

US 158, and take US 158 west (left turn at the intersection). Proceed approximately three miles to the intersection with Bethedsda Church Road. Turn left (south) onto Bethesda Church Road and drive less than a mile for No. 5, Bethesda Presbyterian Church. Then retrace your steps back to US 158 and drive back to Yanceyville.

Continue through Yanceyville until you reach the junction of NC 86 and NC 62. Turn left onto NC 62 and drive just over two miles. No. 6, William L. Poteat will be on the left. Continue east on NC 62 for approximately six miles (toward Milton), and you will arrive at No. 7, Romulus Mitchell Saunders (on the left).

You now are just outside Milton. Drive further east on NC 62 into Milton. At the intersection of NC 62 and NC 57 (traffic light), turn right (south). The Thomas Day marker, No. 8, will be seen on the right less than one-half mile from the intersection of NC 62 and NC 57.

Continue east/southeast on NC 57 toward Semora for approximately six miles. Two markers are at the intersection of NC 57 and NC 119 in Semora: No. 9, Red House Church, and No. 10, Archibald Debow Murphey.

The next markers are a bit of a hike. From the intersection of NC 57 and NC 119, proceed south on NC 119 approximately eight miles to the intersection with US 158. Turn left (east) on US 158 toward Leasburg. In about four miles, you will reach No. 11 on the left, Solomon Lea. No. 12, Jacob Thompson, is less than one-half mile further on this same road (and also is on the left).

Retrace your steps to the intersection of US 158 and NC 119. Turn left (south) onto NC 119 for about four miles. Griers Church Road will interset to the left (east), and No. 13, Griers Presbyterian Church, will be on the right. Now it is back to Yanceyville again. Continue south on NC 119 until you reach the junction with NC 86. Turn right (north) and drive about seven miles to Yanceyville.

Contine north on NC 86 bypassing Yanceyville headed toward Danville, Virginia. Drive about seven miles and you will reach No. 14 on the right, Washington's Southern tour. You now are near the Walters Mill Road. Turn right (east) onto that road and proceed about four miles to the stop sign. Turn right. Then almost immediately turn left onto the Bertha Wilson Road. No. 15, Bright Leaf Tobacco is about two miles down this road at the intersection with the Blanch Road. Turn right (southeast) onto the Blanch Road, which will take you back to Yanceyville by way of Old NC 86.

Caswell County Historical Markers Driving Tour



Caswell County has a rich history, much of which is memorialized in fifteen State historical markers. The purpose of this brochure is to provide a guide to these historical markers and to suggest a logical driving tour to visit them. You should devote the better part of a day to liesurely visit all fifteen markers.

For More Information on Caswell County's History (Including Color Photographs of all Fifteen Historical Markers) Visit the Caswell County Historical Association Website At: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ncccha/>

List of Caswell County Historical Markers

1. **CASWELL COURTHOUSE:** Erected about 1861. Murder of Sen. J. W. Stephens here in 1870 led to martial law and Kirk-Holden "War." US 158 in Yanceyville (in front of the Old Courthouse)/1936 (G-6)
2. **BARTLETT YANCEY:** Congressman. A state legislator and political leader. Died in 1828 at the age of 42. His home and grave are here. US 158 west of Yanceyville/1938 (G-18)
3. **BEDFORD BROWN:** U.S. Senator, 1829-40; state legislator, opponent of secession, 1860. This is "Rose Hill," his home. US 158 north of Locust Hill (at intersection of US 158 and US 150)/1936 (G-8)
4. **CALVIN GRAVES:** Speaker N.C. House of Commons and Senate. He cast deciding vote for the North Carolina Railroad, 1849. This was his home. NC 150 and SR 1128 (Wagonwheel Road) at Locust Hill (on US 150 just south of US 158)/1948 (G-43)
5. **BETHESDA CHURCH:** Presbyterian, began as "Hart's Chapel," about 1765. Mother of many churches. The present building erected 1944, stands 3/4 mile south. US 158 at SR 1153 (Bethesda Church Road) west of Yanceyville/1956 (G-67)
6. **WILLIAM L. POTEAT:** Wake Forest College president, 1905-1927. Champion of freedom of scientific thought. Birthplace and family home stands here. NC 62 northeast of Yanceyville/1959 (G-75)
7. **ROMULUS M. SAUNDERS:** Was Minister to Spain, 1845-49; congressman, judge, legislator, and political leader. This was his home. NC 62 southwest of Milton/1938 (G-12)
8. **THOMAS DAY** ca. 1801-1861: Free black cabinetmaker in Milton, 1824-1861. Home and shop located here in the old Union Tavern, 1848-1858. NC 62/57 (Broad Street) in Milton/1976 (G-93)
9. **RED HOUSE CHURCH:** Presbyterian. Founded about middle of 18th century. Hugh McAden, its noted pastor, was buried in the churchyard, 1781. One mi. S. NC 57 at Semora/1939 (G-25)

10. **ARCHIBALD DEBOW MURPHEY:** Advocate of improved schools, roads, canals. Jurist, teacher, legislator. Born 7/10 mi. S. NC 57 and NC 119 at Semora/1988 (G-104)

11. **SOLOMON LEA:** First president Greensboro College, 1846-47. Founder and master of the Somerville Female Institute, 1848-1892. Home stands 100 yds. N. US 158 at Leasburg/1954 (G-61)

12. **JACOB THOMPSON:** Secretary of Interior, 1857-1861, Confederate secret agent in Canada, U.S. Representative from Mississippi. Birthplace stands 100 yds. southeast. US 158 at Leasburg/1959 (G-71)

13. **GRIERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (G-77):** Organized in 1753. Rev. Hugh McAden served as its first minister. Present building dates from 1856. Stands 1 mi. E. NC 119 northeast of Hightowers/1960 (G-77)

14. **WASHINGTON'S SOUTHERN TOUR:** George Washington's last overnight stop in N.C., June 3, 1791, was at the home of Dudley Gatewood, which stood 1 mi. N.E. NC 86 and SR 1503 (Walters Mill Road) at Gatewood/1992 (G-110)

15. **BRIGHT LEAF TOBACCO:** In 1850s on a farm in this area Abisha Slade perfected a process for curing yellow tobacco. His slave Stephen discovered process in 1839. SR 1511 (Blanch Road) west of Blanch/1936 (G-5)

A good map of Caswell County is needed. One can be purchased at the Tax Office in the new Court House building on North Avenue in Yanceyville.

One logical approach to visiting all fifteen historical markers is to begin in Yanceyville at the Old Caswell County Courthouse, where marker No. 1 listed above is found. Then drive west from Yanceyville on US 158 for about two miles to No. 2, the Bartlett Yancey marker at the Bartlett Yancey House. Continue west on US 158 for approximately five miles until approaching the junction of US 150. Just before this junction is No. 3, the Bedford Brown marker at Rose Hill. Take US 150 south for a mile or so and you will find No. 4 on the left side (east) of the highway, Calvin Graves. Now, retrace your path back to the intersection of US 150 and