry. The meal ended with claret punch, coffee, and cigars. On second thought, maybe some of the old soldiers did die after this meal, but no deaths were reported.

Almost 90 years after the party one can ask: Why did New Bern, indeed, all North Carolina, extend such a glorious reception to old foes who had



MONUMENT HONORS JERSEY NINTH. Photo by Conway.

taken their land by force and occupied it for so long? After all, most anybody who has spent any time in the South knows that even now one can get into an argument about "Damn Yankees and The War of Northern Aggression" from some touchy Southerners. Indeed, right now a debate rages as to whether North Carolina should allow a monument to Sherman's men to be erected at the Bentonville Battle Field where General Joe Johnston's undermanned and starving Confederate force tried valiantly and unsuccessfully to stop Sherman's huge army in one of the last major battles of the Civil War.

Part of the reason for the gracious reception received by the Jersey Ninth involves the nostalgia that often accompanies the memory of stressful events in the past. The blood and hardships are forgotten after 25 years or more, and old soldiers from opposing sides can feel admiration, even warmth, for each other. The Southerners also could appreciate the purpose of the trip since it was at about this time that every town in the South was straining its resources to erect monuments honoring its Confederate dead.

One also has to appreciate the fact that New Bern was still a port city with a 200-year tradition of accepting, even welcoming, outsiders. The old town was also enjoying a sustained period of prosperity in 1905. Huge quantities of lumber products, seafood, and produce were being shipped from New Bern docks, and an industrial base was developing. Reconstruction was essentially over. New Bernians were proud of the progress they had made and anxiously to show off their prosperity.

Finally, the Confederate veterans had long memories, and they knew that the soldiers of the Jersey Ninth had been through hell during the Civil War. Most important, they also knew that this regiment had conducted itself with honor throughout the conflict.

The citizens of Goldsboro certainly knew of the decency and honor of the men of the Jersey Ninth. During the Ninth's overnight stay in Goldsboro prior

to coming to New Bern on their 1905 visit, that town had also given the Ninth a lavish reception, including still another 17-gun salute.

It was singularly appropriate for Goldsboro to honor these New Jersey veterans. In the northward march of Sherman's juggernaut army of some 90,000 men, Goldsboro was a key destination in the spring of 1865. Sherman intended to destroy the rail facilities in that town, because they were a critical link in the supply line to Lee's army in Richmond. Moreover, Sherman's men, who had never been known to mollycoddle rebs or tread lightly while on Southern soil, had been on the march for months without benefit of pay or mail from home; his troops were in a bad mood.

When Sherman's army bore down on the helpless little city on March 23, 1865, the flags of the United States and the State of New Jersey were flying from the cupola of the courthouse in Goldsboro. The Ninth New Jersey had taken the city only days prior to Sherman's arrival, and Colonel Samuel Hufty of the regiment had been appointed Provost Marshal of the city. A dispatch to the Raleigh NEWS AND OBSERVER on the occasion of the Ninth's return to Goldsboro in 1905 describes what had occurred 41 years ago:

> in that brief time [Colonel Hufty] had the town so thoroughly organized and guarded that Sherman's soldiers were not permitted to ravage our town or molest a single citizen or home, and in addition to this Colonel Hufty issued provisions liberally to all in need of food . . . yesterday he stood again upon the same ground that he had trod during those bloody times and shook the hand of many an old soldier with whom he crossed swords in one of the bloodiest wars the world has ever known. He was cordially greeted by all our citizens--men who had opposed him in battle, the sons of many of whom have gone on across the river--and the fair ladies of our town who had turned out to do the New Jersey visi-

tors honor.

In truth the soldiers of the Ninth had little respect for Sherman's "heroes and their march to the sea". The men of the Ninth considered Sherman's troops to be "picnickers" who had never experienced a real fight. To maintain order in Goldsboro, the first "bummers" from Sherman's army who made trouble were promptly tossed into jail.

When a rumor circulated that the Jersey Ninth was to be relieved from provost duty in Goldsboro, a petition, signed by all the citizens praying for its retention, was presented to the commanding-general. The petition stated that

> The Ninth New Jersey Regiment by its long sojourn in North Carolina, and the acquaintance of its perfectly disciplined members with the habits and peculiarities of our citizens, qualifies it for the duties to which it was assigned upon its victorious entree into the place.

