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LEGENDS AND LANDMARKS

OF

LOCUST HILL TOWNSHIP

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CAS. CO. HISTORY - LOCUST HILL

INTRODUCTION

When I came to Caswell County to teach in 1922 at Cobb Memorial School, I was fascinated by the old homes and families here. The County seemed to have been asleep since the Civil War. It was by-passed by the Southern Railroad and there were no paved roads in the County at that time. Teachers meetings could not be held in Yanceyville, the County Seat as the roads were impassable.

Cobb Memorial High School was the only consolidated school in the County. There were five teachers here, an increase of one since the school was built the year before. There may have been two or three two-teacher schools, but almost all of them had only one teacher.

Many members of the old families had gone to live in other parts of North Carolina and prospered but almost always some member of the family had stayed in the old home. The families too had married and intermarried until almost everybody was kin to everybody else - that is - the old families.

As I had always been interested in history and geneology, I absorbed all the folklore of the County as well as the kinships from the older members of the families.

After teaching here five years, I married into one of the old families. My mother-in-law and my husband's Aunt Burley Cobb told me much of the history of the old homes as well as the legends which I am trying to preserve.

There are many beautiful antebellum homes in the County, but I am trying to tell of the log cabins as well in which many of the early settlers lived. The ancestors of many well-known people in North Carolina and other States lived in these cabins when they first came to Caswell County.

It is interesting to me to check the information that was told to me by the records and deeds in the Courthouse. Do you know who was the first owner of the land you live on?

NOTE 1: In 1808, a law was passed to divide Caswell County into four Districts - Saint

David's District included what is now Locust Hill Township. Five Commissioners were appointed by the Session of Court to govern each District - Robert Blackwell, Joseph Scott, Malcolm Stacy, Lewis Shepherd and Jethro Brown were appointed for Saint David's District.

CHAPTER I
THE REIDSVILLE ROAD - U. S. HIGHWAY #158

Let us begin at Hogans Creek on Route No. 158 from Reidsville, Rockingham County, North Carolina to Yanceyville, Caswell County, North Carolina . Caswell County- Locust Hill Township, begins about a half mile from Hogans Creek-East. We will start with the old Scott graveyard (cemetery). It is on what is the Watlington farm now near the John Scott homesite which is a mile or so from the road and very hard to get to on account of bushes, etc. John Scott I came to Caswell County from Hanover County, Virginia or Lunenburg County, Virginia. In his will he leaves property to his daughter, Catherine Scott McAden. Hugh McAden, who preached at Red House Presbyterian Church married Miss Catherine Scott of Lunenburg County, Virginia. Mr. McAden may have visited his wife's father and preached at Bethesda Presbyterian Church. John Scott's son, or grandson, Joseph lived in the Scott house. The house was burned, only an indentation shows where it stood. There are many graves in the cemetery, most of them marked only by native stones.

According to his will, Joseph Scott had three children: Jane, who married James Watlington I* and Mary, who married Garland Blackwell and a son, Thomas. The Scotts, Watlingtons and Blackwells may have known each other before they came to Caswell County as all of them came from Hanover County, Virginia. Hugh McAden preached in Lunenburg County as well as Hanover County, Virginia.

Note: It is said in Caswell History that a James Scott Watlington graduated at the University of North Carolina, lived at Milton and moved to Ruffin. I think this a mistake, I never heard of Watlingons living in Ruffin. The address of the Watlingtons who lived near Hogans Creek was Ruffin, but they lived in Caswell County.

Armstead Watlington lived somewhere near the Scotts. His son, James, married Jane Scott. There are tombstones for James Scott Watlington and his wife, Jane Scott in the cemetery, they may have been put there by his son, James Watlington II, who said he did not like family cemeteries as they often passed out of the ownership of the original owners. He lived on what is now known as the Bracken Watlington Plantation.

The James Watlington house is about two miles from Hogans Creek on U. S. Highway No. 158. I thought this was a part of the Scott land as James Watlington I married Jane Scott, but I have been told he bought it from an Adkins family who got it as a grant from Lord Granville. James Watlington II lived here with his first wife, a Miss Reid. They had one son, John, born in 1875 who lived in Reidsville, North Carolina and was President of the Bank of Reidsville for many years. James Watlington's second wife was Caroline (Carrie) Blackwell, granddaughter of Carter Blackwell and his wife Isabella Bracken Blackwell. They had three children - Mary, Bracken and Wilson. Bracken inherited the home place, James Watlington II, called "Shanghi" lived at the time of the Cleveland Panic or depression as it was called. There was no money in the South. It is said he used grape vines for wagon traces and soaked them in the creek (or branch) as it was very necessary to keep them pliable. His oldest son was also very economical, or "stingy". He was President of the Bank of Reidsville during the "depression of 1929" and his bank was one of the few banks that did not have to close, or didn't fail, before Franklin D. Roosevelt declared all banks be closed.

About a mile from the Bracken Watlington house is the small "Hamlett" of Casville. It should have been called "Watlington", as the Watlingtons' owned all four corners. Here No. 158 joins the Park

Springs Road (State Road No. 1300). We will turn left and follow the road.

A mile or two on the road (Park Springs Road) is the "Alec" Walker place. There are many Walkers in Caswell County. The first one mentioned is Wyatt Walker, who was a coach maker in Yanceyville. The house is out of sight of the road, not far behind the Watlington house. He and his wife, Rebecca, had two children: Mary Atkins, who married "Pete" Wray and Sarah Jane, who married Herbert Perkins. Sara Jane and Herbert Perkins lived at the old home for a while and then went to live with his sister. When Sarah Jane died, Herbert Perkins sold the place.

There are no more interesting homes on this road until we come to the "Os" (Oscar) Neighbors' place. This was owned by Josiah Butler. Butlers' lived in the northern part of Orange County before it became Caswell. One was a Sheriff and one was a Regulator. Tradition says that "Harts Chapel" was near or on this land, but no one knows where it stood. Nathaniel Hart gave permission for a Chapel to be built on his land, but he never gave a deed to the land. The Harts of Hillsboro owned thousands of acres of land in Caswell County, but none of them ever lived in the county. No deed shows that any Hart land ever joined any land near the Butler land. There is a deed showing that the Hart land joined the Noah Cobb land and the Lancelot Johnston land, both near Bethesda Church. I think Harts' Chapel was on the site where Bethesda Church is today. Noah Cobb's deed says he bought his land from the Harts and he gave the land for Bethesda Church. The Josiah Butler cabin was torn down and the Oscar Neighbors house built (Note: Recent information in regard to this house shows on a chimney the date of 1814. There was a kitchen, bedroom and one room upstairs built of logs which was added to after

Oscar Neighbors bought this house)

Next, after the Oscar Neighbors house is the Albert Lillard Place. He clerked at Kill Quick for Sam Mitchell and married Dora Blackwell, daughter of Dick Blackwell and Bettie Stubblefield Blackwell. She had gone to live with the Mitchells, who were her close relatives, when her father and mother died. Her brother, Ed Blackwell, also lived with the Mitchells. He probably helped Albert Lillard build the house as he lived with him and his wife, Dora. (Nancy Mitchell, the wife of Milton Blackwell, father of Dick Blackwell, was a sister of "Miss Sarah Jane Mitchell".

CHAPTER II

THE RUFFIN-QUICK ROAD (State Road #1301)

Let us turn left at "Kill Quick" , which was a store in the corner of the Park Springs Road and the Ruffin Road, and take the road that leads to Ruffin before we continue on the Park Springs Road. The first old house is on the left, the Samuel Isaac King (1837) Place. He was the son of Isaac King and Rachel Perkins King. His father died when his children were young. He is supposed to have had some brothers or sisters, as Robert King I, in his will, left land to Isaac's children. All may have died except Samuel Isaac, as they left no decendants around here. After Isaac King died his widow, Rachel Perkins King, married Whitehead Page and had a Page child who went to Iredell County.(Note: The log part of the house is still standing, but has been weatherboarded and added quite a bit to and later known as the David and Elsie Johnson Wright Home.)

Samuel Isaac King married Drucilla Badgett, a younger sister of Sallie Badgett, who married his uncle, Robert King II (Robin). Samuel Isaac King and Drucilla Badgett King had the folowing children. Fanny (called "Sweet Pea" and then "Pea") never married; Sallie married a Sartin; Mary married a Harrelson and went to Missouri; Addie married a Bushnell and Ann married William Wright of Ruffin. They are the ancestors of some of the Ruffin Wrights, who inherited the "Sam King" place, as they were the only direct heirs. Isaac King Wright (Ikey) was the youngest of the following children: Ernest, Robert, Edgar and a daughter. "Ikey" was raised by his Aunt Fannie (Miss Pea) in the old house. He married Nannie Cobb. They had one child, Ellen, who died when about two years old. After the death of her husband, "Miss Nannie" went to live with her sister, Sallie Cobb, who married David Wright, brother of William Wright. For some

years the place was rented to various families. It was finally bought by David Wright II and his wife, Elsie Johnston of Belmont. They remodeled it and raised their family - Julia, who married a Chaney, David III, who married Jeanine Casteen and William Hugh Cobb, who married Lynn Conrad. They all have homes near by.

* Now we come to five log cabins. Early settlers usually built * near a spring and later moved the house and dug a well. The first log cabin is the Wright house. This one was built near Hogans Creek by Hiram Wright, or perhaps his father. It was moved up from the creek and David Wright I and his first wife, Rhoda Jarrel from Rockingham County, lived in it. They had one son, Numa Wright, who married Mary Forest of Hillsboro and they lived in Winston-Salem. Her father came from Hillsboro. Rhoda Jarrel Wright is buried at Lick Fork, near Ruffin. David Wright I's second wife was Sallie Cobb. They had several children, but only two lived to be grown. Bessie, who never married and David II, who married Elsie Johnston of Belmont. They bought and remodeled the Samuel Isaac King house as their home, as previously stated.

