

the general who was born to John Graves and wife Isabella Lea on October 29, 1768.

On June 3, 1790 Azariah was married to Elizabeth Williams, October 15, 1773 — August 2, 1841, daughter of John Williams, a colonel in the Revolutionary War. Gen. Graves was in command of the 16th Brigade, 3rd Division of the Militia of the State of North Carolina. He was a prominent and influential citizen, a member of the State Senate in 1798 and again from 1805 to 1811.

The plantation, known as Oak Grove was divided among his four children and the homeplace went to Azariah Jr., or II. When members of the family began to move south, Azariah, Jr. sold the place to Ansel Ware, took his slaves to Georgia to make a crop and buy a suitable home for his family. Instead he raised one crop on rented land, decided North Carolina was better, and returned to the old homestead which he repurchased for a thousand dollars more than the selling price.

It might be stated here that the second son of Gen. Azariah was Calvin, January 3, 1804 — February 11, 1877, who inherited the largest acreage from his father. After graduating from University of North Carolina, he read law with Judge Settle and Judge Henderson and was admitted to the bar in 1827. He was a splendid jurist and served in the legislature from 1840 until 1848. His note to spend two million dollars for building a railroad across North Carolina from east to west, ruined him politically. Both he and his father are buried in unmarked graves in a family cemetery near Trinity Church.

Azariah, Jr., August 10, 1815 — July 9, 1896, married, first on June 26, 1844, Meeky Harden Slade, January 13, 1822, daughter of William and Nancy Slade of Rockingham County. She died April 29, 1845 at the birth of a son who also died. On July 1, 1846 he married Elizabeth Neal, November 16, 1826 — April 15, 1857, daughter of Zachariah and Rebecca Rice Neal of Caswell County. They had six children. He married, third, on March 17, 1858, Isabella Howard, August 21, 1835 — October 8, 1873, daughter of Alexis Howard of Tuskegee, Macon County, Alabama.

Azariah and Elizabeth had five children, the second of which was Ella Williams, September 30, 1850 — October 20, 1914. It was she who lived with her father and brother Azariah, December 27, 1854 — April 19, 1903, after the others married and moved; therefore, she inherited the homeplace, Oak Grove.

On June 25, 1868 Ella Williams Graves was graduated in liberal arts and music from Roanoke College, later Averett College, in Danville, Virginia. On December 5, 1883 she was married to George Nicholas Thompson of Leesburg. Their three children were Azariah Graves, June 16, 1885 — June 11, 1963, Ella Graves, September 27, 1886 — January 18, 1970 and George Nicholas, Jr., September 25, 1888 — March 11, 1890.

Mrs. Thompson's diary included a list of foods served at their wedding supper in her father's home — 1 large ham, 1 whole pig, 3 turkeys, 6 broiled chickens, 4 large chickens made into salad, and grated beef tongue; 2 fruit cakes, one white and one dark, 1 bride's

cake, 1 pound cake, 1 sponge cake, 1 marble cake, 1 Dolly Varden cake, 2 jelly cakes, 4 coconut cakes, 1 gold cake, 1 chocolate cake, 1 white cake, 3 plates Naples biscuits, 4 plates snowballs, 2 boxes gelatin in Bavarian cream, 2 boxes gelatine in gelatine jelly, 1 large bowl ambrosia, 2 gallons boiled custard, candies, nuts, oranges, apples, and grapes. One wonders how many people attended.

She also lists the food prepared for Christmas supper at "Oak Grove" in 1880 when there were "46 white people present and 20 Negroes." Sixteen white people and twelve Negroes stayed the night and were fed breakfast.

By 1900 the fortunes of both the Graves and the Thompson families had lessened. Both lived through hard times for many years. Land assured no-one of money for more than necessities.