The Jersey Ninth had gained a reputation for quick marching, good marksmanship, and their ability to flank enemy lines rapidly during their multiple expeditions in North Carolina. Their reputation among fellow Union regiments is reflected in the candid, spontaneous remark of a wounded Massachusetts artilleryman who was being carried by stretcher from the battle of Kinston in December 1862. A chaplain kneeled down to attend to the man and asked, "Were you supported by divine inspiration during your ordeal?" "No", came the quick reply, "We were supported by the Ninth New Jersey".

Yet the Ninth's legitimate disdain for the battle experiences of Sherman's men was not earned entirely in North Carolina. In October of 1863 the regiment became part of the "Red Star Brigade" and was ordered to Virginia. They were soon to fight in the "bloody battles of 64". In the Armies of the James and the Potomac, the New Jersey Ninth bore the brunt of some of the worst fighting on the killing fields at such places as Cobb's Hill, Petersburg,

Drewry's Bluff, Fort Drewry, and Cold Harbor.

The sustained and vicious fighting in Virginia took a terrible toll on the Ninth New Jersey as well as the entire brigade. In August of 1864 the brigade commander requested that his men be allowed to return to North Carolina and recuperate and train recruits for their thinned ranks. After quietly listening to the request the commanding general paused for a moment and then said,

> They deserve anything they ask for, and I will issue the necessary orders to bring up five regiments from North Carolina, and for your brigade to take their places.

Thus the hardened veterans of the Ninth returned to New Bern.

Most every adult Southerner attending the 1905 ceremonies in New Bern knew that these Jerseymen had been through hardships and killings fully equal to their own unspeakable experiences in that terrible war. These shared experiences obscured the stark fact that they were former enemies who would have readily killed each other during that earlier time. Clearly the overpowering warmth of New Bern's reception for these old Jersey soldiers demonstrates that the former allegiances, however sacred they may still have been in 1905, were overridden by the traumatic events they shared during the Civil War.

There is still another possible reason for New Bern's enthusiasm for these former enemies. Although I can present very little data on the issues, it appears that an appreciable percentage of the New Bernians gathered at the 1905 festivities might have actually been former Yankees and their families. Of the thousands of Federal troops which occupied New Bern during the Civil War we know that many visited and revisited the town long after the war. Still others migrated to New Bern, married local girls, got jobs, started businesses and stayed forever. A quick examination of just a few issues of the 1905 NEW BERN WEEKLY JOURNAL reveals the presence of

these former Yankees. For example, the advance group of the 1905 New Jersey Ninth met with two local men who were former members of the Ninth New Jersey Regiment: Captain James Loughlin was now living in Wilmington, but he had long been a resident of New Bern. Similarly, Captain Augustus Thompson participated in the festivities. He had lived in New Bern for 40 years.

In February 1905 an article laments the death of Mr. Robert Keho. Mr. Keho was born in Ireland, immigrated to the United States and had joined a New York regiment during the Civil War. Later he had married a New Bern woman and had lived many years in town with his family. Although my sample is admittedly limited, the presence of these men suggests that it is highly unlikely that all of today's "First Families of New Bern" can trace their ancestry back to Baron de Graffenried's crowd, John Wright Stanly, or William Gaston. Many just might have a "Bluebelly Yankee" hiding in the family tree.

Visit National Cemetery and doff your hat to the soldiers of the Ninth New Jersey who lie buried there under their elegant monument. Almost certainly you are going to meet some of the many New Jersey folks who now retire to New Bern. Remind them that they are not the first ones here from Jersey, and that you trust they will behave as well as their ancestors who first stormed into town more than 130 years ago.

SOURCES

Drake, James M. THE HISTORY OF THE NINTH NEW JERSEY VETERAN VOLUNTEERS. Elizabeth, N. J.: Journal Printing House, 1889.

NEW BERN WEEKLY JOURNAL. New Bern, N. C. February 3, May 16 and 19, 1905.

