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JOURNAL OF THE NEW BERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The *Journal of the New Bern Historical Society* is a semiannual publication of the New Bern Historical Society, a non-profit 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 at Post Office Box 119, New Bern, North Carolina 28563.

NEW BERN AND THE COAST GUARD

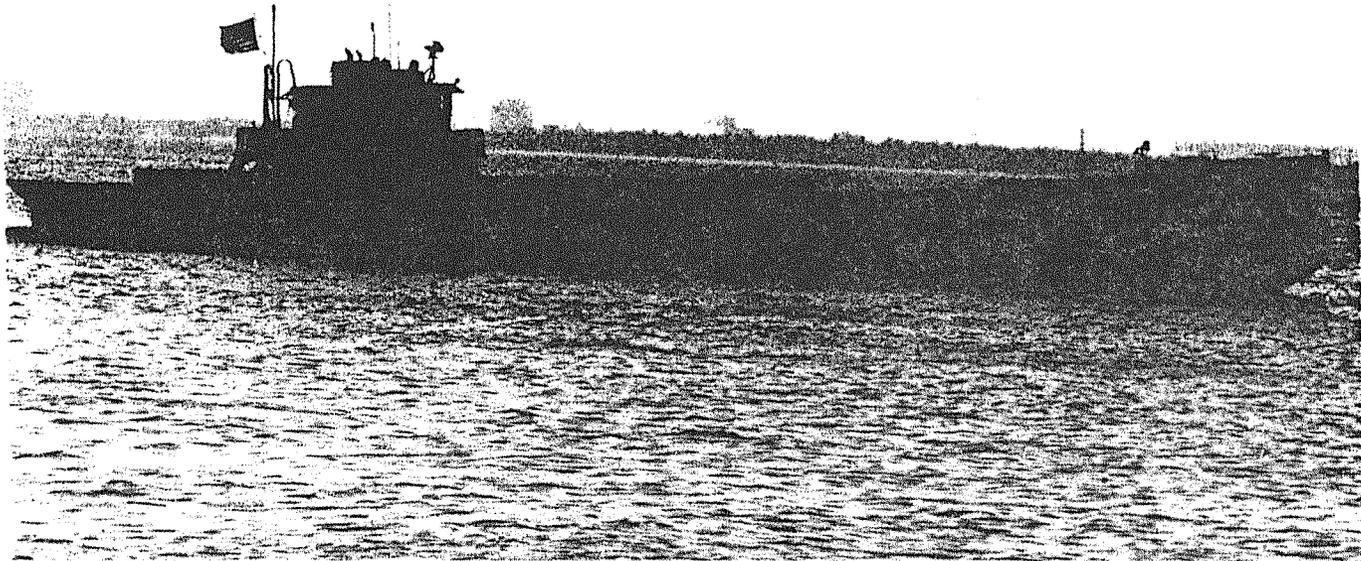
Edwin H. Daniels, Sr.,
Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard (Ret.)

I have found some interesting facts from several 1947 newspaper clippings about the U. S. Coast Guard Cutter *Pamlico* when she was decommissioned, some written by Gertrude Carraway of New Bern, from comments I heard in 1971 from Capt. Charles Paul, U. S. Coast Guard Reserve, Assistant Legal Officer in New York, and from the Coast Guard Register of Officers dated June 30, 1944.

For many years, a U. S. Coast Guard cutter was stationed in New Bern. The USCG Cutter *Winona* was relieved in 1898 by the USCG Cutter *Boutwell*. U. S. Congressman Charles R. Thomas of New Bern instigated a special appropriation of \$175,000 to build the Cutter *Pamlico* to be stationed in New Bern. *Pamlico* was built in Wilmington, Del., at a cost of \$167,750 and christened in 1907 by Miss Apple Camile Coho of Bayboro and New Bern.

Pamlico was 158 feet in length with 30-foot beam with shallow draft of 5 feet 8 inches, displacement of 455 tons, gross tonnage 434 tons and with a 600-horsepower twin screw steam engine built primarily for use on rivers and sounds. As a coal-burning ship, she was capable of making 10 knots.

In November 1907, *Pamlico* was stationed in New Bern under command of Lieut. (jg) Russell R. Waesche, Sr., who graduated from the Coast Guard Academy as an Ensign in October 1906. *Pamlico* was moored on the Neuse River in New Bern near the waterfront home of the then powerful U. S. Senator F. M. Simmons, who served in Congress from 1887-1931 and was on the Finance Committee of the Senate from 1901-1931. *Pamlico* remained in New Bern for 40



The US flag ship *William Dea*, formerly USCG Cutter *Paulico* (March 1979). Photo by Charles N. Dragonette.

years; many New Bernians called her a “party boat” because she was painted white, looked like a yacht, and was always handy to take visiting dignitaries around the Pamlico and Albemarle sounds.

In November 1908 *Pamlico* was ordered for winter cruising in Albemarle Sound, Pamlico Sound and their navigable tributaries. On June 12, 1909, she “overhauled” the steam launch *Despatch* and the steamer *Nanticoke* to prevent violation of the neutrality laws.

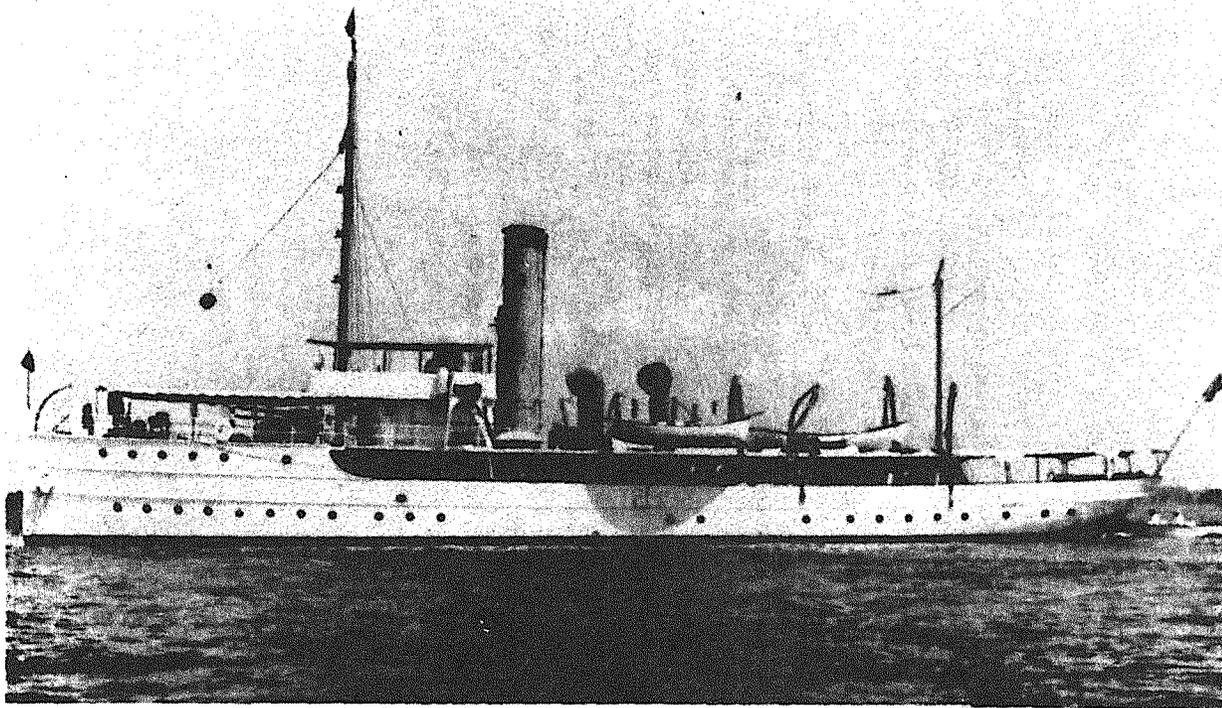
From 1910 to 1913 *Pamlico* was used to convey many Congressional and press association parties to New Bern through the New Inland Canal.

On April 6, 1917, *Pamlico* was painted Navy gray and temporarily transferred to the U. S. Navy for the duration of World War I. On August 28, 1919, she was painted white and returned to the Treasury Department and assigned to New Bern.

Pamlico's fire room crew proudly won an 18-inch silver cup in the Navy Day monomoy rowing races in 1926, one of many racing events in which members of the *Pamlico* crew excelled during the 1920s.

In March 1927, *Pamlico* carried 36 prohibition agents to East Lake in Dare County where they destroyed 16 steam distilleries in one day.

In August 1940, Lieut. Robert I. Hudson, a veteran of 34 years service, up from a Surfman, took command of the *Pamlico*. The famous Pulitzer Prize winning author Alex Haley, who wrote *Roots*, had enlisted in the Coast Guard and was stationed on *Pamlico* as a mess boy in 1941 when war was declared. Lieut. Hudson permitted Alex Haley to use the ship's typewriter to write letters for members of the crew, which got Haley started on his career as a writer. He also promoted Haley to Steward Third Class and Second Class while he was on *Pamlico* before Haley was transferred to Elizabeth City, then later to the Pacific.