Not far from the Wrights is the second ^{destroyed} log cabin in which William and Eliza Blackwell Stubblefield lived. This was also moved up from Hogans Creek. It took a week or two to move it and William and Eliza lived in it while it was being moved. They had six children: Alice, Bettie, Haseltine and Caroline and two boys. Alice Stubblefield married Robert (Bill) Blackwell and they lived in the home place until their death, when it was sold and bought by James (Jimmy) Watlington. His widow, Carrie (Caroline Blackwell) sold it to John Neighbors, son of Bill Neighbors and Mary Nannie Womack. He tore down the log house and built a ^{destroyed} weatherboarded house. He married Beulah Harrelson and lived in the one he built with his four sisters: Ida, Nonie, Etta and Nan until his wife moved in a ^{des.} log cabin which was built from the logs

in the original cabin. It is said the mantle and windows in the original cabin were hand carved and very pretty and were put in the old cabin across the road from Jack Neighbors house.

Perhaps we should mention here the Joseph Womack house. He married Mary (Polly) Massey and lived in a large house back of the Womack cabin which his son, Joseph B. Womack built when he married Betsy Blackwell, sister of Bob Blackwell. In Rockingham County, across Hogans Creek was the old Massey house. Abraham Womack and Thomas Massey were friends in Virginia in 1678. Their sons probably came to North Carolina together. When the old Joseph Womack house was cleaned up, Miss Hester Womack, daughter of Joseph Felix, (Bud Womack) found the old Womack Bible under some trash. She still has it. This house is completely gone now.

The third ^{des} cabin is still standing under some big oak trees. It was the home place of Elizabeth (Betsy) Blackwell, who married Joseph B. (Bud) Womack. When the Josiah Womack home place was sold, at the death of his son, Joseph B, his widow got the cabin as a dower. She and her husband were living in this cabin when he died. This left her son, Joseph Felix (Bud) Womack and her daughter, Alice to live with her. Mary Nannie (or younger daughter), who had married Bill Neighbors were living in the old Josiah Womack home place. Bud drew the Josiah Womack house and Mary Nannie got land that had no house on it. She was upset because she would have no place to live with her six children. Bud exchanged with Mary Nannie and continued to live with his mother until he married his first cousin, Bettie Blackwell. His mother left him the cabin when she died. Her daughter, Alice, who never married, went to live with her nephew, John Neighbors.

Perhaps here we should take up the fifth log cabin before we write of the fourth as it is the older of the two. This cabin was torn down, but there were large trees in the yard and box wood lined the walk. To make things clear, we will mention John Scott Blackwell and James Scott Blackwell, who lived with their step-mother, Sallie Brooks Blackwell, in the old ^{des.} Garland Blackwell house which is about half way between the Ruffin Road and the Parks Springs Road. We will write of this later. The Blackwell brothers, both batchelors, ran a store known as "Row Town". John Scott married Jennie (Jane Eliza) Jarrell when he was 40 years old and she was 20 years old. They had four children: John, who died as a baby and is buried in the old Scott cemetery near Hogans Creek, Albert, who married Maggie Turner, Nettie who died when she was about sixteen and is buried at Bethesda Presbyterian Church Cemetery, and Lelia Eliza, who married her cousin, John Bracken Blackwell.. John Scott Blackwell gave his daughter his home place and went to live with James (Jim) Scott, who had built a house on the Park Springs Road. John Bracken Blackwell continued to drink and he and his wife separated. Her mother and father came back to live with her and he went to live with his mother. They had four children - James Yancey, Earl Wayne, John Reid and Nettie Roach.

Now, let me go back to the fourth log cabin. After John Scott Blackwell married, James Scott Blackwell built a store in his yard on the Park Springs Road. John Scott continued to run "Row Town" store and hired Sam Mitchell as a clerk. He built this fourth log cabin for him to live in. When Joseph F. Womack married he bought this cabin to live in. One large room and a shedroom. "Bud" as Joseph was called, died with typhoid fever when his children were very small.

There were born of this marriage Hester, Edna, Rufus and Willie. The house has been added to several times but every one still goes to visit in the large log room.

On the opposite side of John Scott's home was ^{des.} Row Town Store. I am not sure it was built of logs but it had large hand hewed sills under it. As its name indicates, it was a rough place, especially on Saturday nights. Almost all country stores were rough on Saturday nights when the men gathered there for recreation and there were many fights as well as much drinking.

The Milton Blackwell house was on the opposite side of the road from the five log cabins. It was not far from the Mitchell Place which is on the Park Springs Road. Milton Blackwell, son of Carter Blackwell, lived near the Mitchell place and married Nancy Mitchell (Marster). Milton Blackwell and Grandson Mitchell may have bought the land together and divided it. The old house is in ruins now. There are many flowers, especially bulbs there. Milton Blackwell left the place to his unmarried children - in some way it ended up as belonging to Nan Neighbors, through Jennie Blackwell Walker, daughter of Milton. She took Nan to live with her when her mother died at her birth. Nan left it to John Neighbors' children and his son, John (Jack) bought out the others. There is some question as to whether Jennie owned the Milton Blackwell place as she married a Walker and when he died she came back to live with her sisters,

Now, we will continue on the main road to Ruffin. Not far from the Row Town store, but on the opposite side of the road, is the ^{des.} William Busick Place. When William Yancey Busick, from Guilford County, married Martha Eleanor Jarrel from Rockingham County, he decided to buy a place in Caswell County so that his wife could be near her two sisters, Rhoda and Eliza Jane (Jennie) who had married in the county. He and John Scott Blackwell bought some land together.

This was probably the Johnnie Wright land where Rhoda and Jennie Jarrel had visited before they married. William Busick took the land on the right side of the road and John Scott Blackwell took the left side which joined his farm. The house on the right which William Busick bought was also a log cabin. It is still standing, but has been weath-erboarded and added to. The Busicks had one daughter, Jennie Bet, who died when she was about sixteen. Martha Ella's brother, Richard (Dick) Jarrel died in prison during the Civil War. Another brother, Tom was also in prison during the war. He also caught consumption there. After the war, when he was released, he came to live with Martha Ella. He died with consumption (T.B.now), and gave it to his sister, Martha Ella and his niece, Jennie Bet. Both of them died with it, and they are buried at Bethesda Presbyterian Church. Ella's tombstone is marked "Martha". She must have been named Martha Eleanor (or Ella) as I am sure my husband's mother called her Aunt Ella. After his wife and daughter died, William (Uncle Billy) came to live with John Scott Blackwell and his wife, who was his wife's sister. He died there and left some of his furniture and glassware there. After he died his house was sold and bought by a Mr. Jones, who left it as a dower to his wife. It is sometimes called the "Jones Place" Albert Blackwell got Mr. Chandler to buy the widow Jones' dower for him. This place now belongs to Cecil Worsham and wife.

Cecil Worsham also owns the Jack Worsham place, which is back of the Busick place. (Worsham's were once called (Wushams, the W was pronounced as a "U". I think the Worshams in Caswell County came from Rockingham County. On the Jack Worsham place is a very large old house. Carter Blackwell's daughter Julia, who married a Worsham

probably lived there. The farm was sold several times before Cecil Worsham bought it, but it may have been the original Worsham House. This Jack Worsham married Julia Blackwell, who was raised on the Allison Road (See Allison Road).

Down the paved highway toward Ruffin across the road from the Busick place is the Thad^{des.} Worsley place. It was on the old road to Ruffin which crossed the creek at a ford, but when the new road was built with a bridge across the creek, the Worsley house was almost out of sight of the road. Thomas Mills who married Sallie Bracken inherited this farm from his father, Mat Mills, who lived on a high hill across the creek in Rockingham County. He was standing in the door of his house watching a storm, someone asked him about it, he cursed and said "it had divided, one part had gone to jepalta-peck and the other part to hell. A bolt of lightning struck him and he fell dead. He had married a Stubblefield, I think. Thomas Mills and Sallie Bracken Mills had five children. First - Dr. Julian Mills who married Patsy Joyner. They had one child whose mother died at her birth, then he married Dora Williamson, who had two children. Second - Sam Mills, who never married. He was killed by a Negro. Third - Bettie who married Zeri Gwynn and had several children. Fourth - Dora, who married George Rice and Cora who married Thad Worsley from the eastern part of the state. They had three children. They inherited the home place and lived there

Now we cross Hogans Creek on the road to Ruffin. There is an unpaved road to the right. The first old house on the road is the Zeri Gwynn house. He was the son of Daniel Gwynn and Zeporah Rice Gwynn. This was probably Stubblefield land, and belonged to Mat Mills, who married a Stubblefield. Thomas Mills inherited it and gave it to his daughter Bettie, who married Zeri Gwynn. They had three children,

Rice, who has a beautiful home on this road which can be reached from the Pelham-Ruffin highway to Danville, Virginia. He also has a home in Danville. Zeri Gwynn, Jr. never married and was killed in an automobile accident. Ida married several times, I think.

The John L. Williams house is several miles down the creek, across a small stretch that runs into Hogans Creek; This place can also be reached from the Ruffin-Pelham Highway. Mr. and Mrs. Williams raised a large family of boys, but they all left the farm. The Gwynn's and Williams' houses may be in Rockingham County. The creek should be the line, but it isn't.

Now we come back to the main road from Hogans Creek to Ruffin. We go up a very curving road to the Logan Harrelson house which is on the line between Caswell and Rockingham counties. It was the original home of the Stubblefields, who came from Missouri, I've been told. There is an old Stubblefield cemetery there. They intermarried with many families in the county. There is an old house on a high hill with a beautiful view across the creek into Caswell County. Mr. Harrelson, who came from the southern part of Caswell County married a Miss Amod of Atlanta, Georgia. They had eight children, two girls and six boys, all of whom lived in various parts of the United States, except Mr. Preston (Pap) and Miss Cora, who lived in the home place and neither of whom ever married.