REPORT OF STATE COMMISSION FOR ERECTION OF MONUMENT TO NINTH NEW JERSEY VOLUNTEERS AT NEW BERNE NORTH CAROLINA.

Philadelphia: International Press, 1905.
Trotter, William R. IRONCLADS AND COLUMBIADS. Winston-Salem, N. C.: John F. Blair, 1989.

JULES VERNE'S FANTASTIC NEUSE RIVER VOYAGE

Junius W. Davis, Jr.

Editor's note: Dr. Davis, a past President of the New Bern Historical Society, is an honorary life member of the society. He lives in Trent Village Nursing Home in Pollocksville.

Apparently only a handful of New Bernians are aware that our region was the locale of a Jules Verne science fiction novel.

In 1896 FOR THE FLAG or FACING THE FLAG (FACE AU DRAPEAU) by the aging Jules Verne was published in France; in it Verne (1828-1905) writes of a powerful, self-propelled missile comparable perhaps to an atomic bomb. The brilliant but half-mad inventor of this weapon, "The Fulgerator," one Thomas Roch, a Frenchman, is kidnapped in the opening chapters from a private sanitarium called "Healthful House" on the Neuse River "near Newburn". He is taken aboard a schooner via a submarine in the Neuse River by Count d'Artigan and Captain Spade. His disappearance (escape?) along with the secrets for construction of his bomb was so alarming that

> precautions were taken elsewhere in North Carolina . . . . An elaborate supervision was imposed on the roads and railways . . . . The seaboard was to be closed along the whole length of the coast from Wilmington to Norfolk.

In describing the course of the schooner abducting Roch, Verne writes of the Pamlico Sound "stretching in a vast expanse from Sivan Island" to Roanoke Island; "a little beyond Sivan Island is Okra-

coke Inlet." Sivan Island might be the product of literary license or might represent Cedar Island down east in Carteret County.

There can be little dissent that Jules Verne was inventive and imaginative in his writings. His description of "Newburn, a market town, in North Carolina . . . at the farther end of the estuary of the Neuse which flows into Pamlico Sound" is accurate enough, but he goes on so fancifully in describing these parts that one strongly feels that Verne surely never visited this area. I cite just a few instances to support this view, and many others can be found in the novel. Verne situates Healthful House, where the mad inventor was confined, as sheltered by a hill on the right (north or east) side of the Neuse River surrounded by a park of 200 acres planted with magnificent trees. "At the lower end of the park stretched the wide estuary of the Neuse River, continually refreshed by breezes of Pamlico Sound." Hills sloped gently down to the right bank of the river "with green velvety lawns dotted with shrubs and richly tinted flowers in full bloom . . . and the uncertain outline of Newburn beginning to fade on the left bank".

This location of the site of Roch's abduction would be present-day Bridgeton and Sandy Point before landscape beautification by the Ashfords, the Fullers, the Ferebees, and their Bernhurst neighbors.

Certainly there are no true hills in sight here. Even the flatlands do not slope gently down to the river or the creeks or the swamps. One rather feels that Verne is describing the French countryside in his homeland.

The ship transporting Roch was moored in 15 or 20 feet of water, depths rarely encountered in the Neuse even with our modern dredged channels. Verne writes also that "about fifteen miles from Newburn the river bends suddenly, winding towards the Northwest, and then getting wider." This is geographically confusing even from a writer of science fiction. Then the fleeing ship captain steered towards Hatteras Inlet rather than towards Beaufort

JULES VERNE (1828-1905)
Engraving from THE STATE.

or Ocracoke to avoid "steamers of the Federal Navy"! Tides in the Neuse are described as being only under lunar control rather than wind driven, and treacherous shoals, sandbars, and inlet swash are not alluded to.

After being searched, during which Roch was not discovered, the schooner was allowed inlet clearance, only later to be destroyed after a violent confrontation in Bermuda's coves, during which Roch suddenly regains sanity as he faces the flag, the tricolor of his native France. Later in the novel he is killed, and his pre-Fermi, pre-Oppenheimer invention remains forever a secret.

Did Jules Verne know New Bern and the Neuse firsthand or only in his creative imagination and fantasy? I doubt he ever visited anywhere near here, but, for that matter, he never traveled 20,000 leagues under the sea either.