Built in 1907, USCG Cutter *Pamlico* was stationed in New Bern for the next 40 years. Contributed photo.

During World War II, *Pamlico* was again painted Navy gray and temporarily transferred to the Navy for the duration of the war. She operated under the Captain of the Port of Morehead City.

With her were 30 Reserve boats used to maintain a constant patrol of the waterfronts at New Bern, Morehead City, and Washington, North Carolina, and also a continuous patrol of Bogue, Beaufort, Drum, and Ocracoke inlets and the Drain. At these inlets all boats entering and leaving were boarded and examined for identification cards, boat licenses, and other necessary papers.

After the September hurricane in 1944, *Pamlico* carried medicine, food, and 3,000 gallons of water to Cape Hatteras on the outer banks, where an estimated 90 houses were washed off their foundations in the village of Avon.

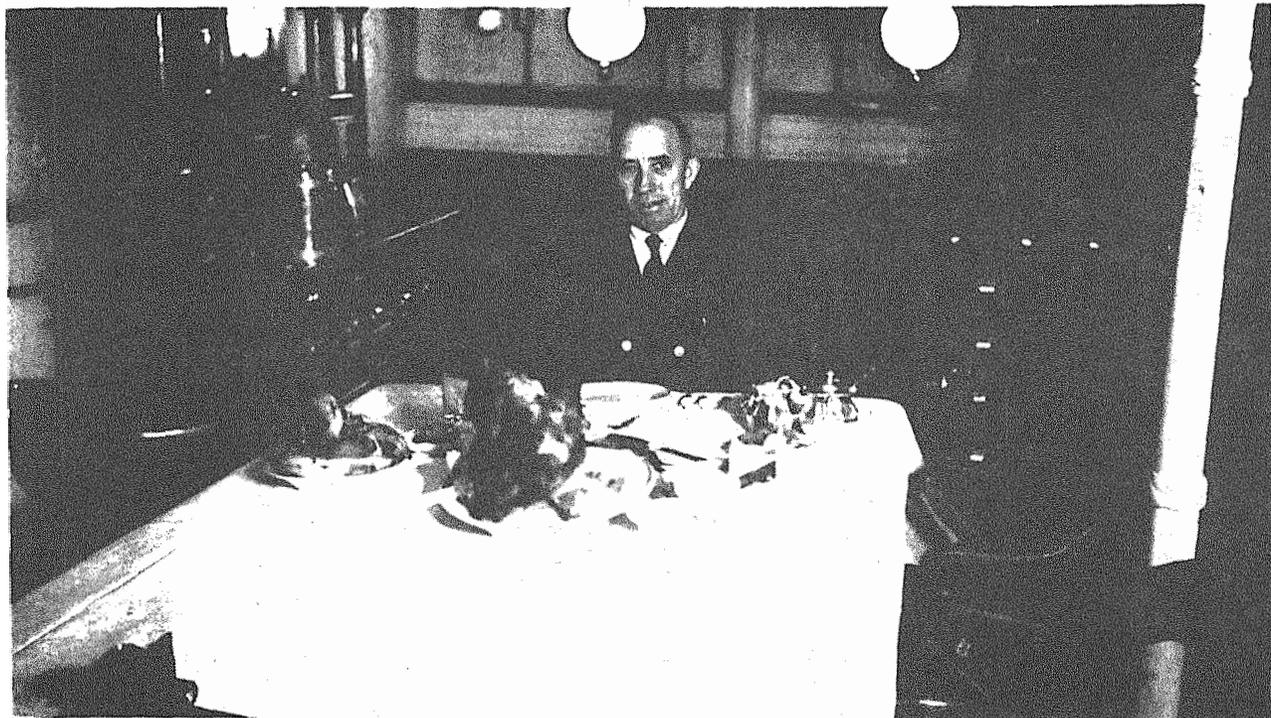
In 1947 *Pamlico* was decommissioned and sold. She was altered by the new owner, renamed *C. W. Curlett*, registered as a U. S. flag cargo ship and sailed for various owners until 1958 when she was sold by the Norris Grain Co. of New York to Allsworth Transport Co., Inc., of Reedsville, Va. *Pamlico* was then renamed *William Dea*, reregistered as a U. S. flag cargo ship and continued to sail at least until 1979.

In 1950 Alex Haley wrote to Lieut. Hudson, his former Commanding Officer. Lieut. Hudson's grandson Robert Phelps, who was inspired to enlist in the Coast Guard by his grandfather, furnished a copy of Haley's original letter, which describes his life aboard *Pamlico* and is quoted herewith:

Dear Mr. Hudson: For an awfully long time I have thought I must write Mr. Hudson, my old skipper. . . . The first thing, of course, is to see if you remember me—Haley, who came to the *Pamlico* as your Mess-boy, and whom you later promoted to Steward, Third

Class and Second Class. You were always very nice to me, letting me work in the office and things like that, and I always felt that you would be interested in knowing how I made out after I left the ship. Further, on my own part, I recall having learned early to hold the greatest respect for you as a man, beyond the fact that you were my Commanding Officer, and I never lost that. I remember, too, always thinking that you and Mrs. Hudson were one of the most devoted couples I ever knew, and hoping that when I had been married as long as you, my wife and I would be likewise. Thus far (seven years since you recommended me for second class when I told you I planned to get married [1941; the time flies doesn't it?], we are doing fine. She [Nannie Branch] was from Beaufort, you may remember; I met her once when we were in Morehead City for the rifle range. Now we have two children, a boy and a girl, and are well settled here. After I left *Pamlico*, I went to Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City, and from there to a supply ship that took me directly to the Pacific, where I stayed for most of the war. On board her, I began a ship's paper, from which an editorial reprinted in the States had me brought back. They assigned me as a reporter on a service magazine at the 3rd CG District Separation Center. [*The Coast Guard Magazine*] Following that I was brought into the District Office and assigned to the Public Relations Section, with my rating still Steward. After about a year there I was fortunate and did well, and they brought a new rating into the Coast Guard—Journalist. My rating was changed from Steward First Class to Journalist First Class. . . . Last December I was made the first Chief Journalist in the CG.

My work is wonderful. Primarily, I write stories about things going on in the CG for newspapers and magazines, and write radio and television shows, and



Lieut. Robert I. Hudson, Commanding Officer of the USCG Cutter *Pamlico*, 1940-1943. Contributed photo.

speeches for Admiral "Iceberg" Smith, who is District Commander here. Many times I think about the night we were anchored somewhere up the Pamlico River, and you went ashore and shot a bear and we had bear steaks for dinner the next day. --And another time-- Riggs came back from a fishing trip with a tub full, including two very large and slimy eels. I was about to throw them overboard when you stopped me and said they were better eating than the fish. You proceeded to show me how to skin them, then went in the galley and supervised their cooking, and later I served them to you in the cabin. --I can also remember many cold nights that I was nearly freezing to death standing bow watch while we were underway, and how happy I would be when you'd ask for a cup of coffee so I could have a chance to warm up in the galley before I came back.

Respectfully, Haley (signed)

Thirty-five years later, in 1985, Alex wrote

Writing is a jealous mistress. If you don't pay the muse year in, year out; if you stay around and do what I do, you become a talking writer, accepting 50 to 60 speaking engagements a year.

Recalling the gradual end to his first marriage in 1964, he said: "She finally said, 'It's me or the typewriter,' and I thought 'Honey, I wish you hadn't phrased it like that.'"

Both the C. G. Cutter *Pamlico* and the U. S. Revenue Cutter *Diligence I* were honored at the celebration of the 200th birthday of the Coast Guard on April 27-28, 1990, and a historical marker was installed in New Bern for each vessel. Alex Haley was one of 10 former crew members of the Cutter *Pamlico* who were guests of honor in New Bern during the celebration. Names of the other nine and the years that they served aboard were Fireman Jimmy Salter, 1923; Radioman First Class Herman Lingman, 1925-26; Chief

Radioman Francis Buckley, 1932; Seaman John Potter, 1935-38; Machinist mate First Class Monroe Taylor, 1936; Seaman Minous Hadder, 1936; Chief Warrant Officer George Seworth, 1936; Boiler Tender First Class Durwood Hibbart, 1944-45; and Chief Machinist mate Earl Willis, 1945.

Other distinguished guests included U. S. Congressman Walter B. Jones, Chairman of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee; Vice Admiral Clyde Lusk, Vice Commandant of the U. S. Coast Guard; and Mayor of New Bern Leander Morgan.