THE CONTINUATION OF THE PARK SPRINGS ROAD

CHAPTER III

Kill Quick store should be considered first as it faces the road. It was probably built by John Scott Blackwell and James Scott Blackwell for when they decided to close the old Row Town store this was a more favorable location for a store. Sam Mitchell was again

hired as a clerk. The Blackwellbrothers probably borrowed money to build this store and the Cleveland panic came before they could pay off the liens. It was put up for sale at the death of James Scott Blackwell, and Sam Mitchell bought it. "Kill Quick" was quite famous. Here "liker" was sold by the drink, quart and the barrel. Some was from the Government licensed distilleries, some probably from "moonshine stills". The two Blackwell brothers never "tasted a drop". There was a fireplace in the back of the store and a stove in the middle of it. The white men sat around the fireplace and the "Black" around the stove. There were many fights there on Saturday nights. Sam Mitchell willed the store to his first cousin, Ed Blackwell, who ran it for awhile. After he retired, it was rented to various men in the community. Ed Blackwell left it to his sister, Mrs. Dora Lillard, who gave it to her grandson, "Buddie" Lillard, who sold it to Sammy Strader. While Buddy Lillard owned it, he let it be used as a Church for a short time.

The first old house after we leave Kill Quick, is the Bedford ^{des.} Siddle place on the right. The first Siddle we had in Caswell County was C.G. Siddle, a dentist in Leasburg, North Carolina. Dr. Granderson Siddle offered to give land for Locust Hill Methodist Church about 1884, but he died before the deed could be made. Bedford Siddle married Caroline Stubblefield (Carrie Blackwell Watlington, daughter of John Bracken Blackwell and Mary Reid Blackwell was named for her) The Blackwells may have thought he would leave his property to her as they had no children, or other close heirs. Bedford Siddle made his will in 1891 (I suppose his wife was dead) and bequeathed \$175.00 to Bethesda Church and \$75.00 each to Pleasant Grove Primitive Baptist Church, Trinity Missionary Baptist Church and Camp Springs Methodist Church. His house was sold and bought by Ed Blackwell, who owned Kill Quick then. He left it to his sister, Mrs. Dora Lillard. At her death she willed her house to her daughter, Bessie Lillard Stanley and the

Siddle house to her daughter-in-law, Leonie McKinney Lillard.

There are some modern homes on this road, but the next old house we come to is the ^{des.} Mitchell house. This is a quaint little house built, probably by Granderson (Marster) Mitchell, who married Patsy Blackwell, daughter of Carter Blackwell. Nancy Mitchell, his sister, married Milton Blackwell. Patsy Blackwell Mitchell may have died young. Her sons, Sam and Currie were raised by aunts, Miss Sara Jane and Miss Minerva, as stated earlier. Charles Granderson (Marster) Mitchell, born 1812, and his two sisters, Minerva (1811) and Sara Jane (1829) were born and raised at the old Mitchell place. Their father was Richard Mitchell (1799-1888), who married Uvaskey Blackwell, half sister of Isabella Bracken, who married Carter Blackwell. Ed and Dora Blackwell also lived with the Mitchells. Currie went away, but Sam, who never married, continued to live with his aunts. He was quite a financier. He bought Kill Quick from the Blackwell brothers when it was sold under mortgage. He had clerked for them when they ran Row Town store and also when they ran Kill Quick. He willed the store to his cousin, Ed Blackwell and the house was probably willed to "Miss Dora". I know who owned it and tried to sell it to Yancey Blackwell.

About a half mile from the Mitchell house, the Famous Road "Gentlemen's Ridge" starts. The first house is the C. H. King house on the right. This house and farm was once owned by a Carter and there is a Carter cemetery on the place. Mr. King bought it when he married Miss Lily Pinnex from Yanceyville, North Carolina. They had six daughters, Annie May who married Wellington (Wellie) Glass, Lucy who married Bracken Watlington, Elizabeth, who married Henry Watkins of Blanch, Ola never married, Lily married Wade Phillips of Greensboro and Katherine married Clem Lipscomb of Milton. They live in Reidsville now. Mr. "Cap "

remodeled the house and Ola, who inherited it did some more remodeling, and keeps it as a place for her sisters to gather for reunions. She lives part of the year with her aunt-in-law, Mrs. Lemuel King - nee Ethel Cobb. Across the road from the C. H. King place is some land that once belonged to William King, son of Robert King I, who died in 1817. Old deeds show that Robert bought this land and sold it to his son, William the year when he married Polly Perkins in 1804. The deeds mention old landmarks "John 's Branch, Kings' Spring and a large Poplar Tree, all of these are on the old Garland Blackwell place. Deeds show that he bought land from King brothers and a sister, Jane King Weatherford. William must have died and his children moved away as this land was sold by an agent, Robin King (Robert II), their uncle. We don't know where these Kings went. There is no home site that can be found on his place. William must never have lived there, but there is a "King's Spring".

About a half mile down the road and on the opposite side from the C. H. King house is the Albert Blackwell house. The original house was built by James Scott Blackwell on land that he got from his father, Garland Blackwell, who married - 1st, Mary Scott (as mentioned). Garland willed his farm to his second wife, Sallie Brooks for her life, only, then to his children. James Scott Blackwell kept a small store here (the building has long gone but there is a low place where it must have been.. He bought supplies for the Confederate Army. The ladies met in this house that James Scott Blackwell built and made bandages and sewed for the soldiers. The store got the name "Kill Slow". John Scott Blackwell and his wife Jennie Jarrel Blackwell came here to live when they gave their home on the Ruffin Road to their daughter, Lelia, who married John Bracken Blackwell.

When Lelia Eliza Blackwell and her husband John Bracken Blackwell separated, John Scott Blackwell and wife Jennie Jarrell Blackwell, Lelia Blackwell and four children went to live with Lelia's brother, Albert and his wife Maggie Blackwell. They lived there with them until around 1902 or 1904. By then Lelia and her husband had been divorced and the Albert Blackwell house was quite full with his children, plus Lelia and her four children and his mother and father. John B. Blackwell and his wife had made so many debts on the farm that, although Albert was supposed to inherit the farm on which he lived that the farm was sold, plus Kill Quick to pay off these debts. (See Wills, deeds and deeds of trust) Albert Blackwell and Sam Mitchell agreed they would not bid against the other, so Sam Mitchell bought Kill Quick and Albert Blackwell bought his farm. The old house that James Scott Blackwell built before the Civil War, as the ladies sewed and made bandages for the soldiers in this house. Jim Scott never married. The old house was burned on May 30, 1946 and a new more modern house was built on the same site.

Mention has already been made of the ^{des} Sallie Garland place. This is an old house back of the Albert Blackwell home. It was owned by Garland Blackwell, son of Robert Blackwell, who got a grant of land from Governow Richard Caswell in 1778. Garland Blackwell married Mary Scott, daughter of Joseph Scott in 1811. (See Will of Joseph Scott Will Book M , Page 532 of the Caswell County Clerk of Superior Court's Office dated July 20, 1835 probated October Court-1835.) Garland Blackwell bought several tracts of land adjoining the tracts inherited by he and his wife, Mary Scott, from the grandchildren of Robert King I, another original settler in Caswell County. There are deeds from Isaac King, R. N. King, W. B. Weatherford, who married Jane King, James Hastings and Henry Cobb. The Weatherford land was sold by Robert King, II, "Robin" , as agent. He was an uncle of the

above named Kings, who must have been very young or moved to another county. On this land are some well known landmarks - John's Branch, which rises in the Strader land and Kings Springs, a bold and beautiful spring, the water of which flows into John's Branch. If any Kings ever lived on this land all signs of the house is gone.

As stated Garland Blackwell married Mary Scott. They had six children. She said they were as much Scotts as they were Blackwells and gave each one of her children the name of Scott as a middle name. Robert Scott Blackwell, who married first a Nunnaley and then two Courts, sisters, and lived in a large house between Ruffin and Pelham. Joe Scott Blackwell bought land in Stokes County and moved there. Elizabeth Scott Blackwell married Cary Howard. They lived in the Howard home near the Robert King, III home (later known as the Pattie King home). Jane Scott Blackwell married Paul Watlington and lived in the house^{des.} a little off the Yanceyville Road that was later owned by Mr. Jim Paschall (These two sisters have many descendants in Caswell County, as well as in other parts of North Carolina and Virginia) John Scott Blackwell and Jim Scott Blackwell were the youngest sons of Garland Blackwell and Mary Scott. See Garland Blackwell's Will in Will Book R, Page 298 of the Clerk of Sourt's Office in Yanceyville, N. C. in which he willed his second wife, Sarah Blackwell, one hundred and fifty acres of land to be set out bymetes and bounds on the North side of the tract wherever I now live so as to include my Mansion house, and other houses and improvements in that boundary. To have and to hold for and during the term of her natural life in satisfaction for, and in lieu of her dower, and Third of and in all my real estate, he gave and devised to his youngest son, James S. Blackwell, all the tract of land whereon he lives, supposed to be three hundred and seventy five acres, except the life estate of his wife devised in

a former Item of his will, to him and his heirs in fee simple forever. And all of the rest and residue of his estate, not already disposed of should be sold and equally divided between all of his children, equally. James Scott Blackwell was engaged to a Miss Miller, and built his home on the Park Springs Road, but he never married. Sarah (Sallie) Brooks Blackwell, wife of Garland Blackwell, continued to live in the house she and her husband lived in until one night when she and a small Negro girl who lived with her heard something at the door. The old woman told the child to let the cat in. Then the door was opened, two Negro men came in. They knocked the old lady unconscious and poked her eyes out with the poker, but she was not quite dead, when they found her the next day. The little girl said she thought she recognized one of the men as a man who lived on the place, but she was not certain and made a poor witness. No one was ever punished for the crime. It was said the old lady took everything the tenants made. It was always thought that there was some old silver and perhaps some money was hidden around the house during the Civil War. Vandals have ransacked the home knocking out hobbing and other acts of vandalism around the fireplace and digging around the house. If anything was ever found it was never reported. Several tenants had lived in the house, but it was after those years that the vandalism took place.