SOURCES

Walser, Richard. "Jules Verne's Fantastic Voyages to North Carolina". THE STATE, December 1987.

_____. LITERARY NORTH CAROLINA: A HISTORICAL SURVEY. Revised and enlarged ed. Raleigh: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1986.

The author is grateful to Dr. Charles Barker for bringing Jules Verne's book to his attention.

THE BEGINNINGS OF ORGANIZED RELIGION IN NEW BERN AND CRAVEN COUNTY

Mary Baker

"Religion is and always has been a basic ingredient in our national life." This statement was made some years after we became a nation, and it remains true.

Palatines, the first settlers in our area, brought their Reformed faith with them in 1710. The voyage had been unusually long; people had died aboard ship because of short provisions and unhealthy conditions. More had succumbed to an epidemic shortly after arriving in what was to become New Bern, but many of the survivors were later killed in the Tuscarora War. Surely these events were enough to try anyone's faith, or strengthen it. Apparently these people held on to their faith.

By 1740 Palatines had petitioned the Craven court for permission to build a chapel on the south side of the Trent River. The chapel existed in 1743 as documented by two Moravians who stopped there on their way to Georgia. One of the travelers, the Reverend Leonard Schnell, was asked to preach, and he did. According to their notes or diaries the older members of the congregation were delighted to hear preaching in German. Little is known about the location of the chapel or what eventually became of it.

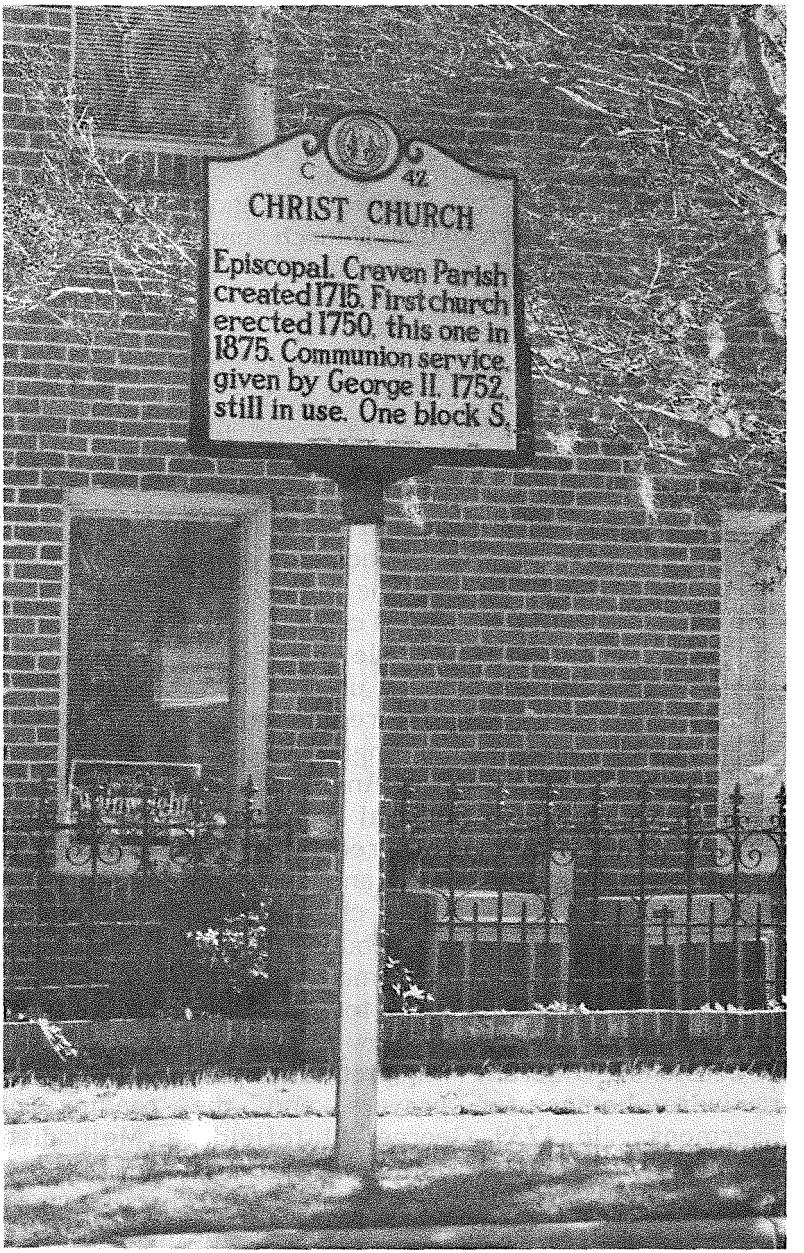
A few months after the Palatines arrived Christopher de Graffenried, the man we hold to be the founder of New Bern, came with a group of Swiss settlers. He soon set himself the task, with the help of John Lawson and Lawson's clerk, of surveying land and laying out the town of New Bern. "I divided the village like a cross and in the middle I intended the church." Of course the church intended