New Bern artist laureate Willie Taglieri was commissioned to create an oil painting of USCG Cutter *Pàmlico* for the occasion, which Alex Haley presented to Mayor Morgan for the City of New Bern. Vice Admiral Clyde Lusk presented a replica of the painting "Captain William Cooke Seizes Contraband" by John Thompson to Lacy Thornburg, Attorney General for the State of North Carolina. The first significant action of the U. S. Revenue Cutter Service was Cutter *Diligence* seizing over \$35,000 in gold from Privateer Francois Henri Hervieux, master of *Le Vainqueur de la Bastille*, when he tried to land the contraband at Brunswick, N. C., in May 1793.

The celebrations for the Coast Guard's birthday included concerts by the U. S. Coast Guard Band, and performances by their Dixieland Jazz Band at the Farmers Market. The Cherry Point Marine saluting battery fired a 21-gun salute honoring the Coast Guard after the band played *Semper Paratus* and the National Anthem. Coast Guard bicentennial art was on display in the Sheraton Hotel. A search and rescue helicopter demonstration was held on the river in front of the Sheraton, where a dinner was given for 300 members of the Coast Guard family.

Coast Guard Cutters *Red Cedar*, *Kennebec*, and *Point Brown* were honored members of a parade of vessels which included local vessels of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Power Squadron, and yacht clubs saluting the Coast Guard. All three cutters were open to visitors during the celebration.

At a breakfast during the Coast Guard Celebration, Alex Haley said:

I liked Mr. Hudson but I did not like the Executive Officer of *Pamlico*; when serving I always managed to run out of soup before I got to him. The *Pamlico* cook said to Alex: "Listen you little 'SOB', the first thing you learn in the galley is: 'you never run out of soup or gravy as long as you have running water.'"

Alex Haley was also honored by the Coast Guard years later when a major Coast Guard Cutter was named for him in 2003: the *Alex Haley*.

My grandfather Louis Goodwin Daniels also lived on the Neuse River one and a half blocks from Senator Simmons, and they supported each other. Many years later I was told that, through Senator Simmons, my grandfather was appointed postmaster of New Bern in 1913 by President Woodrow Wilson.

Russell R. Waesche, Sr., first Commanding Officer of USCG Cutter *Pamlico* had an interesting career. He was appointed Ensign on October 27, 1906; less than a year later he was appointed Lieutenant (jg) on September 2, 1907; 10 years later he was appointed Lieutenant on April 2, 1917, and six years later appointed Lieutenant Commander on January 12, 1923; and three years later he was appointed Commander on July 1, 1926. [His son Russell Jr. graduated from the Coast Guard Academy as an Ensign on June 8, 1936.] Six days later, on June 14, 1936, Commander Waesche Sr. skipped Captain and was promoted over all the other captains to be Commandant of the Coast Guard in the rank of Rear Admiral. [Years later his son Russell Jr. was also promoted to Rear Admiral.]

During World War II, Russell Waesche, Sr., was appointed Vice Admiral on March 12, 1942, and a four-star Admiral after 1944.

Whether or not Admiral Waesche was helped along by Senator Simmons is conjecture.

NEW BERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES 85 YEARS

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the New Bern Historical Society, Richard Lore wrote a history of the organization which appeared in the May 1998 issue of this *Journal*. In his introduction he wrote:

The following account of the Society's history is taken largely from the minutes of the board meetings of the Society as well as newsletters published by the Society. These two major sources of information were supplemented by articles from local newspapers and a few interviews with long-term members of the Society.

The focus is on major events or turning points in the long life of our organization. My judgment on these matters is highly subjective, and may indeed even be faulty from the perspective of others. Moreover, my version of the Society's history is not written for the professional historian. There are, for example, no lists of officers of the Society, nor do I present exhaustive data on membership or financial matters. Rather, my intent is simply to tell the Society's story for the current membership.

The reader may wish to refer to this splendid article by one of our knowledgeable writers.

This year marks the 85th anniversary of the founding of the Society. Members of the Publications Committee thought it appropriate to include in this issue a copy of the original minutes. These begin on the following page.

MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

New Bern Historical Society

April 19, 1923

Nineteen persons met at the home of Mrs. Richard N. Duffy on Thursday evening, April 19, 1923, for the purpose of organizing a local branch of the State Historical Society. Mrs. Duffy, who was largely responsible for starting the movement toward organization, acted as temporary chairman, and the following officers were elected:

President: Mr. R. A. Nunn
1st Vice-President: Mrs. R. N. Duffy
2nd Vice-President: Mrs. John Dunn
Rec. Secretary: Miss Mary Ward
Cor. Secretary: Mrs. K. E. Spencer
Treasurer: Mrs. Francis S. Duffy

Mr. Nunn then took the chair. The aim of the Society as stated by him is "the preservation of the wealth of historic material to be found in New Bern for future generations."

A committee consisting of Mrs. R. N. Duffy, Mrs. Raymond Pollock and Mrs. T. G. Hyman was appointed to report after inquiry concerning our relation to the State Organization, to frame a constitution, or to bring to us one already in use in the State, and to ascertain the pleasure of the members as to the number of meetings to be held during a year.

Mr. Nunn and Mrs. Charles Hollister were requested to prepare papers to be read at the May meeting on subjects of historic interest to be typewritten, copies of papers be given the Society, one for preservation here and one to be sent to headquarters.

A suggestion was made that members respond to roll call with some interesting fact.

Mrs. William Potter of Boston, a native New Bernian and a member of the State Society, was present, and made some interesting suggestions. The one which caused most discussion dealt with the name of George Street. Mrs. Potter's suggestion was that George Street be extended from the river to river. National Avenue, Riverside, would then become part of it. She favored the changing of its name to King George's Road. This matter was placed in the hands of the following committee for consideration: Mrs. Charles Hollister and Miss Mary Ward. Mrs. Potter also mentioned Owen Wister's *Square Deal, or Ancient Grudge* [*A Straight Deal; or, The Ancient Grudge*] as a book which must bring about better understanding of conditions existing between England and America in the past.

Mrs. Charles Hollister spoke of some interesting changes in New Bern, mentioning particularly the original court house site and the old post office.

Mr. A. D. Ward spoke of some interesting facts of North Carolina history published for the first time in England within the past 10 years.

Members present were

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hollister
Mrs. K. E. Spencer
Mrs. Lalyce Buford
Mrs. Rosamond Meadows
Mrs. Raymond Pollock
Mrs. William Potter
Mrs. R. B. Williams
Mrs. R. C. Pratt
Miss Sadie Hollister
Mrs. R. E. Knowles
Miss Anna Hanff
Mr. A. D. Ward
Mrs. R. N. Duffy
Mrs. Tom Hyman
Mrs. John Dunn

Mrs. E. K. Bishop
Mr. R. A. Nunn
Miss Mary Ward

Others who could not be present but asked to be enrolled were:

Mrs. Charles Ives
Mrs. Royal Turner
Mrs. J. P. C. Davis
Mr. D. S. Jones
Mrs. T. J. Roberts
Mrs. J. T. Hollister
Mrs. R. B. Nixon
Mrs. R. E. Whitehurst
Mrs. T. Z. Uzzell
Mrs. Sam Dill
Mrs. H. B. Wadsworth
Mrs. F. S. Duffy
Mrs. George Moulton
Mr. Ernest M. Green
Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Smith
Mrs. M. M. Millett
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Whitehurst
Mrs. Beeview Harrell