When we get back on "Gentlemen's Ridge" we go about a half mile from the Albert Blackwell home and come to another old home place on the opposite side of the road. The home was burned several years ago - The Page Place. This house may have been owned first by Isaac King, brother of Robert King II ("Robin" . He married Rachel Perkins, but died when his children were very young. Robert King I leaves land to Isaac's children in his will. They were not mentioned by name.

Isaac's widow, Rachel Perkins married Whitehead Page. (This house may have belonged to him, not to her husband, Isaac King.) They had at least one son named John who sold the place and went to Iredell County to live. He came back home to visit his half brother, Samuel Isaac King, who lived on the Ruffin Road, as mentioned in Chapter II. He also visited some of the old people in the community, among them Jennie Jarrell Blackwell and Bettie Blackwell Womack. Some of his descendants have been back recently to visit the old home place. Mrs. Lemuel King owned the farm. (The old home is now gone.)

Across the road from the Page place is the Lemuel King home. He bought a small tract of land from Dr. J. F. Badgett on which he built a home when he married Miss Ethel Cobb. He already owned a farm on the East side of the road with the Page Place on it. This house isn't very old, but is a beautiful place.

The next old house on this road is the Dr. Dr. J. F. Badgett home. It is on the same side of the road as the Lem King house, but up on a hill, a little distance from the road. There was an old home here that belonged to Henry N. Cobb. The Mr. Haughabout and his wife, Jemima Blackwell, daughter of John Bracken Blackwell, Sr. lived there. This house was burned and Dr. J. F. Badgett and his wife, Nannie Cobb, daughter of Henry W. Cobb, bought the place and built the present house. He and his wife had two children, Virginia, who married Van Womack Daniel of Sutherland, Virginia and Alfred, who married Virginia Ferrell of near Danville, Virginia. (That house too is now gone.)

Here mention should be made of Cobb Memorial School, which was directly across the road from the Badgett house. The original school

building was given by Mr. Jack Cobb, son of Henry W. Cobb and his wife, Mary Howard Cobb. He was Vice President of American Tobacco Company. The building was on a knoll in a beautiful setting and a little distance from the road. Mr. Cobb gave it in memory of his mother and father. He also got his education in a school which once stood nearby, The Old Rock Academy. This was a well known school before there were many, if any, public schools in Caswell County. A Mr. Dameron was one of the last teachers here. The building that Mr. Cobb gave was burned in 1948. The county built the present building. Nearby is a ^{des.} teacherage that was also given by Mr. Cobb.

In back of the Badgett house, a little to the right, is a lovely home in a lovely setting. This was the home of Henry W. Cobb and his wife, Mary Howard Cobb, who was a daughter of Cary Howard and Elizabeth Scott Blackwell. They raised seven children here: Howard; Jennie, who married a near neighbor, John Farrish; Jack who married Elizabeth Price Millner and became Vice President of American Tobacco Company; Jim, who married Nannie Orr and moved to Durham; Nannie, who married Dr. J. F. Badgett and lived nearby; Wellie; and Bettie, who married Eugene Glass and lived two or three miles away, until he died. She then moved to Durham after most of her children were grown.

It seems that "Mame", the oldest daughter of John Farrish and Jennie Cobb went to live with her grandmother after he grandfather died. Mame was courted by Dr. Sumter George of Danville for many years. They were finally married. Virginia Badgett served as her cousin's only attendant in a gingham dress. The wedding took place very unexpectedly one morning. Dr. George bought the place from the other heirs and lived there after he retired as a physician in Danville. After the death of Dr. George, Daisy, who had married Mr. "June" King, lived there with Mame

until she died. Francis Law and his wife, nee Mildred Comer, bought the place when Mrs. George died. He and his wife live there now.

As we come on back to the main road, we reach the John Cobb and Berlie Blackwell Cobb home. Burlie (Isabella Bracken Blackwell, daughter of John Bracken Blackwell and his wife, Mary Reid Blackwell, Burlie was the granddaughter of Carter Blackwell and Isabella Bracken Blackwell, who married first, James (Jim) Howard, brother of Mary Howard Cobb. Jim and Burlie lived in Asheville when they were first married but moved back here sometime before Jim died. They had three children; Ernest, who lived in Martinsville, Virginia; Eva who married John Ragland of Danville, Virginia, and Jamie, who married Bennie Tarrant and lived in Atlanta, Georgia. After the death of Mr. Howard, his widow married John Archie Cobb, son of Ellen King Cobb and John Wilson Cobb. They had one child, Ethel, who married Mr. Lemuel King and lived nearby. This was one of the prettiest places on Gentlemen's Ridge. It was on a slight knoll a short distance off the road. "Uncle Johnnie" was a fruit tree agent at one time and "Aunt Burlie" was great for planting all kinds of trees and shrubs around the house. She loved flowers too. After the death of the Cobbs the place was bought by Mr. Raymond Strader and his son lives there now. The house burned and Mr. Strader's son Jack Strader built a modern brick home on the site.

As we reach the road we see that we have come to the Hugh Cobb home. Hugh was a brother of John Cobb and his wife, Annie Farrish was a sister of Mrs. Sumter George. Since Mr. Hugh built this house, it is not as old as some of the others.

Across the road in another fairly modern house. The later home of

Mr. John Farrish. It is now owned by Irvin Jeffress and his wife, Helen Strader Jeffress. Some distance from this house and off the road in front of the Irvin King home was the home of Mr. John Farrish and this is where Mr. Farrish and his wife, Jennie Cobb Farrish raised six beautiful daughters and two sons. Mame, as stated, married Dr. Sumter George; Daisy married J. I. "June" King and moved to Danville, Virginia, after living in the neighborhood for several years; Ella married Lynn Williamson of Greensboro, North Carolina; Alice married a Vanstory of Greensboro, N. C.; Pricie married a Reid of Greensboro, N. C. and Annie married Hugh Littleton Cobb and lived nearby; Henry lived in Burlington, N. C. and married Annie Owings; and Julie married Lois Parker and lived in Oxford. I have never seen this old home, but it can be seen from the road. Tenants lived there for many years. (It, too, is now gone). The Farrish family is one of the oldest in the county, but there are no descendants with that name here now. A Farrish bought the original Blackwell Home. It seems that a daughter of this Mr. Farrish, probably a sister or Aunt of John Farrish inherited the Blackwell farm. She married a Joyner and they sold it to Robert King and his wife, Pattie Johnston King. This house is one of the oldest and most interesting on the road. The old Blackwell place. This was originally a log house built behind what is, or was Kings Store. Neaebly are two graves marked with only native stones - probably the graves of Robert and Zillah Rice Blackwell as he mentions the birth of ten children in his will. The children were: Levi, who married a Smith and had one son who moved to Indiana; Robert, who married Matilda Simpson and had one daughter who left no descendants. His widow married a Jones and had several Jones children. Carter married Isabella Bracken;

Thomas married Rebecca Watt and lived in Rockingham County. Nancy and Betty both married Malones. Garland married Mary Scott (previously mentioned), Polly and Keturrah both married Watts, and John, who inherited the home, never married. He was called "Gluck". He sold the place to Robert King, III, son of Billy King and his wife Anne Howard King, grandson of Robert King II (Robin) and his wife, Sallie Badgett. Robert King, III married Miss Pattie Johnston, daughter of Mr. Bill Johnston. They had four sons, Johnston, Robert IV, Irvin and James (Jim). They made more additions to the house. It is now one of the largest on Gentlemens' Ridge. Robert King, III died young and his widow, "Miss Pattie" lived there many years. She kept a Post Office in the one room log part of the house that was moved from the original site. Her brother-in-law, Junius (June) King lived with her and kept a store in the yard. After June married Daisy Farrish and moved away, Mr. Hugh Cobb lived at her house and worked at the "Tobacco Factory". Her son, Johnston went to Wilson, N. C. to work with a tobacco company and married Sallie Haywood Battle there. Rob (Robert IV) owned a men's clothing store in Rocky Mount, N. C. He married Mildred Thorpe. Jim lived in Williamston, N. C. he also worked with a tobacco company. He married Ellen Inman. The fourth son, Junius Irvin married Nettie Blackwell, daughter of John B. Jr. and Lelia Blackwell, who lived on the Ruffin-Quick Road. Irvin King lived with his mother and kept the new store, after the old one was burned. He died before his mother did and "Miss Pattie" willed the place to her granddaughters, Jean, Marie and Irvin.

Before we leave this place we should mention the "Old Tobacco Factory". This was a huge three story building built for the manufacture of plug (chewing) tobacco by the King Brothers. These

were Robert, Cary Howard (Cap) and Lemuel King. June kept the store which was nearby. It burned and a new one was built on the road. After Robert's death, Mr. Hugh Cobb joined the Kings. I don't know where they got the tobacco to manufacture unless it was from the farmers nearby. The whole stalk of tobacco was cut at that time, and probably air cured. Neither do I know how "Plug" tobacco was made. It was seasoned with molasses, rum, etc. and pressed through several stages and finally pressed into a square plug. The building was large and had a huge "Press". Years later, after it ceased to be used except for storage, there was much discussion as to how it could be torn down. The timbers were heavy but the bottom sills were beginning to decay and there was fear that it might collapse or a wind storm might blow it down. Finally, a bulldozer was used. It took many months and hard labor to remove the timbers which were used to build smaller buildings on the farm.

In back of the Pattie King home is the ^{des.} Howard Place. Cary Howard, son of Henry, who was born and raised in a log house on what is now the Law Farm, it was some distance behind the present Law home. Cary built the house and lived there with his wife, Elizabeth (Betsy) Scott Blackwell, daughter of Garland and Mary Scott Blackwell. Since Betsy and Cary both were raised in log houses, I can imagine how wonderful they thought their new home was. They had seven children: (1) Mary, who married Henry W. Cobb (as mentioned), (2) Bettie, who married Iverson Glass (will be mentioned later, (3) Jane, (4) Catherine, both of whom married Lattas' and lived near Durham, North Carolina, (5)

Anne married Billy King (will be mentioned again), (6) Jim married Burlie Blackwell, as mentioned, and (7) Cary Allen, who married Minnie Turner and lived in Danville, Virginia.