was Anglican, the Church of England. Although his colonists were German Palatines and Swiss, De Graffenried was establishing his settlement on English soil and with English help. He knew the church would be Anglican and later wrote to the Bishop of London requesting

> your lordship to accept of me and my people and receive us into your Church under your Lordship's patronage, and we shall esteem ourselves happy sons of a better stock.

De Graffenried did not get to stay to see about the church for his settlers as he was forced to return to England. Had he stayed, he would likely have been discouraged. While the General Assembly of North Carolina passed an "Act for Establishing the Church and Appointing the Select Vestrys" in 1715 and "vestrys" were appointed, nothing else happened. It was not until 1739 that the vestry here "laid a tax on all tithables" for a new church. Ultimately located at the corner of Middle and Pollock streets the church was not completed until about 1750 and remained without a regular rector until the Reverend James Reed came from England in 1752. After the American Revolution the Anglican Church was reorganized into the Episcopal Church in the United States. Some years after reorganization the original building was torn down, and a larger church was built. Unfortunately this church was destroyed by fire in 1871 but was rebuilt on its foundations. Christ Episcopal Church remains there today.

Without a regular rector or a church building until 1752 the people of New Bern were served by an occasional itinerant minister and probably met in private homes for prayers and the reading of sermons. In 1739 George Whitefield, a Methodist, was in town on Christmas Day to preach at the courthouse. At this time the Methodists were a group within the Anglican Church. Methodism as a separate denomination did not occur until after the Revolutionary War. Certainly it was through the



STATE MARKER TELLS PARISH STORY. Photo by Conway.

labors of such men as George Whitefield and later the Reverend Joseph Pilmore, who had been sent to America in 1772, that groundwork was laid for that denomination.

When Bishop Asbury visited New Bern in 1796, he found a flourishing Methodist society of 100 members. In 1802 a church building was erected on Hancock Street on or near the present O. Marks parking lot. It was supplied by a preacher sent each year from the North Carolina Conference. This church was succeeded by a larger church on New Street, opposite the Academy, and finally by the present Centenary United Methodist Church on the corner of Middle and New streets.

French Huguenots had settled on the Trent River around 1707, about two miles up from where New Bern is today. After the Tuscarora Massacre the survivors moved to the Santee River in South Carolina. Had they remained, they could have claimed being the first organized religious body in our area. The Presbyterian Church looks to these Huguenots as the first Presbyterians here, but it was not until much later that the church was organized. In 1808 a group of New Bern citizens called a Mr. John Burch, who was then ordained by a commission from the Orange Presbytery. It was 1817 when the Reverend John Witherspoon, probably acting for the Presbytery, actually organized a church. Property was purchased on New Street in 1819 and the corner-stone laid in June of that same year. The building was probably completed in 1821 as the dedication service was held in January 1822. First Presbyterian Church has remained in the same place and is New Bern's oldest original church building.

Along with the Methodists the Baptists were a presence in New Bern early on. The first documentation of an organized church came in May 1809 when a Baptist church was formed in the home of Elijah Clark. At first the church met in the homes of members while property was secured and plans for a building made. The first church, erected in 1811, stood at Queen, Metcalf, and Johnson streets where

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church stands today. In 1845 the congregation, having outgrown their church building, bought property on Middle Street and set about building a new church. That structure is the church we see today, however, it has undergone many renovations and additions. In 1982 the congregation restored the inside to its original Gothic appearance. The building programs of the church continue, not only with brick and stone; as the first Baptist church in the area it has been the mother church to a number of other Baptist churches.