Mary P. Ward
Secretary

REMINISCENCES OF MISS MARY AND THE ATTMORE-OLIVER HOUSE

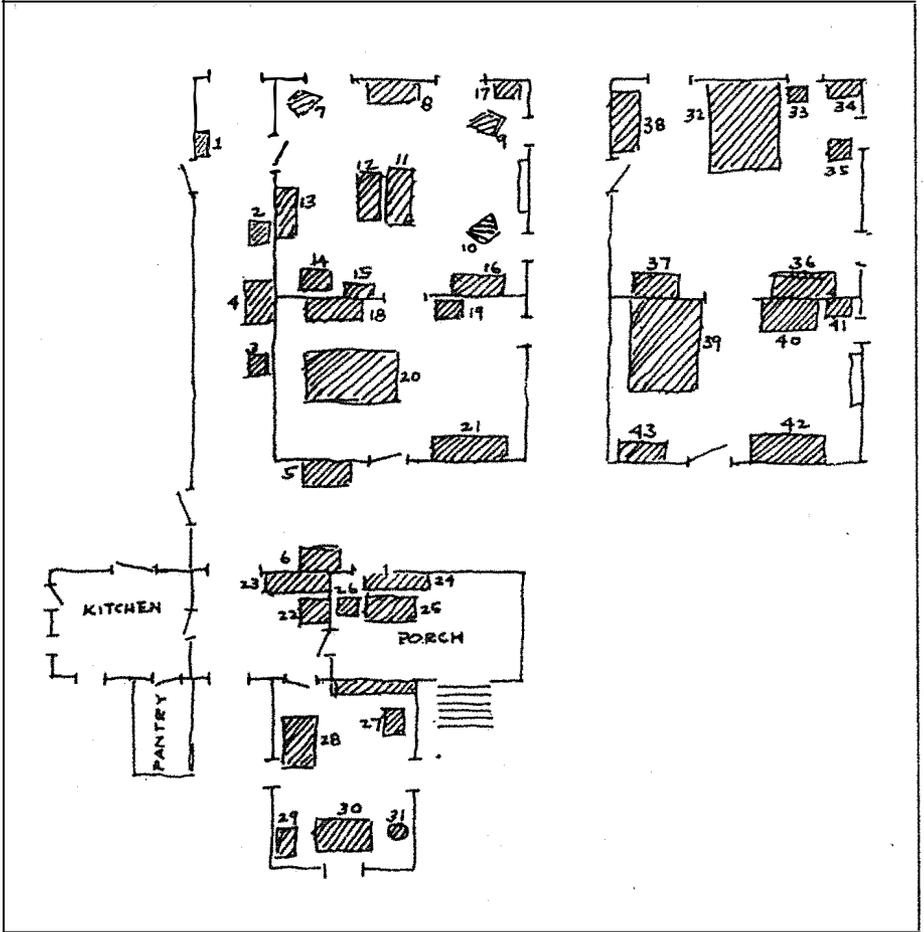
(Including an inventory and two letters not previously
published in the *Journal*)

James R. Gooding

In spite of a 30-year difference in ages, Mary Taylor Oliver and my father were close friends. She made a vivid impression on everyone; I clearly remember being taken to visit her when I could scarcely walk. When I was three, my mother and father and I occupied the western half of her home while a house was built for us on East Front Street. Miss Mary, who objected to any disturbance not created by herself, must have got more than she bargained for when my father acquired a noisy dog and a guinea hen that flew to the rooftop and woke the neighborhood at dawn every day.

Vigorous and quick, she must have been in her sixties then. . . . If she took a notion, Miss Mary went to the head of a line at the bank and demanded the teller's immediate attention. Non-Episcopalians who chanced to meet her on the path through the churchyard were ordered off the premises.

For more information on this exciting former resident of the Attmore-Oliver House, see the complete article published in the *Journal*, November 1989. An inventory of furnishings in the house as Mr. Gooding remembered them follows the article, but was not published in the *Journal* at that time. It begins on page 19. A floor plan of the house showing locations and numbers corresponding to the items on the list is reproduced on the following page.



Floor plan of central hall, eastern half, and kitchen of the Attmore-Oliver House, the part occupied by Miss Mary Oliver.
 Drawn by Gooding.

INVENTORY OF THE ATTMORE-OLIVER HOUSE

Hall

1. Mahogany hat and coat rack. Victorian but nice.
2. Mahogany Chippendale pierced ladder-back side
3. chairs (2). Upholstery was edged with nail heads. Late eighteenth century.
4. Mahogany Sheraton drop-leaf center pedestal table, its column spiral turned. Circa 1810.
5. Large iron office safe. 4½ to 5 feet high.
6. Tall oak ice box. The usual.

Small Oriental rugs were lined up along the bare floor. In the archway (or was it just behind?) hung an oil lamp with a glass soot deflector above.

Miss Mary put her best foot forward in the front hall. The drop-leaf table was exceptional, and the side chairs were not far behind. In summer, "pickers" used to travel about, offering to buy old furniture. They never said "antiques." After peering into the hall and seeing what was there, several asked to take a closer look, even when told that nothing was for sale.

Living Room

7. Mahogany rocking chair.
8. Mahogany drop-leaf table.
9. Mahogany upholstered swan rocking chair with padded arms. Early nineteenth century.
10. Small armless upholstered rocking chair.
11. Armless Empire loveseat. Mahogany and veneers. 1840. The dark green velvet upholstery was the only spot of color in the house.
12. Mahogany console table.
13. Walnut breakfront, about 4 feet wide. Upper portion shelves behind glass doors. Simple and impressive. Early nineteenth century.

14. Small square Victorian marble top table. Very ugly. On it a Victrola of 1910 or so.
15. Don't remember.
16. Louis XV Victorian loveseat. Horsehair upholstery.
17. Don't remember.

No recollection of the floor covering. There were net casement curtains at the windows – and no draperies.

This room was out of a Gothic novel. Back when the house was wired for electricity, the gas supply for chandeliers and brackets was not blocked off. Since Maggie cooked on a wood range, Miss Mary felt sure her gas stove didn't use even the amount for the minimum payment – so she continued to light the living room with gas most of the time. Two of the chandelier jets were fitted with Welsbach mantles that sputtered and hissed and shed an unkind green glow. With a coal fire in the grate on a winter evening, this could have been the parlor of Dr. Seward's private insane asylum in *Dracula*. When I was 15, I saw the play on tour in St. Louis, and as the curtain rose I felt – well, not quite at home, but next door to it.

Dining room

18. Walnut Empire desk. Like a table with a cabinet on top at the rear, the lower part of which hinged forward to form a writing surface with pigeon holes behind. 1840.
19. Metal and wood typewriter table on casters.
20. Mahogany Hepplewhite dining table (4 legs). Too large for the room, it could be extended to seat at least 12. Early nineteenth century.
21. Matching Hepplewhite sideboard.

No recollection of the floor covering or the chairs. The window curtains matched those in the living room.

On the sideboard, an ornate silver tea service was on a tray. Flanking it – and the most striking feature of the

room—a pair of extremely tall, brilliant hurricane shades a silver candlestick within each. The glass was so thin that Miss Mary would not allow them to be washed without her personal attendance. Her cautionary commands and cries of alarm must have made the task an ordeal for poor Maggie.

Serving Pantry and Porch

22. Ancient 4-burner iron gas stove.
23. Storage cabinets for glass and china.
24. Deacon's bench. Well-worn and nearly bare of paint. Early nineteenth century.
25. Kitchen table
26. Kitchen chair. Heavy Windsor style. Very old.

In warm weather, the ladies ate their meals in the alcove on the back porch. At the end of the porch a floor-to-ceiling lattice confined their view to stacked kindling, two or three packing boxes, and a large rat trap of heavy-gauge steel wire. (When you caught a rat, you dropped it, trap and all, into the rain barrel.)

High on the wall a small bell hung at the end of a coiled metal band. I was told that back in the days when servants were lounging about the yard, the bell could be rung from within to summon one of them. The means to accomplish this was not apparent.

Kitchen

27. Wood and metal stand with beaten biscuit machine attached at one end. Consisted of two polished steel rollers with a long handle and gears to turn them. My guess is: state of the art, 1900.
28. Kitchen table.
29. Fireless cooker.
30. Kitchen range. Tall, warming compartments above.
31. Hot water heater.

The floor was bare and there were no curtains. Open shelves on the north wall held cookware and utensils. Probably would be collector's items today. The fireless cooker in the corner was seldom used. It was heated by hot bricks or stones. I never saw the operation, but ate cakes it produced.

There were two or three Windsor type chairs like the one on the porch. The ladies ate breakfast here in winter since the room was warm long before the others. The table—of oak, I believe, and very ordinary—had been washed with harsh soap through so many decades that the worn grain and pale color were beautiful.

As a rule, biscuits are unfit for human consumption, but Maggie's were an exception. I loved to watch her make beaten biscuits. Flour, leaf lard, cold milk, and water were mixed in a wooden dough trough, along with a pinch or two of other ingredients. No leavening. Flour was added until she judged the dough ready for the machine. It was a miracle that with only two hands she could both turn the handle and feed the flabby stuff through the rollers, fold over the extrusion with a loud slap, and repeat the process—again and again and again. As air was beaten out of it, the dough became smooth and silky in appearance, firm and easy to handle. Finally it was rolled out and cut in circles scarcely more than an inch in diameter.

Spaced apart to keep each one a perfect circle, the biscuits were ready for the oven. The end product is apt to be an acquired taste. Ladies ate them cold, with butter. I ate them plain, preferably somewhat scorched and still warm.

Front Bedroom

32. Faded mahogany sleigh bed. Early nineteenth century. Unusual in that head and foot were open below the outward flare, with vertical spindles across the opening.
33. Bedside table.
34. Small desk or table

35. Mahogany Empire commode. 1840.
36. Chest of drawers or bureau.
37. Walnut Victorian Renaissance washstand. 1880.
38. Empire wardrobe. Mahogany and veneers. 1840.

This was Miss Mary's spartan bedroom. No curtains at the windows and no floor covering except several small rag rugs. One winter, when Miss Mary was indisposed, she had a stove installed. Other than that, it was never heated. The only chairs were Victorian cane-seated side chairs.