Just in front of the house is the Howard Cemetery. William, brother of Cary, who lived with him, had consumption and knew he couldn't live long and he selected the spot and was the first person buried there. Many descendants of Cary Howard are buried there.

None of the descendants of Cary Howard live in the old home now, but some of them must have owned it until it was bought by Mr. "Cap" King, Miss Pattie King and Mr. Hugh Cobb. Mr. "Cap" sold his interest to Mr. Hugh. Later, Mr. Hugh sold all of his part to Robert King IV, son of "Miss Pattie". Her grandchildren now own her part, one of whom is Robert King IV's daughter. The others are Irvin King's daughters, Jean, Marie and Irvin.

It seems that the original Gentlemen's Ridge went by the old Farrish house and came out near the present Willard Gatewood house. Some of the older people remember using this road to go to Old Bethel Church which was on the other side of the road from the new Bethel Church, which is on lands that Mr. Tom Law gave for a new Methodist Church. A short distance down this road from the old Farrish house is one of the oldest houses in the community. The old Perkins home ^{is standing}. Some very pretty girls must have lived here. Betsy married Whitehead Page, who lived in the old Page place across the road from the Lem King new house. Rachel married Isaac King. Betsy died and so did Isaac King. Then Rachel married Whitehead Page. Isaac and Rachel had one son who lived to be grown. Samuel Isaac King, who lived on the Ruffin-Quick Road. Rachel and Whitehead Page had a son who went to Iredell County (as already told). The last of the Perkins girls married a Harrelson (Hiram (her name was Liza Ann Perkins)). Mr.

Perkins was the miller at the old King, Harrelson Mill back of the Bas Harrelson place.

About a mile down the road we come to another old house. This was originally what is known as the Badgett house. I'm not sure what Badgett first owned it. There was a John Badgett who married Drucilla Hester in 1758. I have been told that he lived in Granville County. He had nine children, among whom was William who married Bettie Howard in 1788. She was a sister of Henry and therefore aunt of Cary. The Howards' also came from Granville County. William Badgett and his wife, Bettie Howard Badgett has six children: (1) John, (2) Sallie, who married Robert King II (Robin), (3) Polly, (4) Pattie, (5) Henry who married Patsy Glass, sister of Iverson, and Drucilla who married Samuel Isaac King, nephew of Robert II. King Perkins, son of Isaac King and Rachel Perkins King. It is known that Henry and Patsy Glass Badgett owned this old house. He may have built it. They had six children: (1) William, (2) Dr. James F. Badgett, who married Nannie Cobb, daughter of Henry and Mary Howard Cobb (as mentioned), (3) Emma, who never married, (4) Mary died young, (5) Addie married a Mr. Law from Virginia and lived nearby, (6) Iverson, who lived in Danville. The old house was sold to Mr. Dudley Gatewood (will be mentioned again), who married Miss Rebecca Womack. They had six children. One of his sons, Dudley, Jr. bought the old house when he returned from California where he had lived many years.

We should continue with the old homes on Gentlemen's Ridge, but they are in Pelham Township. We will at least mention the old Cobb home, now owned by Mr. Tom Law whose mother was Addie Badgett. The Eugene Glass home and the old Glass home - probably one of the oldest on Gentlemen's Ridge.

CHAPTER III - Bracken Road

Just before we get to the old Badgett house (now known as the Dudley Gatewood house) is a paved road that turns sharply to the right from the Park Springs Road. This crosses Moon's Creek through some beautiful "low grounds" and comes out on a road to Danville almost parallel to the Park Springs Road. There seems to be only two landmarks of interest on this road. It was almost impassable even for wagon travel in 1922.

The first place of interest is the ^{des.} Bracken-Cobb Cemetery. There must have been a Bracken or Cobb house not too far away, but I don't know where it was. There are eleven or twelve marked tombstones in this cemetery and many more of native stones -with no markings. The marked ones are as follows in chronological order:

1. John Cobb, Sr., b. 1761-died 1837 - 75 years, wife Jane Bracken Cobb - b. 1766 - died 1847 (82 or 81 years), daughter of James Bracken and Martha Ector, who is the oldest Bracken on record. His second wife was Rebecca - they had three children - no known others.
2. Joseph Bracken b. 1771 (brother of James) died 1848 - married first, _____Womack d. 1800, no children, and secondly, Jane Dixon - b. 1781 died 1802 no known children. She was a widow.
3. Jose ____ Cobb - b. 1787 d- 1827 - 48 years old, married Nancy Jennings Cobb - b. 1791 - died 1839, age 48 years.
4. Henry N. Cobb, Sr., born 1790, died 1861, wife Martha Nunley . born 1795 died 1891 - 94 years old. (These dates may be copied wrong.)
5. Hugh L.Cobb, born 1825 - died 1833 - 8 years old.
6. Henry Cobb born 1829 died 1869 - 40 years old.
7. Judith Richardson, a widow and mother of Nancy Jennings, who married Joseph Cobb and in 1840 was buried in this cemetery and has a tombstone.

Mrs. Ethel Cobb King remembers that Melinder Cobb, who married Mr. ^{Wrong} Joe Allison was the last person buried in this cemetery, but no stone. She was buried when there was snow on the ground and her funeral was not preached until sometime later in old Bethel Methodist Church.

The only other place of interest on this road is the old Dr. Bracken house which was burned in 1931 or 1932. This house was not very old. It was probably built just after the Civil War by Dr. Samuel Bracken, but it may have been built on the site of a much older Bracken house. This is probably the house that I remember. He married a northern woman from Baltimore, but he had a daughter who must have sold the place, according to the stones in the old cemetery. It seems to have been more of a Cobb cemetery than a Bracken one. The old Bracken house which I saw once was a beautiful place. In the yard were large magnolia trees. It was badly overgrown with shrubs of many kinds. There was a porch all around the house and the lower windows reached from floor to ceiling. They opened like doors on the porch. I went with Mrs. Tom Law and her son, Charlie, who owned the place to carry some tenants there whom he found in Virginia. I did not know it at the time, but no one living near would live in the house. We drove in the yard about dusk. I said "this place is haunted." I had a peculiar feeling. Mrs. Law said, "hush" that's the reason we can get no one to live here. Sure enough; these people moved away in a few days. They said they could not keep the doors locked and they could hear footsteps in the night. The house was burned in 1932 or 1933. Charles Law had bought this place from Mr. Ed. Strader, who lived here for a while until he moved to Ruffin.

In sight of the Bracken place is an old house site, now owned by

the descendants of Nat Henderson, a Negro. There is a fairly modern house there now but it seems to be an old home site. I wonder if this could be the original old Bracken house. It is not far from the Carter Blackwell land, probably joined it at one time. Carter Blackwell married Isabelle Bracken. It may have been her land.. He was raised on the Park Springs Road (at Blackwell's).

ALLISON ROAD -- EAST

From the Bracken Road we come out on what is now called the Allison Road and turn to the right. The old Dick Gwynn house is almost in sight of the turn, on the left of the road. This is a large house in an oak grove. Dick Gwynn was a Confederate soldier and something of a dare-devil when he was in battle. He would run up and down the breast-works and dare the Yankees to shoot him. He was never ever wounded. He married Mary Bovd Blackwell, daughter of Whitson Blackwell and Sallie Rice Blackwell. They had one daughter, Edna, who married Oscar Fitzgerald of Ruffin, N. C. , who sold this old home-place to Harrelson Hatchett. Carter Blackwell must have owned this land across the road from the Dick Gwynn land or John Bracken Blackwell, Sr. bought it as John B. Blackwell, Jr. built a small house on it for his friend, Pink Gwynn, the father of Annie Yancey Gwynn. The Gwynns' lived here a short time and then moved back in the home place which we will mention later. This part of the Blackwell land was sold to Mr. Tom Harrelson, who gave it to his grandson, Harrelson Hatchett.

The Carter Blackwell house was a short distance down the road. He had married Isabella Bracken and this may have been part of the Bracken land. They had ten or twelve children. He was rough and she may have been high tempered too. Once he told a Negro to plow the garden with an ox. She told him not to take that ox in the garden. When the Negro persisted, he was probably afraid not to, she picked up an ax and knocked the ox in the head in the garden gate.

John Bracken Blackwell, Sr. inherited the place. He lived in a log house with his Mother and some of his sisters until he married Mary Reid of Rockingham County. He built a large house for her near the old one in which his mother and sisters continued to live. He ran

a Government Licensed Distillery and probably made more whiskey (licker) than he was supposed to make. His wife used to watch for the "Revenuers" so that he could hide the excess "licker". He seemed to be successful as he was considered to be one of the richest men in the county. His oldest son, Walter, was hit in the head by a rock thrown by a Negro and died- reportedly from a heart attack. His oldest daughter, Jemima married Mr. Houghawaught after knowing him only a short time. They lived in a house on Gentlemens Ridge, given her by her father. She died at the birth of her daughter, who also died. His next daughter, Isabella(Burlie) married James Howard. They lived in Asheville for a while until he failed in the furniture business. She then came back to live on Gentlemens Ridge also. He died young and she then married John A. Cobb. She had three Howard children and one daughter, Ethel, by John A.Cobb. The third daughter, Carrie, married James (Shanghi) Watlington. They lived on the road to Reidsville, N.C.. The youngest daughter, Ida, married a Dr. Blackwell, a dentist in Danville, Virginia. Her daughters own the Blackwell Home Place. The original house was burned. John B. Blackwell, Jr. the youngest son, married his cousin, Lelia Eliza Blackwell. They lived on the Ruffin Road, as mentioned earlier. He learned to like his father's "licker" too well and she divorced him. He died in a mental institution in Arkansas, but he was buried at Bethesda Church with his father, mother and brother.