William Gaston, lawyer, member of Congress, Judge of the State Supreme Court, and the author of the North Carolina state song, was one of the few Roman Catholics in New Bern during his lifetime. Judge Gaston brought Bishop John England to New Bern in 1821, and Bishop England celebrated mass in Gaston's parlor on May 24 of that year. This was the first record of an official worship service for the Catholic church in this area.

In 1824 members purchased a lot on Middle Street, however, the congregation was not large enough nor did they have money enough to erect a building. Gaston secured plans for a "stylish Gothic Revival" building from a noted New York architect, but the congregation continued to worship in private homes and public buildings. Around 1840 they secured the services of Hardy B. Lane as builder and built a smaller, simpler-styled Greek Revival building which had been proposed by Bishop England. Measuring 36 x 52 feet and 24 feet high, the building was to cost no more than $4000. Lane completed the structure for $3784.34. Lane later built First Baptist Church farther down on Middle Street and numerous homes in the downtown area. In 1896 the central entrance tower was added to the church, and the rectory was built next door. St. Paul's, as the church was named, later added a school. What began in 1821 as a struggling congregation has now become a thriving congregation with new facilities on Country Club Road, however, they continue to own the original building at 504 Middle Street.

The next denomination to establish itself in New Bern was the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The result of a merger in 1832 between the Christian Church founded in Bourbon County, Kentucky, in 1804 and the Disciples of Christ founded in 1811, this church made its appearance in New Bern in the 1840s with prayer meetings and worship services at the home of John B. Gaylord. The group later moved their services to the second floor of a downtown building, probably where the Dunn Building now stands. In 1889 a church was built on Hancock Street between Pollock and Broad streets, but the building was soon outgrown. A fire in 1918 destroyed the church and mandated a change. The property on Broad Street was purchased in 1920, and the building begun in 1921. Services were held in the basement until the upper portion was completed in 1926. This is Broad Street Christian Church, and it stands there today.

During New Bern's early years there were no independent black churches. The blacks, both slave and free, worshipped in the already established white churches. In 1845 there was an attempt to form an independent black congregation by the Reverend William N. Hawks, who later became the rector of Christ Church. After the Civil War black communicants of Christ Church were transferred to St. Cyprian's Church by the Reverend Edwin M. Forbes. The building which became St. Cyprian's had been the original Baptist church, then was sold to the Christian church, and ultimately to the Episcopal church at which point it became St. Cyprian's. The present building dates to 1910-1912 and was designed by Herbert Woodley Simpson.

During these same years the Reverend James Walker Hood of the A. M. E. Zion Church founded in New York City in 1796 came to New Bern. There was already in New Bern a congregation connected with the Southern Methodist Church called St. Andrew's Chapel. This group voted to unite with the new African Methodist Episcopal Church and in 1879 changed the name to St. Peter's A. M. E. Zion

SAINT PETER'S A. M. E. ZION CHURCH IN NEW BERN FIRST IN NORTH CAROLINA. Photo by Conway.

Church. Located on Queen Street near St. Cyprian's, it was burned in the disastrous fire of 1922 but rebuilt over several years.

While the Civil War was still going on, many black missionaries came to New Bern to organize churches among blacks who were worshipping with white congregations. The Reverend Horace James, Superintendent of the Poor for New Bern and the man for whom James City is named, wrote in September of 1863 that there were five churches in James City. Originally these churches were all in Old James City, north of Scott's Creek, and were probably small wooden structures. They were relocated to "new" James City sometime around 1900. They include Jones Chapel A. M. E. Zion and Pilgrim Chapel Missionary Baptist Church on Elder Street, Mt. Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, Scott Street, and Reformed Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church on Plum Street.