Back Bedroom

39. Walnut Victorian Renaissance bed. 1880. Huge, architectural, and ugly.
40. Walnut Victorian Renaissance bureau. 1880. With drawers in raised sections at both ends; rising from between them a tall mirror, heavily framed. Gray marble tops.
41. Small, slant-top table desk.
42. Empire wardrobe. Mahogany and veneers. 1840.
43. Victorian washstand.

Miss Mollie had a stove installed for winter, though she used a portable kerosene heater much of the time. There was a rug here and a pair of cane-seated side chairs.

Third Floor and Beneath the House

Crammed with furniture, the third floor had scarcely a square foot of open space in the hall and the two small bedrooms. The large room at the top of the stairs was still viable as a bedroom.

Miss Mary gave up her own room and slept here when she had company.

Stored on bare dirt beneath the house was a treasure trove--several deacon's benches, carriage seats, chests of

drawers, ladders, pieces of harness, chairs with broken rush and cane seats, andirons, rusted machinery—ad infinitum. The Oliver lineage never parted with anything and never heard of a yard sale.

There in the dark was an abundance of cobwebs and spiders. Rats and mice, when disturbed, were heard scampering away. They surely accounted for the large blacksnake we found sleeping on the back steps one afternoon. My mother sent me next door to ask Robert Hancock to deal with it. Mr. Robert grabbed a shotgun, hurried over, and blew the snake to kingdom come!

The Rest of the House

When Miss Mary emptied the west rooms of furniture, she was forced to leave two of the largest and heaviest pieces downstairs—a Victorian Renaissance buffet or sideboard, and a mid-Victorian square grand piano. The buffet had a white marble top with three narrow shelves above that were crowned with a carved pediment. Made of oak, it was interesting—and hideous. The piano was comparable. Its case was veneered in dark mahogany, the cabriole legs had bunches of grapes and leaves on the knees, and the feet were scrolled.

The two Empire wardrobes that remained in the bedrooms upstairs were at least useful and unobtrusive.

TWO LETTERS OF EXPLANATION
FROM MR. GOODING

August 22, 1989

Dear Kathy Beckwith:

From my notes I've tried to organize something coherent. The result, herewith, is fragmentary, but I trust parts of it will be what you want.

I'm dismayed at how much I've forgotten.

This has taken me forever because, once started, I became interested and decided to write down everything. For instance, no one is interested in how to make beaten biscuits. Still, it's one of my favorite memories—so in it went.

I haven't done any magazine writing in years, but would be tempted to re-shape this material and fire it off to a publication like *Gourmet*, were it not for the racial aspects.

Please accept my apologies for split infinitives, erratic punctuation, and other such failings.

I hope I haven't drawn too unkind a picture of Miss Mary. My parents thought highly of her, and I guess I've come around to their way of thinking. She was certainly larger than life. And of a time before God began rationing character and style.

Sincerely yours,

James R. Gooding (signed)
September 11, 1989

Dear Mrs. Stevenson:

In response to your letter of September 7, I trust that the following will answer your questions.

Neither of my parents was related to Miss Mary Oliver. Her only relatives were three or four cousins (and not close cousins at that) who lived in Charlotte, and with whom she was on cordial terms.

I don't believe either of my parents was acquainted with her before becoming an adult. My father grew up on a farm in Pamlico County, and never lived in New Bern until he finished his education. I understood that he first came into contact with her on a matter of business. However, his mother, Elizabeth Ferebee, came from New Bern and was from an old New Bern family. This would have disposed Miss Mary strongly in his favor. She regarded anyone as a Johnny-come-lately—and scarcely worth her notice—whose people arrived in town after her own earliest ancestor on the scene.

My mother was a descendant of Jacob Muller, one of de Graffenried's settlers, and had lived in New Bern most of her life. So according to Miss Mary's sense of a proper pecking order we may have been somewhat superior to herself, though if push came to shove she would have found a way to prove this was not the case.

My father had a magic touch when dealing with her. Although respectful, he said and did things that she would consider gross violations of her civil rights on the part of anyone else—and she would laugh at his insouciance!

As a favor she cleared out and rented the west rooms to him when we needed living quarters while our house on East Front Street was being built. I don't remember why it became necessary for us to leave our previous home on Short Street.

Incidentally, we never lived in the new house. Just as it was completed, my father accepted a job offer from a firm of accountants in Richmond. A tenant was found, and we moved. My father died shortly thereafter. My

mother and I then lived with my grandmother in New Bern until Miss Mary asked us to come back.

Also incidentally, I believe she never rented that half of the house again until a cousin of mine needed quarters for his family during the housing shortage at the end of World War II.

When writing up my notes, I thought I was merely giving your guides background material about the house. Otherwise, I might have been wary about what I said. It's okay to print any part you wish. I just hope there's nothing to offend anyone.

As one who subscribes to the philosophy of the verse that goes: "Fools' names, like fools' faces/ Are often seen in public places," I'm not fond of getting my name in print. Just say, "Someone who was once a nasty little boy that lived in the house supplied the following. . . ." And go on from there.

Yours sincerely,

James R. Gooding (signed)

PO Box 185
Basking Ridge NJ 07920

CHRIST CHURCH AND THE APOSTASY OF BISHOP LEVI S. IVES

David Curtis Skaggs

The death of Bishop John Stark Ravenscroft in early 1830 brought considerable sorrow in the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina and the trauma of finding a new diocesan. The diocesan convention of 1831 called the Rev. Levi Silliman Ives of St. Luke's Church, New York, to the post. Only 33 years old, he was a convert to Episcopal orders from a Presbyterian upbringing. After brief service during the War of 1812, he attended Hamilton College and, after being converted by reading the *Book of Common Prayer*, he enrolled in General Theological Seminary where he studied under Bishop John Henry Hobart. He was ordained to the diaconate in 1823 and to the priesthood a year later; in 1825 Ives married Bishop Hobart's daughter Rebecca. Bishop Hobart was a well-known High Churchman; although his relationship to Ives's later apostasy is debatable. Consecrated bishop at Trinity Church, Philadelphia, on September 22, 1831, Ives shortly thereafter began a tour of his new diocese, visiting all but one parish before the annual convention of 1832. At Christ Church on March 3, 1832, he confirmed 16 women and two men (*Parish Register*, I: 57).

Bishop Ives inherited a diocese with 16 parishes, seven Sunday Schools, and 900 communicants. He immediately undertook missionary activities to expand the Episcopal Church from one end of the state to the other and to distribute Bibles, Prayer Books, tracts, and to establish the Episcopal School of North Carolina at Raleigh. The latter failed due to the financial crisis of the Panic of 1837, but his other endeavors bore considerable fruit. By 1841 the dio-

cese had 28 clergymen, 21 presbyters, seven deacons, and four candidates for Holy Orders. By then there were 1,300 communicants and in that one year there were 544 baptisms, 128 confirmations, 3 new churches consecrated and 17 missionary stations. All this occurred in spite of an extraordinary number of North Carolinians migrating to the South and West. Among the numerous young men he ordained into the priesthood were Cameron F. McRae and Edward M. Forbes who received Holy Orders at Christ Church on May 8, 1836. With considerable irony, these two priests would become opponents of their bishop and would have a relationship with Christ Church that would extend over the next 40 years.

Much of the contention over Bishop Ives's tenure arose over the creation of the 2,000-acre Valle Crucis about eight miles west of Boone as a farm, missionary station, and classical and agricultural training school for boys. Under the leadership of the Rev. Jarvis B. Buxton, son of the long-time rector of St. John's, Fayetteville, and a former Christ Church member, it prospered until, he recorded,

all the glowing expectations of man were dashed to the ground, by the course of the Bishop himself, owing to the bodily disease and Roman malaria which his mental health was too weak to resist.

Bishop Ives's drift toward Catholicism was influenced by the Oxford movement in England led by John Keble, Edward Bouverie Pusey, and John Henry Newman. By 1842 the bishop began to publicly recognize his debt to the Oxford tractarians. There soon arose considerable fear about the direction he was drifting theologically.