It was to the homeplace of his mother, Oak Grove, that Graves and Lula Belle Thompson moved in 1914. Many of the boxwood are still there. Most of the crepe myrtles are gone. The last of the large oaks fell in a storm in the summer of 1928 and demolished the one room office which stood near the well that is still used. The smoke house is the only outbuilding still in use. The Thompson children own the homeplace surrounded by much less acreage than the Graves owned.

Source: Personal research.

— Ella Thompson Hobbs

## GENERAL AZARIAH GRAVES

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Azariah Graves was born October 29, 1768 in that part of Orange Co., N.C., later Caswell County, where he lived all his life. He was next to the youngest child of John Graves, Sr. and his second wife, Isabella Lee Graves.

On June 3, 1790 he married Elizabeth Williams, youngest daughter of Colonel John Williams and Elizabeth Williamson Williams. She was born October 15, 1773 in Orange, later Caswell, County.

"Reared to agricultural pursuits, Azariah Graves became an extensive planter." The 1803 list of Taxables for Caswell County shows Azariah Graves with 2,350 acres of land. At that time he was 35 years of age.

"Azariah Graves, a man of good education and much ability, was active and prominent in public affairs, and served as State Senator" for a number of years.

On the 17th day of December, 1806 Azariah Graves, "Esquire," was appointed Lieut. Col. Commt. of the Militia of the County of Caswell by Nathaniel Alexander, Governor of N.C. Then, on the 21st day of December 1810, Governor Benjamin Smith commissioned Azariah Graves Brigadier General of the Sixteenth Brigade of the Third Division of the Militia of North Carolina.

General Azariah Graves, in April, 1840, and members of the Graves and related families left their churches and joined a Branch of the Country Line Baptist Church, called Trinity Missionary Baptist Church. Minutes of that

Church reflect that Gen. Azariah Graves left his former church and joined the newly formed one "because of his attachment and devotion to the various Benevolent Institutions," meaning missions and other causes not favored by the church he left.

The following obituary appeared in *The Biblical Recorder*, September 11, 1841: "MRS. ELIZABETH GRAVES — On Saturday 21st. ult., at the residence of her husband in Caswell Co., Mrs. Elizabeth Graves, (consort of General Azariah Graves) in her 68th year, youngest daughter of late Col. John Williams, an officer and patriot of the Revolutionary War — for over 50 years a member of Baptist Church. She left an aged husband and 8 children."

General Azariah Graves died March 1, 1850 and his will dated August 5, 1843, with codicil dated March 11, 1848, was probated in the April 1850 Court of Caswell Co., N.C. This will names his children: John W. Graves (who married Martha Eliza Hinton); dau. Ann L. Graves, wife of William Graves; dau. Henrietta Settle, wife of Judge Settle; dau. Martha W. Graves wife of Dr. John L. Graves; son Calvin Graves; dau. Frances, deceased (who had married Josiah Settle); dau. Mary Howard, wife of Alexis Howard; dau. Rebecca W. Graves, wife of Henry L. Graves; and son Azariah Graves. Three of his daughters had married cousins by the name of Graves.

Both General Azariah Graves and wife Elizabeth are buried in the small family cemetery at what had been the plantation home of Colonel John Williams on the road to Yanceyville from Reidsville.

Sources: GRAVES: Twelve Generations — 1608-1977, land grants, tax lists, state census, apprentice bonds, estate records, compiled by Katharine Kerr Kendall, 1977. *Manuel of North Carolina, North Carolina Government, Caswell County Court records, History of North Carolina.*