While there were Jewish families in New Bern before 1850, they had to go out of town for worship services. Toward the end of the 1890s there were 18 to 20 Jewish families here, enough to organize Temple Chester B'nai Sholom. The "Chester" has been dropped. In 1894 the temple trustees bought a lot on Middle Street across from St. Paul's. Although Herbert Woodley Simpson was asked to design a building, the congregation had to wait a few years before they were able to undertake a building program. They worshipped in various buildings in the downtown area, and September 1908 saw the temple opened for the first time. On September 27 the congregation celebrated the Jewish New Year in their new building. A kitchen and classrooms have been added, and recently the temple was renovated.

Down the street from Temple B'nai Sholom is the First Church of Christ, Scientist. The two buildings are very similar as they were designed by the same man, Herbert Woodley Simpson, and built about a year apart. Christian Science got its start in New Bern through the efforts of Mary Hatch Harrison. Accordng to a story in Peter Sandbeck's

book THE HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE OF NEW BERN AND CRAVEN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, Ms. Harrison "joined the Christian Science Church in 1894 after being healed of paralysis through the faith while in Boston". When she returned to New Bern, she began holding meetings in her home and later organized the church with 18 members. They began construction of a church building in 1907. There was considerable local opposition to the practice of Christian Science, and ". . . even bottles of whiskey were sent free of charge to the workmen in order to delay the work" on the building. However the church, the first Christian Science church in eastern North Carolina, was completed and opened for services later that year.

There were probably Lutherans among the Palatines who came in 1710. Their numbers may have been small, and perhaps they were assimilated in another church. At any rate nothing is heard of them. By 1893 there was a St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church listed in the New Bern Directory, and today St. Andrew's Lutheran Church on Neuse Boulevard is an active and growing congregation.

In addition to the ones mentioned in this article many churches of various denominations have been started in New Bern and Craven County from the early years of our history to the recent past. People have always looked to the churches "to provide moral and spiritual leadership necessary to hold society together". One has only to look at the influence of churches in this area to realize the truth of this statement. New Bern and Craven County are indeed blessed with their many and diverse churches.

SOURCES

Ahlstrom, Sidney E. A RELIGIOUS HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1972.

Carraway, Gertrude. CROWN OF LIFE: HISTORY OF CHRIST CHURCH, NEW BERN, N. C., 1715-1940. New Bern, N. C.: Owen G. Dunn, 1940.

Cook, Edna Avery. IN THE BEGINNING---BAPTISTS: HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, NEW BERN, N. C., 1809-1984. New Bern, N. C.: The church [1984].

Green, John B. III. A NEW BERN ALBUM. New Bern, N. C.: The Tryon Palace Commission, 1985.

Miller, James H. Jr. A HISTORY OF CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. New Bern, N. C., 1972.

Mobley, Joe A. JAMES CITY: A BLACK COMMUNITY IN NORTH CAROLINA, 1863-1900. Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, 1981.

Rawlings, Wayne. "Church of Christ" in FOXFIRE 7, pp. 110-117. Garden City, N. Y.: Anchor Press/ Doubleday, 1982.

Sandbeck, Peter B. THE HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE OF NEW BERN AND CRAVEN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA. New Bern, N. C.: The Tryon Palace Commission, 1988.

Smith, John Murphy. THE HISTORY OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA, 1886-1987. New Bern, N. C.: Griffin & Tilghman Printers, Inc., 1988.

Tolochka, Jerome G. (ed.). "Fiftieth Anniversary Pamphlet, Temple B'nai Sholom." New Bern, N. C., The temple, 1959?

Vass, Lachlan Cumming. HISTORY OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN NEW BERN, N. C., with a Résumé of Early Ecclesiastical Affairs in Eastern North Carolina, and a Sketch of the Early Days of New Bern, N. C., 1817-1886. Reprinted and bound with Smith above.

Watson, Alan D. A HISTORY OF NEW BERN AND CRAVEN COUNTY. New Bern, N. C.: The Tryon Palace Commission, 1987.

Young, Henry S. MAJOR BLACK RELIGIOUS

LEADERS, 1755-1990. Nashville, Tenn.: Abingdon Press.

BOOK REVIEW

THE SIEGE OF CHARLESTON, 1861-1865, by E. Milby Burton. (Columbia, S. C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1990. First published 1970. Illustrations, bibliography, source notes, and index. 363 pp. $14.95.)