At the 1849 diocesan convention, the Rev. William N. Hawks, rector of Christ Church, took up the opposition to the bishop's activities. Former Christ Church rector Cameron F. McRae read the ill bishop's letter in which he said he did not authorize any clergyman to teach or enforce auricular confession in place of the traditional gen-

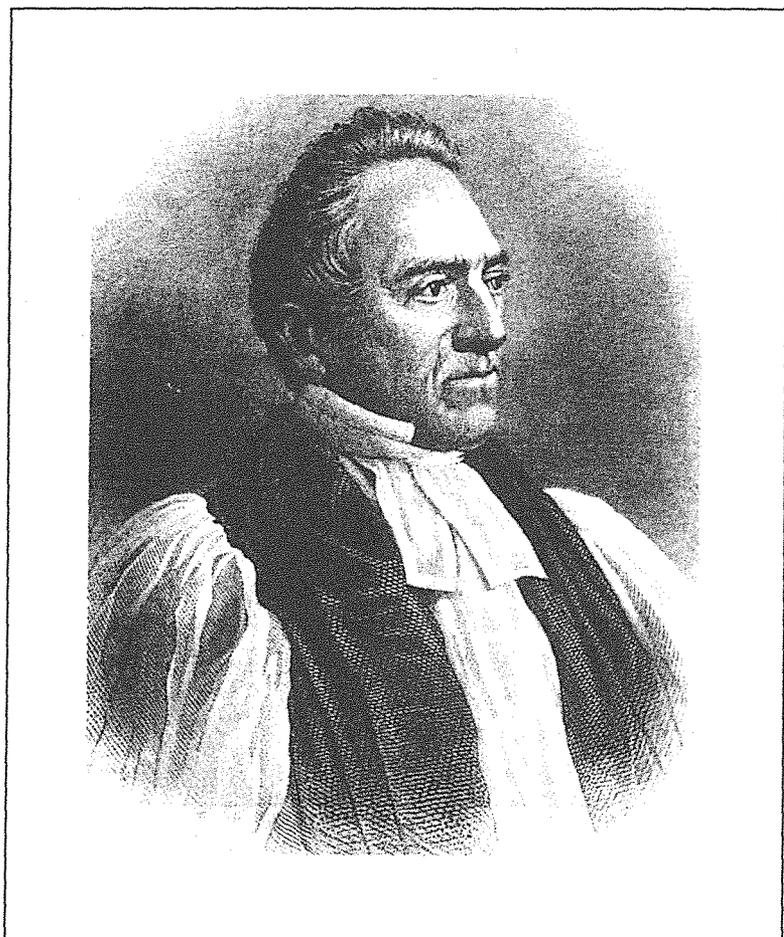
eral confession in the office of Holy Communion. The bishop acknowledged a need to allay any false rumors about his positions and to declare that

no doctrine will be taught or practice allowed which is not in accordance with the principles and usages of our branch of the Holy Catholic Church, contained in the Book of Common Prayer.

This seemed to quiet everything until the convention passed a resolution establishing "the right of convention to affirm what a diocese holds, or what the clergy may, or may not teach." This struck at the core of Episcopal powers and caused Bishop Ives to issue an 80-page pamphlet entitled *A Pastoral Letter to the Clergy and Laity of His Diocese*. Such a democratic intrusion into church polity he saw as an arrogation of powers "committed solely to my hands, assuming a trust, for which I alone am made responsible." The bishop's letter was also a reply to criticisms the Rev. Cameron McRae, who came out of a more evangelical rather than liturgical tradition espoused at the Virginia Theological Seminary. Some of the controversy may involve inter-seminary rivalries between the graduates of General Theological and those who attended the new Virginia institution.

This *Pastoral Letter* provoked U. S. Senator George Badger (a former Christ Church layman) to write a pamphlet entitled *An Examination of the Doctrines Declared and Powers Claimed by the Right Reverend Bishop Ives*. Badger had been a young attorney in New Bern during the Rev. Richard Mason's rectorship before moving his practice to Raleigh in 1825. Badger tore into Bishop Ives for alleged violations of Protestant orthodoxy.

He has instituted at Valle Crucis a monastic order . . . composed of persons bound to him by a vow of celibacy, poverty, and obedience. . . . He has given to the members, as their peculiar dress, a black cassock ex-



Levi Silliman Ives (1797-1867)
Portrait from *New Catholic Encyclopedia*.

tending from the throat to the ankle. . . . He allows to be placed on the altar a pyx, in which are reserved the remaining consecrated elements after a communion. . . there is used at Valle Crucis in a manual of devotions . . . prayers to the Virgin Mary and the Saints. . . . He has announced to two of his clergy an intention to send a "penitentiary" through the parishes in the Diocese to receive the confessions of the people. (Badger 68 [and London])

The charge regarding the monastic order grew out of the formation in 1847 of an organization known as the Society of the Holy Cross. The brothers at Valle Crucis established a small divinity school and utilized a devotional manual based on an Ursuline model. In 1848, a recent General Theological Seminary graduate and Holy Cross postulant became the "penitentiary" of the diocese, hearing confessions of the monks and traveling throughout the diocese hearing confessions of both clergy and laity. The Holy Cross monks engaged in a number of practices that eventually became quite normal to Episcopalians, such as the use of altar linen embroidered with the colors of church seasons, using altar candles at the services, wearing priestly vestments, and keeping the reserved sacrament. All this smacked too much of Roman Catholicism for many in Bishop Ives's diocese.

Dr. Mason, rector of Christ Church, Raleigh, wrote *A Letter to the Bishop of North Carolina* (1850) pointing out doctrinal inconsistencies, evasions, and irregular practices of the bishop. As chairman of the diocesan Committee on the State of the Church, Mason beseeched him "to remove, if possible, our doubts and difficulties; to speak so clearly and fully, that hereafter we cannot mistake you."

Former New Bernian and brother of Christ Church's rector, the Rev. Francis L. Hawks wrote an essay on Bishop Ives's theology. This 130-page booklet entitled *Auricular Confession in the Protestant Episcopal Church* (1851) argued private confession to a priest was not a sacrament insti-

tuted by Christ but rather one introduced into the Roman Catholic Church by the Council of Trent during the Counter-Reformation. Moreover, the rector of Calvary Episcopal Church in New York City contradicted the bishop's contention that he alone, and not the General Convention (note, he did not say a diocesan convention has this right) was responsible for church doctrine, discipline, and worship in any diocese (Ives [and others]).

Another former Christ Church rector, the Rev. Cameron F. McRae of Warrenton, became agitated over a daily devotion for the use of the students at Valle Crucis "containing a prayer to the Virgin Mary, an invocation of the Saints and a prayer for the dead." He, Dr. Mason, and the Rev. Edward M. Forbes, a future Christ Church rector, were among those disturbed by what they considered "doctrines and practices not recognized by our Church, and not contained in the Book of Common Prayer" that were apparently being taught at Valle Crucis. Bishop Ives replied with a note that McRae and others had "gone off half-cocked—particularly Forbes" without knowing that the bishop had revised the first draft after seeing it and the offending phrases had been amended. Bishop Ives subsequently accused McRae of doing his "best to excite the Laity against me," of adopting a "tone of patronizing and offensive dictation" in his communications, and of raising charges of "heresy" before the Diocesan Standing Committee (Statement, 1853).

The controversy continued until 1852 when Bishop Ives went to Rome and converted to the Catholic Church. Three of the two dozen Holy Cross monks followed Ives's path, but most remained within the Episcopal Church, and many had long careers as clergy. There is little doubt that former and current Christ Church clergy and laymen were leaders in the movement critical of Bishop Ives. Nonetheless, Bishop Ives's 20-year episcopate brought enormous expansion and vitality to the diocese. Today at Valle Crucis is the conference center for the Diocese of Western North Carolina (Robinson 171-219 [and others]).

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THREE THOMAS JERKINS HOUSES OCCUPIED BY UNITS OF MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY DURING THE CIVIL WAR

Gordon N. Ruckart

Three of New Bern's historic houses near the intersection of Craven and Johnson streets were used by Provost Marshall Units of the regiments of the Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry during the early occupation of New Bern in the War Between the States. All three houses were built by ship captain Thomas Jerkins.

When William T. Alexander of Plymouth and Boston was given permission in 1861 to recruit a company for the Massachusetts 23rd regiment, 60 men enlisted at Plymouth. The volunteers came together at Lynnfield in September. The regiment was sent on its way to become part of the Burnside Expedition on the coast of North Carolina where it formed part of Foster's First Division. The regiment participated in Burnside's successful battle to take New Bern on March 14, 1862.

As our town tour guides will tell you, General Ambrose E. Burnside (1824-1881) had his headquarters for a time in New Bern as did General John C. Foster (1823-1874), who succeeded him. After the battle to take New Bern, the 23rd Massachusetts regiment occupied the area from March to November under the command of General Foster. During these months, the regiment participated in minor expeditions to engage the Confederates in nearby places as far away as Charleston and Richmond.

Other regiments were in New Bern off and on during the occupation; they included the 17th and 25th from Massachusetts and the 6th and 9th from New Jersey. In general, the troops assigned to the brigade in New Bern

lived in encampments on the other side of the rivers from the city. Headquarters and support services occupied town houses left empty by their owners when the war threatened.

When resident in New Bern, companies of the 23rd regiment of Massachusetts were assigned Provost Marshall duties charged with keeping order in the town. Three of its companies occupied the Jerkins houses:

Company A occupied the Thomas Jerkins House (circa 1804-1810) at 309 Johnson Street (now owned by Fred and Muriel Latham).

Company E occupied the Jerkins-Duffy House (circa 1830) on the southwest corner of Craven and Johnson streets (now owned by Mrs. Joanne Grossman and the late Marvin Grossman).