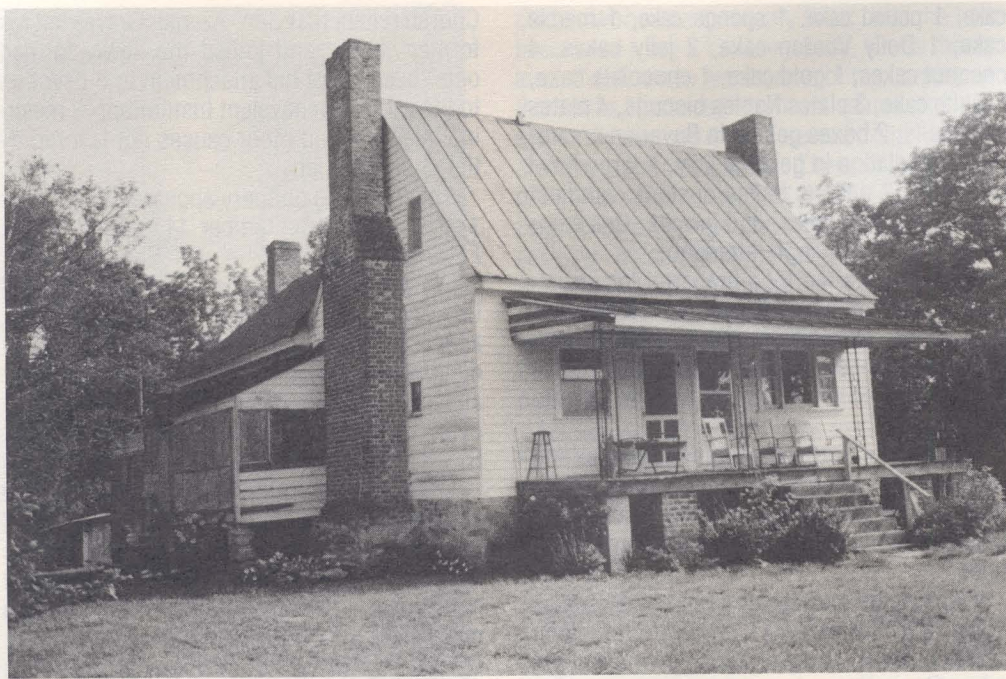
— Louise Graves

## (REVEREND) BARZILLAI GRAVES

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Barzillai Graves born 12 December 1759 was a son of John Graves and Isabella Lea Graves. On April 3, 1783 he was bonded to marry Ursula Wright a daughter of William Wright also a Baptist minister. The first land grant for Barzillai was on Moon's Creek. Later he purchased land on Country Line adjoining that of his brother John Herndon Graves. By 1803 he listed 973 acres on his tax report and was in Gloucester District a few miles south of present Yanceyville.

In addition to his plantation he owned a mill. He is primarily remembered for his service as a Baptist preacher. The old Country Line Baptist Church on Meeting House Creek southwest of Yanceyville was about on the dividing land between lands of Barzillai and John Graves. He was preaching at that Church in 1802 when Sallie Tate of Guilford County deeded to him a lot located between Tom's Creek and Jordan's Creek for a church. The deed refers to Country Line as North Country Line. The land given is the location of the Bush Arbor congregation



Home of Rev. Barzillai Graves, built about 1800.

and Rev. Graves was apparently the church's founder. The minutes of Bush Arbor show he was preaching there until 1810 and often substituted thereafter. The minutes of Wheelleys and other Baptist churches in Person County note his appearance as preacher on many occasions.

The death of the Rev. Graves was on 14 July 1827 and the widow died 27 November 1845. In his will his daughter Mary was to have the home and she and her husband agreed with the widow to remain there and take care of her. Mary married General Thomas William Graves. The home was on south side of Country Line Creek, was later purchased by Harrelsons with Misses Annie and Mollie Harrelson being the last to reside there. It burned about 10 years ago.

The children of Barzillai and Ursula Graves as listed in his will were: (1) Solomon Graves (1784-1861) married Mary Franklin of Surry County NC and they resided in Mt. Airy. A granddaughter Melvina Graves married a cousin Barzillai Shuford Graves of Caswell and returned to Caswell to live. (2) Jeremiah Graves married March 14, 1816 Delilah S. Lea daughter of John (Canebrake) Lea. He was the builder of a large brick home in west Yanceyville named "Dongola". Their children were John L. Graves, Nathaniel Lea Graves (possibly called Lea), Elizabeth married Archibald C. Lindsey, Hannah married William Thomas, Barzillai Graves (no further info on him), Rebecca Graves married Haywood Williams; son William B. Graves married Mary E. Shuford of Asheville and 2nd Sarah Lea; (son William B. was called "Billy Hickory" Graves to distinguish from a cousin "Billy Griffin Graves"); Margaret J. Graves married Jessie Smith, and son Jeremiah Graves married Donna Thornton and son Jeremiah inherited "Dongola".