Adjoining the Blackwell land is the Nethery land as it is called now. This was originally Foster land. There is an old Foster cemetery in the woods back of the house with Foster tombstones, the names and dates are obliterated. Madison Foster married Carter Blackwell's daughter, Nancy. Madison Foster's sister married a Manley and inherited

the home place. Madison moved to the Prospect Church Community and owned what is now the Ryland Farmer home. There are some Foster graves near the old house - a new one was built by Bas Foster, who married Eula Gatewood. Judith Manley, whose mother was a Foster, married John Nethery. They lived in the original Foster house which was moved when Frank Chambers and Annie Nethery Chambers built a new home on the old site. Her father, Joe Nethery, who operated a grist mill near Greensboro for a long time moved back to another cabin on the place. He married a Page, who owned Page's Mill (which was originally Jones Mill). Annie went to live with her mother in the cabin after she and Frank Chambers separated. She has remodeled it.

Across the road is land owned by Williamson Negroes and on down the road is a fairly new house in which Onza Smith lives. He married Anna Hodges. There was an old house here, but it burned. Back of the Williamson and Smith land was a large house owned by the Weatherfords. There are Negro Weatherfords living in the county now. Jane King, daughter of William King, married a Weatherford and inherited some of her father's land in front of the C. H. King home on Gentlemens Ridge. This was bought by Garland Blackwell. Raleigh Jones bought the Weatherford land. Still on the right of the road we come to the Tom Redd land. He was a Negro blacksmith and quite prosperous. Earl Hodges bought his land. His Blacksmith Shop was bought and operated by Joseph Allison, who also bought land on the opposite corner and built a home on it. This was bought by Bob Fowlkes and sold at public auction to Harrelson Hatchett, Jr. (W. H.).

Here the Cross Road from Gentlemens Ridge comes out to the Allison Road. We will take the East side of the road first before we attempt

the complicated West side. Beyond Jamie Harrelson's Store we find several small homes. Most of them are on land which was originally Hubbard land. Archibald Hubbard came from somewhere else and married Malinda Cobb, whose mother was Ellen King. The Hubbards had several children, but the only one who married and stayed in the county was "Tallulah"- 1852-1891. She married Joseph Allison who came to Caswell County from Orange County. He first rented the Nethery home and then built and lived in the Allison home on the corner which we have mentioned. The Hubbard house was a well built log house which still stands. The Hubbard house was bought by Mr. Poteat, who married a Smith, who lived back of the Jones land (more about the Smiths' later.) When Mrs. Poteat died, before her mother did, the farm was broken up into small tracts which were sold at auction. One was bought by Rufus Hodges, one by Johnnie Smith and the old Hubbard house by Hiram Turner (Buster) Harrelson, Sr., who married Mary Evelyn Hodges. They fixed up the old Hubbard house and lived in it many years, until they built a new home on the Allison Road. The Hubbard house was some distance off the road. This Hubbard land joins the James Yancey Blackwell farm which fronts on U. S. #158.

Now we will take the West side of the Allison Road from the corner opposite the Allison house. The Mint Moore house has already been mentioned on the Cross Road. There was another cabin, but it has been remodeled and looks like a modern house. Joe Rainey lives here with his wife, who was one of Mr. Bas Harrelson's daughters.

This brings us to the Bas Harrelson farm. It may have been some of the original King land. It joined the King land. Mr. Bas Harrelson married Selena Frances Walker (Lee). They had ~~sixteen~~ ^{nineteen} children.

Twelve of whom lived to marry and own homes of their own, although some of them were on the Bas Harrelson land. Mr. Bas left his wife a life estate in his land when he died. After the death of his wife, the farm was sold and bought by his grandson, William Hodges.

Adjoining the Bas Harrelson land, but across a dirt road leading to the Tom Pettigrew place is the Orr land. This was Pettigrew land which originally belonged to the Gomers. I think the name was originally Gomez, and they may have come from Mexico or Spain. Wiley Gomer married Keturah (Kitty) Blackwell, daughter of Carter Blackwell. They lived in a log cabin which was still standing a few years ago. Kitty cooked on a fireplace all her married life. There were two Gomer girls. Martha and Dora, who married two Pettigrews - Eli and Tom (from the Pagetown community in Caswell County). Tom Pettigrew, who married Dora, lived in a log cabin some distance from the main road. His son John, who married Lelia Stanley, lived in the cabin, but built a large weatherboarded room in front of it, connected by a walkway. They had several children, but none of them wanted the old house when it was sold. Eli Pettigrew, who married Martha Gomer built a large log house on the road. He had three daughters and two sons. Mary worked and died in Reidsville, Robert went to Burlington. Willie went to Arizona for his health. after clerking at Kill Quick.

JONES ROAD AND SHELTON ROAD

Now we must go back to the Carter Blackwell or (John B. Blackwell, Sr.) place and turn off on a Cross Road (now paved) that will eventually carry us on back to No. 158.

The first house we come to on this road is the old Mitchel place on the left where Mr. Joe Thompson lived. This is an old settlement. One of Carter Blackwell's daughters, Patsy, married a Mitchell "Marster", also his son Milton married Nancy Mitchel. Milton Blackwell and "Marster" Mitchel must have gone in together and bought land back of Kill Quick- the Milton Blackwell place is not very far from the Ruffin Road and the "Marster" Mitchel house is on Gentlemen's Ridge, not far from Kill Quick.

Mr. Mitchell and John B. Blackwell ran the old King's Mill at one time. Mr. Mitchel sold out to Jim Scott Blackwell. Mr. ^{Edgar} ~~Joe~~ Allison married a Hatchett (second wife) who lived in this house.

On down the road we come to the Jones Road. This was an original grant, I think, and the Jones' must have owned a thousand or more acres of land at one time. Tradition has it that a Joe Jones came from Mecklenburg County and settled here. A Richard Jones owned some of the land at one time. He had seven sons and some of them at least inherited some of the original land. One of them got the Rudd property which is on another road. John Edward Jones inherited the home place which was log. He left it to his sons, Robert H. and Thaddeus. . He also had two daughters, Laura, who married Mr. Julius Watlington and probably got some of the land, and Fannie, who married a cousin, George Jones, whose grandmother was Milton Blackwell's daughter, (mother, daughter of Hiram Gunn). George and Fannie lived in the old Laura Jones Watlington house. The old Jones home is now owned by Bennett Jones and Lillie Jones Walker Fowlkes.

There are two old Jones' cemeteries on the Rudd farm and are back of the Bennett Jones home. I am told that Page's Mill was once a Jones' Mill.

Back of Mr. Onza Smith's house was the old Weatherford house.- a large house that was burned. The Weatherfords must have once been fairly well-to-do as there are Weatherford Negroes living around here now - showing they owned slaves. This property became a part of the Jones land in some way.

On the right hand side of the Jones Road are three small fairly modern homes - the Paul Jones house, the William (Buck) Jones home and a tenant house owned by Onza Smith.

We leave the Jones Road and turn left on another hard surface road. The first house on the left of this road is the Shelton Place. This was an original grant, I think. Part of the house is log, now owned by Clem Shelton, but I think there was an older house than this one. Mr. Shelton was the first Sheriff of Caswell County. Across the road is the George Hodges house. He married two Shelton sisters, but the land may have been owned by the Watlingtons as their mother was a Watlington. But there was Shelton land on this side of the road too.

We go back across the road and turn off on a dirt road which carries us to the old Smith home. I don't think this is an original Smith home, but it is an old log one, more modern than some because it had two rooms instead of one large room and a shed room as the older log houses had. Mr. Smith who first lived in this house had ~~five or six~~ boys and at least two girls. Mr. John Henry Gunn and

"Miss Lottie" _____ . I think this Smith land joined the Jones land at the back, anyway Robert Smith married Louise Jones. They lived there for many years.

This road (from the Jones road) goes on across a branch or creek and comes out on U. S. Highway No. 158 at Watlington's Store (Carter's Store). There are some old home places on this road, but they are probably in Yanceyville Township.

Now we come back toward the Shelton Place and go in the opposite direction. There are two old house sites on this road (or in sight of the road). A little off the road on the left (as we are going South now) is the Bunn Blackwell land. He married Molly Siddle (his cousin) and this was probably Siddle land, as the Siddle's owned the land on the other side of the road. The oldest Shelton Place is off the road a little way near the George Hodges place which has been mentioned. This house is very old - there is a date carved in the chimney of 1775. That shows us that the Sheltons were living here before the county was organized in 1777. It is reported that a Shelton was the first High Sheriff - maybe he was a Deputy for this part of the County as Caswell was cut off from Orange County ,but County History has it that Thomas Rice was the first High Sheriff of Caswell County. Mr. Bob Fowlkes now owns this Shelton place.

On down the road we come to an old Siddle place, now also owned by Mr. Bob Fowlkes.

On the opposite side of the road is an old house which was once probably part of the Shelton land. Miss Mary Belle Harrelson Paschal, who married a Shelton lived here when she was first married. She called

it the Baker Place, but no Bakers were ever heard of in the county. If a Baker lived there it was only for a short time. I think it was one of the original Siddle houses, as there was Siddle land all around it. It is owned by Mr. Bob Fowlkes now and "Nub" Williamson, a Negro, has rented it for a long time. On the other side of the road is another old house. This is on what was originally Shelton land. Mrs. Mary Belle Shelton - nee Paschall - whose mother was daughter of Hiram Harrelson, lived in this house when she first married. She owned it until she died. She called it the Baker place. No one seems to know of any Bakers who lived in Caswell County. Jane Moser, Mrs. Shelton's granddaughter of Greensboro, owned it until about 1974 or 1975, when she sold it.

On the other side of the road is some land once owned by Billy Siddle. It has no house on it. His daughter, Lillian sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Leon Lyday (Dorothy White). His widow still owns it. (More about Billy Siddle and his land later on U. S. Highway No. 158).