Company H occupied the Jerkins-Richardson House (circa 1848-1849) on the southeast corner of Craven and Johnson streets (now owned by Gordon and Alice Ruckart).

Other 23rd company PM units were scattered around the city (for example, the Company D PM unit was headquartered in the Harvey Mansion), and they moved around as circumstances required.

By the end of summer 1863, the time came for tours of the 23rd's volunteers to end and reenlistments to begin. On September 10, 1863, those who had reenlisted were encamped in the trenches near the Trent River at New Bern; those who did not reenlist were sent home to be mustered out. It was during this 1863 autumn in New Bern that the occupiers suffered severely from the ravages of yellow fever that wiped out about 1400 residents and soldiers and their families.

In January 1864, the 23rd became part of General Heckman's 1st Brigade at Portsmouth, Virginia, and

readied for battle at Yorktown. They were joined by units of the 25th and 27th of Massachusetts and the 9th New Jersey. Their outfit was renamed the Red Star Brigade.

After their last battle at Wyse Fork near Kinston on March 8, 1865, the 23rd soldiers stayed near Kinston until May when they returned to New Bern. Their Provost Marshall Units stayed in the city until June 25. By July 5, the regiment arrived at Readville, Mass., where they received their pay and final discharge on July 8.

Recently, a letter was found on eBay that was written by a young soldier of Company E (while living in the Jerkins-Duffy House) to his wife in Boston. With spelling and grammar unchanged from the original, it reads:

Newbern, N. C.
May 12, 1862

To my dear wife

I have received no letters from you since May 1st & am somewhat blue for not hearing from you. I suppose you must have written, & it did not get in in time for the last mail which got here May 7th. Yesterday I was Officer of the Day which is the first days duty I have done since March 14th which gave me quite a long resting spell. We are here moved into the City & have elegant quarters. The house we occupy is on the corner of Johnston & Craven St a large two story house with a double piazza on the back side. Myself with Lts. Rodgers & Drew occupy the front & back parlors which are very large & handsome rooms with a sofa, secretary table, chairs & wardrobes of mahogany, with beautiful chandeliers for gas which costs nothing & we live here like Fighting Cocks.

We do nothing but guard duty. Once a week I am officer of the day which is all I have to do, so you can see how hard my duty is. There is about a dozen of

my men going home on sick leave, & the rest are all getting better as fast as possible, & have nice quarters better than ever they had at home & are enjoying themselves as well as possible but how long we shall stop here I do not know. This City is certainly the pleasanter place I ever saw, so many trees & gardens. It would do you good to see the flowers here. We have now, green peas, strawberries, cherries &c which is a aggregation I suppose to you to know, as I suppose Boston has not many of these yet. But if you should come to make me a visit, you can have some too.

Lt. Drew has got the 2nd Lieutenancy, which please me as well as the men. The Co. made him a present of a nice regulation Sword & Belt. He makes a fine officer. I have heard from Lanman, Smith & Taylor who were taken prisoners. They are at Salisbury in this state & are as well if not better used than we supposed. I heard by a member of the MASS 17th Regt who was taken 3 weeks ago & released. I think their friends feel very bad about it but it could not be helped. & I am expecting to hear from them or see them every day. I supposed Lt. Atwood has told you all the news by this time. I am quite well but not as strong as I would like to be, but am gaining every day. I sent by H. B. Peirce \$150 & we are expecting to be payed again every day when I shall send you some more. How is my dear little Ida. I do hope she is well. & I think now it will not be long before we shall all be at home, at least I hope so. There has been lots of cavalry & artillery landed here within a week & think an advance will soon be made from here. But as our Regt is so small & in the City I do not think we will be moved.

I wish you to write me just how you are getting along & how your health is & all the news in Boston. I am ever thinking of you & Ida & hope to soon see both of

you whom I love so well & have passed so many happy hours with wishing every day that this trouble may be settled so I can again be with you at home. Lt. Rogers has been sick but is now better & will go on duty in a day or two by the promotion of Sergt. Drew. I have appointed Sergt. Robert Dollard to Orderly Sergt. By the way I think it would do you & Ida good to go somewhere out in the country & make a visit. You stay at home more than is good for your health. Of course you can do as you think best. I think it would do you good. I hope to hear from you now soon as a mail is expected here every day. I feel blue at not getting any last mail. Write good nice letters won't you, Dear. I must close this as the mail goes in a short time. From your own true and loving Husband.

Wm B Alexander

Born in Plymouth, Mass., young William had worked as a carpenter, mustered in as a First Lieutenant, was made Captain in October 1861, was wounded in New Bern on March 14, 1862, and discharged for disability on December 28, 1862.

Another letter by a young soldier, a member of Company D of the 23rd Massachusetts, graphically tells of the battle to capture New Bern from the rebels. It is dated March 16, 1862, and reads:

As I have another item of news to communicate I concluded to scratch it down. General Burnside forces occupy Newbern after a hard fought battle. As you will soon see by reports, I don't know how much our loss is, but think it is heavy. I think our regiment suffered as much if not more, than any other. The enemy was entrenched very strongly. They had a long line of entrenchments nearly a mile and mounting 13 pieces of artillery. Our regiment marched bravely up to the front of them and blasted

away. Our company suffered very severely. Walter A. Potter, killed, a shell took the top of his head right off. Charles Cavanaugh, killed, a grape shot struck him in his breast. Corporal J. B. Bowman, wounded slightly in his hand. Samuel Johnson wounded in the leg. It had to be amputated. Alex Hillman, arm broke by a musket ball. Noah Lake wounded in his shoulder. Ed Jennings, in his arm. Artemas Morse, wounded in the back, slightly. All of these are members of our company. We all had narrow escapes! The battle of Roanoke was a mere skirmish compared to it. Although this lasted but about 2 hours I think the enemy's loss was very heavy, but when we entered the battery their horses were lying around, killed and wounded, in every direction, by scores. I escaped without a scratch. I am very thankful to God for his goodness and tender mercy in watching over me in such an hour. Although I feel that I do not realize his goodness as I ought. I must close. I felt that I could not send this without saying a word concerning my safety.

Your affectionate cousin,
Charlie

"Charlie" was Corporal Charles A. Davis, age 21 and single, from New Bedford, Mass., who enrolled in the regiment on October 6, 1861, and was discharged on July 5, 1862.

During absences and after their final departure, the Massachusetts 23rd Regiment's occupation of city houses was replaced by other occupying regiments, often from other states. For example, when the 23rd left for good, the Massachusetts 17th Regiment's provost unit took its place in the Jerkins-Duffy House where they stayed until April 1863. In the case of the Jerkins-Richardson House, the 9th New Jersey Regiment's Provost Marshalls took over.

This researcher has found no evidence that any of

these three Jerkins houses were ever part of the hospital complex. Though the complex, more generally located in the vicinity of the Academy Green, used the large houses wherever they could, records indicate the complex did not extend east on Johnson Street past the Middle Street intersection nor past New Street north along Craven Street.

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY

Patrick Dunleavy

When the New Bern Historical Society moved offices from the Ward House to the Roberts House, many books were discovered in boxes in the Ward House and the Attmore-Oliver House attic. Since the Roberts House appeared to have enough room for offices and a library, work was begun putting together the library on the second floor. Since it is located upstairs, few members ever see the library. Let me tell you about it.

In our library, you will find reference books (section bolded) on **Antiques**, **Architecture**, **Historic Preservation**, **Genealogy**, and **Civil War Battlefields**. Most of the books and other documents are about the **Civil War** and **New Bern**.

If you are trying to decide what to do with your old/historic home, you may be interested in the **Architecture** section which contains 129 books and documents. *The White Pine Series of Architectural Monographs* contains the details of the construction of homes and other buildings in specific areas of the country and include plans of the buildings. Some of the titles of other books include *Craftsman Homes*, *The Golden Treasury of Early American Homes*, *Old Salem Now a Part of Winston-Salem, North Carolina*, and *North Carolina Architecture*.

If you are interested in antiques, the **Antiques** section contains 42 books describing identification, care, and repair of everything from furniture to Oriental rugs. Book titles include *American Silver and Silver Collecting*, *China Trade Porcelain*, *North Carolina Furniture 1700-1900*, *Furniture*, and many more.