(3) Isabella Graves married Hosea McNeill. See separate article on them. (4) Barzillai Graves Jr. (1790-1818) was unmarried. (5) Daughter Betsy Graves married James Lea and he was deceased by 1856 but they had re-

moved to Tennessee. (6) Margaret Graves married Joseph R.E. Lipscomb and they removed to Fayette Co. Tenn. where their son William R. Lipscomb died young. Her second marriage was to Jesse W. Cross.

(7) Mary Graves (1798-1875) married General Thomas Williams Graves, a son of James Graves who married Mary Slade in 1800 and a grandson of Thomas Graves whose first wife was a Miles, daughter of Jacob Miles. Gen. Graves was Clerk of Court of Caswell County 1854-1864. Because of his admiration of "Old Hickory", Andrew Jackson, Gen. Graves was called "Little Hickory". They had children Barzillai J., Frances married James L. McKee, Dr. James Thomas Graves, Mary Ursula Graves married George W. Pinnix, and John Henry Franklin Graves (1841-1863) who served as asst. clerk under his father, was killed at battle of Chancellorsville.

Sources: Wills of Caswell Co.; marriages of Caswell Co.; minutes of Baptist churches; deeds of Caswell Co.

— Katharine Kerr Kendall

## EARL HAMILTON GRAVES, III 260

Terry Graves, great-grandson of Logan Lorenthus and Adele Homer White Harralson and grandson of Allen Harralson, was born August 19, 1956. He was the 1st child born to Allene Belle Harralson and Earle Hamilton Graves, Jr. who were married at Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Caswell County. Terry's zest of life and interest in living a full quality life can serve as an inspiration to generations in the future. A story written by Rod Hackney which appeared in the *Greensboro Daily News* best tells of this young man's life.

Terry Graves grew up in Candor as the son of two schoolteachers. His father, Earl Graves, was a history teacher and ex-basketball and tennis coach at East Montgomery High School in nearby Biscoe. Allene, his mother, is a read-

ing teacher at Candor Elementary.

Even as a youngster, young Graves was interested in people and the community, his father recalled. He established his popularity early and was chosen President of his freshman and sophomore classes at East Montgomery. He was elected student government president his senior year in 1974.

Graves played basketball and tennis under his Dad and was named all-conference and team MVP in tennis his senior season.

It was during high school that Graves began working after school and summers at Steed's Nursery in Candor. He became fascinated with plants and landscaping, and after high school decided to attend N.C. State University. There he carried a double major in horticulture and turf management.

Following his graduation from college, where he was a Dean's List student, he received a scholarship to Monrovia Nursery near Los Angeles, the largest potted plant nursery in the world. He returned to Candor and worked for Steed's for three more years before deciding to open his own business in 1979.

Graves' Carolina Landscape Group quickly became a successful enterprise, doing work for businesses and individuals primarily in the Southern Pines and Pinehurst areas.

Long an active member of his church, Graves already had become a lay speaker and the youngest person ever to sit on the church's administrative board by 1979. He had also served as a scout master, treasurer of the Montgomery County Jaycees and as a volunteer for such causes as the Big Buddy Program, the American Cancer Society and the Montgomery County United Services.

In November of 1979, he became the youngest person ever elected to the Candor City Council as his interest in the community and in politics continued to grow. In December of that year, he was diagnosed as having acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL), a type of leukemia that most often strikes young children.



Earl Hamilton Graves, III and his sister Sandra Lynn Graves.