FROM CASVILLE TOWARD YANCEYVILLE (Route 158)

Now let us go back to the small "Cross Roads" of Casville - a store or two in each of the corners. None of them is old. Some distance from the main road is the Steven Page home. This was an old log cabin to begin with, but I don't know who owned it originally. Mr. Page built a small frame house in front of the original one and he and his wife, Mamie Harrelson, raised their family there.

As we go on down No. 158, we come to a fairly new log house built by Tommy Jones, who married Josephine Orr. Mr. Jones left for "parts unknown" and his wife raised their three children here. She sold it to Robert Smith and he lived here until he built his new brick home a short distance away on No. 158.

There are some new homes on the road, but the first really old one is some distance off the road. It is now known as the Horace Strader place. An old road went by this place, but it was abandoned when 158 was built. The first man to live here as far as I know was Mr. Andy Orr from Hillsboro. His brother, Zeke Orr had a house back of Bethesda Church - a very old house. Late in life Andy Orr married Miss Nettie Nance from Clemons community in Moore County. They had three children, Robert, Eugene and Josephine. Tommy Jones and Josephine, his wife, may have built their home on part of the Orr land. Horace Strader bought the place and raised his family - three girls and two boys here. Andy Orr is buried here.

As we come back to No. 158, we pass near a really old cabin - probably torn down now, the original ^{des} McKinney home, Mrs. Ed Harrelson, who was Miss Lessie McKinney told me that it was. Her father, "Preacher" Ben McKinney, who lived to be nearly one hundred years old, remembered living in this cabin with his father. He was the youngest

son, and he remembered lifting the old man in and out of bed and feeding him. Jimmy Harrelson must have bought this land, and his grandson, Ed, finally came into possession of it from his father, Hiram, I suppose. From Ed Harrelson and his wife, Lessie McKinney Harrelson, it passed on to their daughter, Edna, who married "Doc" (Robert) Chance, of Reidsville.

As we go on down the road we come to another old cabin. This was also on the Jimmy Harrelson land, inherited by his son Hiram, who left it to his son, Dolf, a batchelor, who left it to his niece, Frances. It was finally sold to Mr. John Chandler of Ruffin, whose sons, James and John inherited it. James' heirs now own it, I think they have sold it.

On the other side of the road, is another old home. Mr. Ben McKinney's mother must have moved here after her husband died. Mr. Ben McKinney, who became a Primitive Baptist minister, lived here when he was a boy and went to Sunday School at Bethesda Presbyterian Church, which was in walking distance. This house was sold to Rob Hodges, who sold it to Sammy Strader. I think it is a weatherboarded house, not as old as the McKinney cabin.

Some distance off the road is a very unusual old house. The same old road that went by the Andy Orr house went on by this house, crossed a creek, probably at a "ford", as there were not many bridges across creeks at this time and came out somewhere on the "Stage Road", now No. 150. Ruffin Stanley and his brother, two Quakers, came from Pennsylvania and settled first near Pleasant Garden in Guilford County. For some reason, Ruffin came to Caswell County. Probably

at some Quaker gathering he met a Miss Sartin from Caswell County, or he may have met her after he came to Caswell County, anyway, he married her. He and his son, Henry, who married Preacher Ben Mc-Kinney's sister called "Puss", built the Stanley house. Henry and his father ran a tan yard to tan hides for shoes and also made bricks. This is a very old house and a very interesting one. There was a kitchen in the yard. Later a room was added with a basement under it, the room was used as the kitchen. There was a big rock chimney and a large fireplace at one end of the original house. The house is still standing, but in ruins. Henry's son, Jule, inherited it and he left it to his wife, Bertha McKinney, and his daughter, Frances, who married John E. Jones. Perhaps her brother Craig, who lives in South Carolina, claims this old house. Mr. Jule Stanley had a grist mill and a blacksmith shop. There were two old log cabins on this place also. One has been torn down and a more modern one built on the site. Henry and "Puss" lived first in an old cabin where John Jones and his wife, Frances Stanley, now live. The old cabin was torn down. The other still stands under some large oak trees near the Doyle home.

As we come from the Stanley place, on the left of No. 158, we come almost in sight of an old cabin site, the cabin is probably torn down now. It seems to have been owned by some Gwynn Negro, who left it to his daughter, Ida, who married Weldon Williamson. They went to West Virginia to work in the coal mines there and made enough money to make a down payment on some land owned by Dolf Harrelson, which joined the three or four acres that Ida had inherited with the cabin. There was a two or three room log house on this land. Ida and Weldon

lived in this house until they educated all of their children, sending them all to college, except the oldest son, who bought a farm in Rockingham County. Weldon bought another small farm which was once owned by the Manley family. This was on the opposite side of No. 158, across a branch. This also had a cabin on it in which the Manleys lived. After all of Weldon's and Ida's children were educated, some married and some teaching, they built a new house in front of the old cabin.

Across the road in front of the Weldon Williamson house is New Ephesus Church. I don't know how old this Church is or from whom the land was obtained.

Near the Church was a two room Negro school. Land for this school was bought from or given by Weldon Williamson. The Negroes of the community told the School Board that they would give the land if the County would build the school. The County did this, but for some reason there was not a clear title to it. When the one and two teacher schools were consolidated, and the sites on which they were built were put up for sale, there was quite a discussion as to whom this site belonged. Mrs. Webb Yarborough and J. Y. Blackwell withdrew their claims and the members of New Ephesus Church bought it at auction. Weldon Williamson's two daughters taught here.

About a half mile down the road from the Church, across the Allison Road, was a cabin under some large oak trees. This was also Harrelson land. One of Jimmy's daughters, called Missey, who married a Hooper lived here. When she died Mr. Hooper moved away and Dolf Harrelson inherited the place. A Negro, Jack Williamson, lived in the old cabin after Missey Harrelson Hooper died. Since it was in the corner of two old roads, it was known as "Jack's Corner". Dolf sold it to a Negro, John Washington "Wash" Williamson, who bought

another cabin near by from another Negro, John Farrish. This was a part of the Glase land, more about it later. John "Wash" Williamson lived in this two room cabin, after adding a room, until he built a new house on the Harrelson site. This house was burned and John "Wash" lost the entire farm under mortgage during the depression of 1929. Mr. Webb Yarborough bought it and sold to James Yancey Blackwell, Sr. and his wife, Alice Taylor Blackwell, who moved into the old two room cabin from the Ruffin Road in 1931. They lived in the cabin five years and then built their present home between the two oak groves.

Adjoining this farm is another farm with an old cabin on it, womewhat off the road. This cabin must be very old as it has a basement with a fireplace in it. This was once the Glaze home. There are two graves marked with native stones. The Glases' may be buried here. I have also been told that this was once owned by a Watlington. The place was bought by Steven Siddle, who left it to his son, Ansel, who sold it to Herbert White.

On the opposite side of the road there is an old cabin in which Albert Williamson and his son, Bobby, lived. They owned the small farm on thich this cabin is situated. Also on this road, a short distance back off the highway, is a cabin site. This was called the Madden Place. I never heard of any Madden family living in the county, but I have been told there are some Negroes here by that name.

On down the road near the Albert Williamson place there was an old Church - Phillipi. This was a Primitive Baptist Negro Church. There is a cemetery near by. "Aunt" Jennie Henry Cobb, who came with Jenny Jarrel as a small slave girl from Rockingham County when Jenny Jarrel married John Scott Blackwell, was a member of this Church.

She walked from the John Scott Blackwell home on the Ruffin Road to this Church one Sunday in every month. She was one of the last people to be buried at Phillipi. The Church has been torn down.

About a mile down the road on the opposite side of the road, we come to some more Siddle land. There was a large house on it, but it has been torn down. This belonged to William (Billy) Siddle, who married Laura Watlington. He raised a large family and his land, which was quite extensive, was divided among his children. His son, Marvin Siddle, inherited the home place and he left it to his son, Marvin, Jr. who sold it to James Y. Blackwell, Jr.. Although the old house has been torn down, there are boxwoods and flowers left and there is a very prolific spring which still furnishes water for the entire farm. Near the old "Billy" Siddle home site is the site of an old cabin and several graves marked by native stones. There is also an old spring. This was the home of Tom Stubblefield, who married a Siddle (perhaps Billy's sister). His wife and all their children died with Typhoid fever. Mr. Stubblefield left his home and went to his old community to live with his niece, Bettie (Stubblefield) Blackwell (Mrs. Bud Womack) on the Ruffin Road. He left here after a year or two and lived for a while with another niece, Dora Stubblefield Blackwill (Mrs. Albert Lillard). I don't know what finally became of him.

Across the road is another old house with huge boxwoods and many flowers. This was the Boswell place, which was bought by Billy Siddle and left by him to his daughter, Dora Bell, who married Raleigh Jones. There is a Boswell cemetery here.

A short distance down the road is the Webb Yarborough home. He

married Ida Siddle, another of Billy's daughters. The house is on her land. Mr. Yarborough built it himself from timber from the old building which he tore down. There was an old store near by which contained many odds and ends which he had accumulated. Mr. and Mrs. Yarborough were an unique couple. They saved everything, including money. They were thought to be quite wealthy. They had what they wanted, which few people do.

A little farther down the road is a fairly old house, not very attractive, in which the Steven Siddles' lived until he built a modern Victorian home nearby. There was another old store near here. This was in the corner of the two roads - No 158 and the Stage Road, now 150. It still stands, but has been moved. Since the new Steven Siddle house is facing 150, I will not write of it here. Back of the Steven Siddle house is an old house. It cannot be seen from the road and not many people know its there. This is the old Paschall place. Mrs. Paschall was Frances Harrelson, a daughter of Jimmy Harrelson. Her husband died when the children were young. She was a very thrifty lady and well thought of in the community. Her children, James (Jim), John and Mrs. Shelton adored her.