The **New Bern** section contains over 420 items includ-

ing books, photographs, post cards, and information on people, places, and events from the past--everything from the Beverly Restaurant menu to "The Great Epidemic in New Bern and Vicinity," written by one of the doctors treating the victims and published in 1865. Read the minutes from the organizational meeting of the Society in the 1920s. Read all of the Newsletters and Journals published by the Society since its founding. View a videotape of a special program sponsored by the Society or check out how the Spring Homes and Gardens tour from 10 years ago was conducted. See special programs on the "Restoration of the Palace," the "Battle of New Bern," and the "Great New Bern Fire." If you are curious about how many and which Confederate veterans attended the 1908 celebration of the return of the 44th Massachusetts to New Bern, you can read the list of attendees compiled by the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Interested in what New Bern looked like over the years? Albert Brooks has donated four loose-leaf binders, compiled by his father (Albert), full of photographs of old New Bern. Some of them date back to 1850. In the first three volumes you may compare photos taken in 1901 or 1914 with those taken in 1971. Examples of some of these photographs are printed on pages 46 and 47.

The fourth volume contains a short history of New Bern from 1710 to 1905 with many old photos of the city. A short historical update to 1910 is also included.

If you still want to wander through the city's past, you may examine the album containing the Bi-Centennial Program of 1910 with additional photos and newspaper clippings from that time.

Or you may review an old company ledger from the late nineteenth century and find out what the people bought at that time or which of the citizens was insured. All of this and more is contained in the **New Bern** section

For the Civil War buff, the **Civil War** section contains 336 books and documents pertaining to all aspects of the war. Some of the books deal with specific battles and oth-

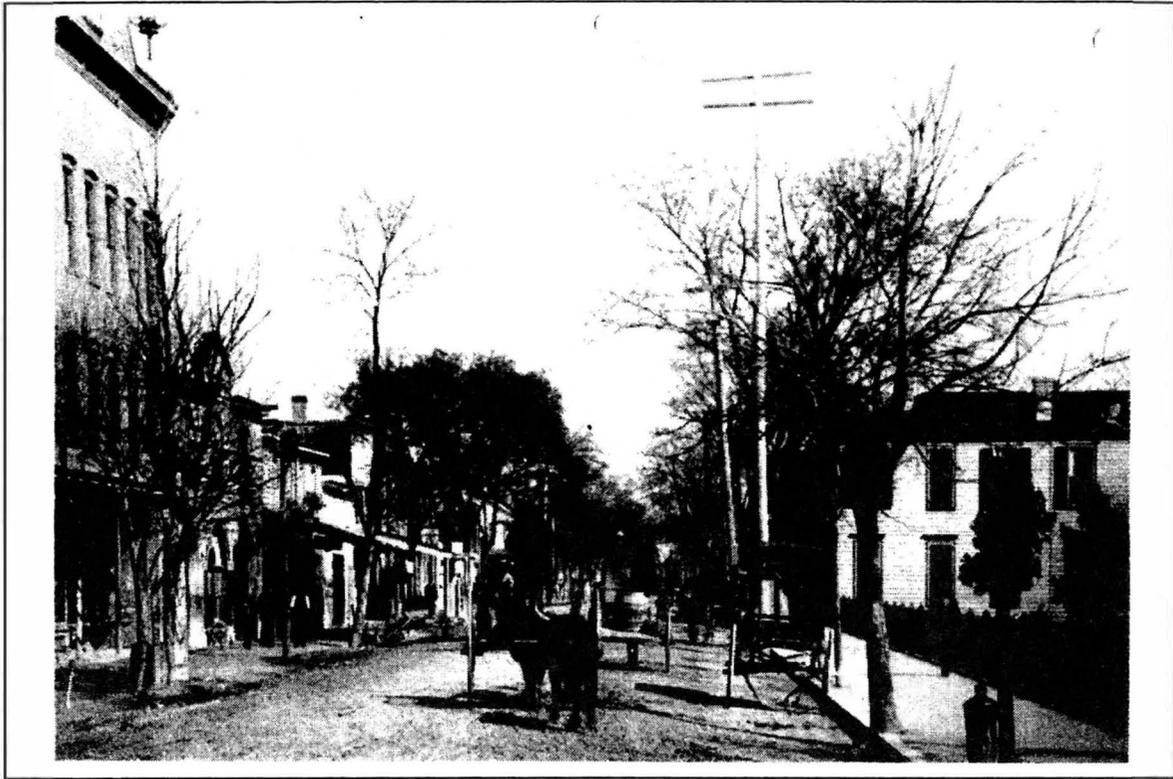
ers with specific people, including Lee, Grant, Sherman, Lee's generals, and other notables. There are books on Civil War weapons, uniforms, and maps. There is a binder containing the after-action reports from all the generals participating in the Battle of New Bern as well as other fascinating articles and letters about the battle. There are several volumes of reprints of *Harper's Weekly* including all of the articles and prints published during the war. "All The Daring of the Soldier" tells the story of various women in the Civil War armies. There are letters or transcripts of letters written from men in the 9th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry Regiment (four loose-leaf binders full). There are transcripts of letters written by soldiers in the Union occupation force of New Bern and diaries of several soldiers. The Battlefields section documents review the current state of some specific Civil War battlefields as well as preservation of the battlefields.

Are people your focus of attention? Then the Genealogy section, containing 20 books primarily dealing with North Carolina and Craven County families, is where you belong. Read about de Graffenried and his family including the family newsletters, or read about *One Dozen Eastern North Carolina Families*. Peruse the old family Bibles from the early nineteenth century.

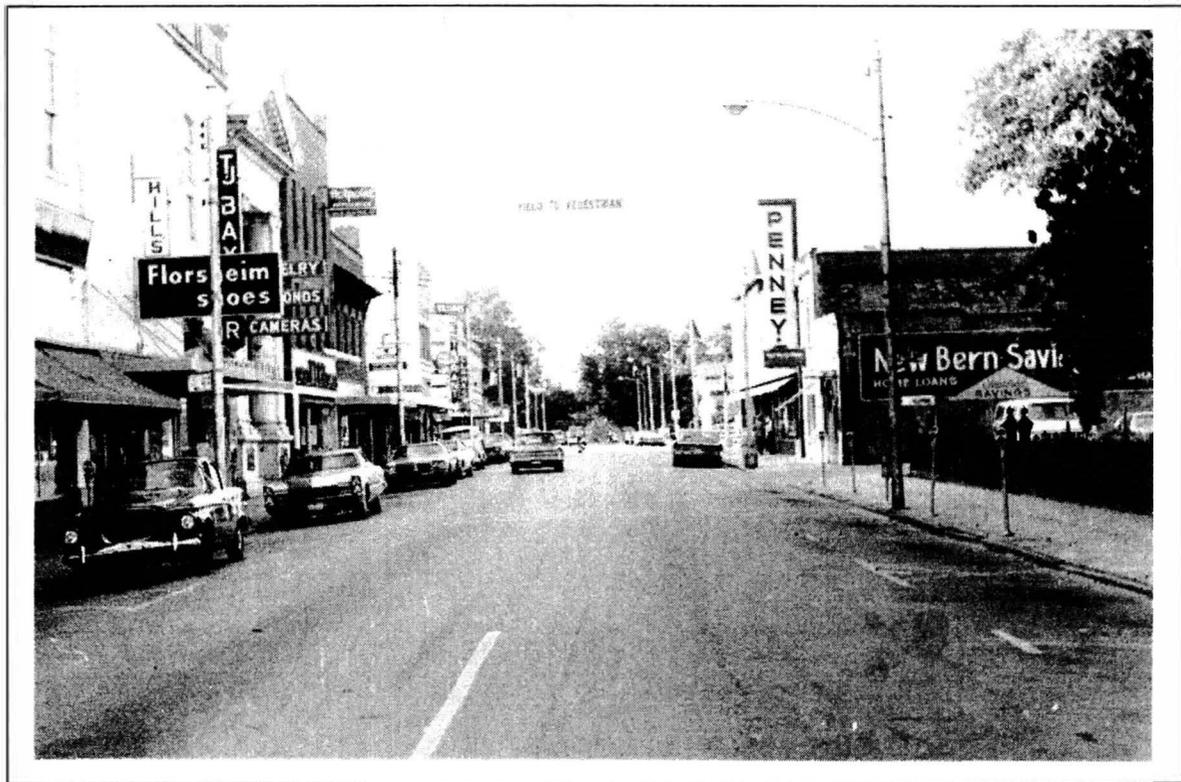
Your Library Committee is in the process of putting on display and making available to you as many old documents as we can. Most of the single documents are being placed in protective sleeves in loose-leaf binders. Gloves are made available and must be worn for the safe handling of old and fragile documents.

Due to a lack of space and an attempt to remain within the organization's mission guidelines, the Society has contributed most of the periodicals concerning antiques, genealogy, architecture and general history to the New Bern-Craven County Public Library. Most of the preservation periodicals have been contributed to the New Bern Preservation Foundation.

The wealth of historical materials and the information



View of Middle Street looking north from Pollock Street in 1901.



View of Middle Street looking north from Pollock Street in 1971.

available to help you identify your favorite furniture, glassware or some other collectible, or architectural style would make a trip to our own Historical Society Library worth your time. Check it out today – on the second floor of the Roberts House at 512 Pollock Street, New Bern.