The reprinting of this unique history 20 years after the original publication is an indication of its great popularity. At least some of the public acceptance can be credited to a well-told story plus the fine quality and enormous quantity of research undertaken by the author. We have in this volume an enthralling story, let alone a record of a significant piece of history. History of the Civil War in South Carolina revolves principally around Charleston, a natural result of the opening rounds in the bitter struggle being fired at Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor. But that was only the beginning; there were still four more years of war, and Charleston endured an incredible siege for almost all that time. A comprehensive study of this dramatic period only became available 100 years after the event and several years of the author's diligent scholarship. Union attempts to avenge the capture of Fort Sumter by besieging Charleston started only a few months after the Civil War began.

Action ranged all along the southern Atlantic coast after President Lincoln's declaration of a blockade. Union warships patrolled shipping lanes and guarded harbors attempting to stem the flow of supplies to Confederate armies. Norfolk, New Bern, Wilmington, Charleston, Savannah, and other lesser harbors were all subject to some degree of interdiction. Confederate naval vessels, few in number, tried valiantly to keep ports open, but more fre-

quently the incompetence of Union naval commanders assisted the Southern cause to a greater degree. Charleston and Wilmington in North Carolina both remained Confederate for most of the struggle but suffered greatly in consequence. By contrast General Burnside obtained control over much of coastal North Carolina early in 1862. New Bern, an important port at that time, remained in Union hands throughout the war and as a consequence suffered little. Charleston had little respite from the ravages of war by political prominence as well as military objective. The Civil War was practically created here.

After the ignominious evacuation of Union troops from Fort Sumter, Washington authorities seemed to have an all-consuming desire for revenge and threw guns, ships, men, and supplies in a cordon around the city. Most troops and supplies were transported to coastal islands and beaches by sea, because Confederate forces still controlled the inland roads and railroads. By the spring of 1863 both sides had succeeded in placing guns and fortifications in positions opposing one another, and frequent forays by boat and ship, as well as on land, were made by both sides. In August 1863, after countless skirmishes and minor shipping engagements, the Union decided there were enough heavy guns firing shells up to 15 inches in size to destroy Fort Sumter. More than 5000 shells were fired in seven days, with a weight of more than half a million pounds. After several more days and still more shelling a raiding force was sent by small boat to the heap of rubble in Charleston harbor which had been Fort Sumter. The Union attack, repulsed by the few Confederate men still alive and fit on the "heap of rubble", was a shameful defeat for Naval Commander Admiral Dahlgren. There would be an additional two even more massive attacks before Sumter fell to the superiority and weight of shells brought to bear by Union forces.

Union armies over time reduced the territory around Charleston held by Confederate forces. A gradually shrinking perimeter gave little comfort to

Charleston's civilians, and finally they too became the object of shelling by long-range guns. The bombardment, using 200-pound projectiles, intensified as it continued until early 1865. The great city became a rubble-strewn hell. Savannah, Georgia, fell to the Union on December 31, 1864. As a result large numbers of troops became available to further envelop Charleston, and the writing on the battered walls of the city was clearly read by soldier and civilian alike.

By mid-February the full effect of additional troops and guns, plus an overabundance of ammunition, made living in Charleston worse than a trip to hell. After a few days of this evacuation of both troops and civilians began. Confederate arms were no longer capable of sustaining the fight, and civilians had enough. The cause that began here with high hopes of a stunning triumph was dashed in a maelstrom of shellfire, rubble, ashes, and desolation. A sad but heroic end.

The engagements around and in Charleston were so protracted that many innovative war making procedures and devices were developed. Thirteen unique modes of warfare, according to the author, were used in action around and against the city. Employed on the part of besiegers and defenders alike, a number of them constituted a new chapter in siege warfare. Many ideas and methods are still useful and have seen further development up to the present day. If you are interested in lessons to be learned from the history of warfare, you will be rewarded by reading this book. If Tom Clancy or Danielle Steel and their seemingly endless novels are getting to be a bore, THE SIEGE OF CHARLESTON, 1861-1865, is a much better book!

Jim Gunn