In the other corner of No. 158 and No. 150, facing No. 158, is one of the best-known homes in Caswell County, "Rose Hill" which was built by Jethro Brown, for his son, Bedford. His son, Bedford Brown was a United States Senator before the Civil War. He voted against Secession. He married Annie Gwynn, called "Duck". They had two children, Fred and Mary. Mary was well known over the State as well as the County. She taught in Reidsville and Judge Susie Sharp was one of her pupils. This house is quite famous for its shelves of

books, wall paper, its antiques, as well as its boxwoods and flowers. Williamson Brown - Fred Brown's son, inherited it. When he died his wife, Mary Skipwith Brown of Clarksville, Virginia, inherited a life right in the place. It is now a livestock and tobacco farm.

On the opposite side of the road, a dirt road leads to several old homes. These are quite a distance off the main road, No. 158, but since they are in Locust Hill Township they should be mentioned. The first house we come to is a new one built by Jule Turner and his wife, Mary Siddle Turner, who inherited the land from her mother, Nannie Willie Martin Siddle. who first married John Will Siddle. They had one child, Mary. He died and she married Mr. Robert (Bob) Fowlkes. William (Bill) Turner, the son of Jule and Mary Siddle Turner, and his wife, Betty, bought the old John Will Siddle house from his parents. Part of this house was originally log, as were so many old houses. They tore this part out and remodeled the whole house, building a new kitchen and den. It is now a beautiful colonial home.

Almost in sight of this house there is a very old house used to store hay. Bill Turner says he had been told that his is one of the oldest houses in the County. It was originally the ^{des.} home of Tom Watlington, who was probably a contemporary of Garland Blackwell. This house, from the distance I saw it, looks very much like the Garland Blackwell house on the Albert Blackwell farm. Probably Paul Watlington, who married Jane Scott Blackwell, daughter of Garland Blackwell was raised here. The colonial home he built and lived in with Jane Scott Blackwell is not far away through the woods. The old road which started in front of the Carter Blackwell (John B. Blackwell) house went by the old Mitchell house through the Jones Community and the old Shelton house and the old Watlington house, through to the Paul Watlington- Jim Paschall place out to the Yanceyville road. I'm sorry these old roads

were abandoned when the new graded roads were built for many old homes were left "off the road" and were later abandoned.

As we go on farther down the road we come to a ^{des.} large house, which I have been told was built by Augustus Gwynn. It was inherited or bought by his nephew, Pink Gwynn. There seem to be many Gwynn homes in the County. Daniel - one of the first Gwynns to come to the county married Zeporah Rice, sister of Zillah and Zerurah, who married Robert Blackwell and Lancelot Johnston, who were pioneer settlers in the county. I wonder where the old Rice home was. Thomas Rice came from Hanover County, Virginia and settled here when Caswell was a part of Orange County. To go back to the Pink Gwynn house- it was bought by Ed Walker, who married Ola Siddle, daughter of Steven Siddle and his wife Lillian White Siddle, a granddaughter of Paul Watlington and Jane Scott Blackwell Watlington. Mr. Walker sold the Gwynn house to Mr. Bob Fowlkes and he sold it to a Lumber Company. Its a beautiful old place.

Now we come back to No. 158. On the right-hand side of the road is another famous old place known as the Stamps house. This is also just out of sight of the road down a long lane. There are hedges of boxwood and beautiful flower gardens. Strange to say - it doesn't have a name. It is said to have been designed by the brother of Thomas Jefferson for a Moore. The house was bought by Miss Annie Yancey Gwynn and she did extensive restoration to the house. The woodwork is hand carved on the mantles and the stairs in the front hall. There is a large basement which is on ground level (not dug out). The kitchen and extensive storage rooms were in this basement in ante-bellum days. Since the basement was on the ground floor, the front steps

leading to the first floor are quite extensive. The stairs in the front hadd lead to the bed rooms up stairs. This makes the house seem to have three stories.

On down No. 158, on the left side is the Tom Worsham house. This isn not as old as some of the other homes, but it has boxwoods down the walk and is in a very delapidated condition. This was a Vanhook house before Tom Worsham bought it. Tom Worsham married Laura Siddle, a sister of Billy and Steven. There was also another sister, Mary, who married John Worsham, a brother of Tom. Mrs. Worsham's sons inherited this place and one of them, Charlie, a batchelor, lived here until he died. I think the place has been sold to Woodfin Yarborough.

A short distance down the road is another old Gwynn house. This is an old home with many old buildings around it. It was the home of a Mr. John Stamps who married Mr. Littleton Gwynn's sister. They had several children, but this son, Rufus inherited the place and lives there now.

Across the road is another old house owned by Rufus Stamps, but I can't find out much about this place. This was the old Totten house. There are many Toten Negroes in the county, he must have been a slave owner. Rufus Stamps owns this place now. He rented to his father-in-law, Mr. Hammock of Danville. When he died his son continued to live there.

The next house was the John Blackwell house. He sold his father, Robert Blackwell's home on Gentlemen's Ridge (the Park Springs Road) which he inherited from his mother, Zillah Rice Blackwell and bought this land. There was a very delapidated old two story house here, but that has been torn down.

Across the road is Blackwell's Baptist Negro Church. He gave the land for the Church and probably left his farm to the Negroes, as he had no heirs. He is buried in the cemetery at the Church. There was a one room school here too.

The last old house on the left of the road is what is now known as the Jim Paschall Place. This house was built by Paul Watlington who married Jane Scott Blackwell. It is very unusual in design. A front hall separates the two front rooms and ends in a hall that is in the opposite direction between the dining room and kitchen separating them from the two front rooms. This hall has a door leading outside too. In ante-bellum days, the kitchens were kept as far from the main part of the house as possible, due to the danger of fires.

Between the John Blackwell place there is an old house - a log house owned by Percy Willis. This originally belonged to John Blackwell, who left it to his cook and her family.

CROSS ROAD NEAR COBB SCHOOL (#1301)

After we pass the Lemuel King house on the left, just before we get to Cobb Memorial School, a road turns sharply to the right. This is a road leading across Moon's Creek. The old road was on the other side of Cobb Memorial School and crossed the creek by a ford. But, after crossing the creek it went by the same old homes.

In the right hand corner of the new road there was a Negro two-room school building. This school was consolidated with other schools in the county and the land was sold. On the left corner is the Alex Apple house, (formerly, John Howard owned this land). Alex Apple and some of his children live here, as well as in a cabin down the road, and work all the land to the creek on the left of the road.

Across the creek and up a rather steep hill is the old Robert King I home. He bought the land (probably a section - 650 acres) from Dudley Runnels for 55 English pounds in 1770. (Runnels was an old spelling of Reynolds). He got it as a grant from Lord Granville. He may have been an agent, selling land for Lord Granville. Robert King I probably built a log house which was torn down by Robert King II (Robin) and a new one built, or the old house may have been weather-boarded over the logs. It was a two room, two-story house with a hall in the center and a room at the back, I think, I was never in it. It was burned in 1923 and another one built at the same site.

Robert King I had eight children (births were not recorded at this time, but marriages were. (1) Margaret was probably the oldest. She married a Watt. She is not mentioned in his will, but his two daughters, Jane and Eleanor (Ellen) mentioned her in their wills as "our beloved sister, Margaret Watt", and they made their nephew, John Watt their administrator. She may have married before he came to Orange County - 1770, or at least before he bought the land. Some of the other children were evidently grown when he came to Orange - now Caswell County. (2) Robert King I's next child was probably William, who married Polly Perkins in 1804. He is not mentioned in his father's will, but in 1788, Robert King bought 152 acres or so of land from William Whitehead. This land is across the road from the C. H. King place, because the deed mentions John's branch. He sold this land to William King in 1797. R.J. King sold it to Garland Blackwell in four separate tracts, as agent for Isaac King, deed dated

1837; R. N. King deed dated 1839; James P. King deed dated 1830 and W. B. Weatherford deed dated 1830, (Jane King married Burton Weatherford). These deeds mention John's branch and King's spring. I think Robert King II (Robin) was probably the R. I. King agent. This land was mentioned in Chapter II (Parks Spring Road, as it is on that Road).

(3) Isaac King was probably Robert King I's third child. He also married a Perkins (Rachel) and bought some land from a Perkins - probably his father-in-law. He probably died young as Robert I only mentions Isaac's children in his will. He must have had at least two - one probably died. We know of only one - Samuel Isaac, who built the Sam King home on the Ruffin Road (Chapter I). Isaac's wife married Whitehead Page after Isaac died (Whitehead Page's wife was also a Perkins, who died). John Page, who moved to Iredell County, came back to visit his half brother, Samuel King sometimes. Samuel, James and Ellen were other children mentioned in Robin's will. None of them ever married. Jane bought Samuel's land. He must have moved away. The seventh child, Joseph married Fanny Bull in 1817, and the eighth child, Robin King II, inherited the home place at his mother's death. He married Sallie Badgett in 1821. Robert King I died in 1817. There is no record of when his wife died. Robin and Sallie Badgett King had three children. (1) Elnora, who died young and is buried in a cemetery across the road from the old King home. His son (2) William II (Billy) built a home, probably on land he inherited from his father, Robin, near Moon's Creek about a mile from the main road. He married Ann Howard, daughter of Cary Howard and wife, Elizabeth Scott Blackwell Howard. They had seven children. His youngest son, Scott inherited the home place. He never married and lived there with his sister, Lizzie, who never married, until she died, then he lived alone. He left the home to his niece, Ola King, daughter of Cary Howard and wife Lily Pennix King. It was sold several times until it was finally bought by Sammy Strader, who renovated the old house. It is a beautiful house. The other five children are as follows: Robert Allen King, who married Pattie Johnston; Cary Howard King, who married Lily Pennix; Junius Irvin King, who married Daisy Farrish; Lemuel J. King, who married Ethel Cobb and Ed King, who died young.

Note: Colonel John Wall, born 1673 - 1700, who lived in Spottsylvania County, Virginia married Dorothy King. Where did Robert King I come from when he came to Orange County?

Since we have written of the old Robert King I home, we will