

# North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society

## Winter, 2015

**Friday-Saturday, April 10-11**

### **Exploring Colonial North Carolina -- Edenton**

The Spring Tour for 2015 brings the North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society to the tidewater region of the Albemarle Sound and northeastern North Carolina in New Hope Presbytery. This area is rich in beauty and history—but not in Presbyterians! What was colonial religion like where the Church of England was dominant? The Society will be making our first visit to this area as we kick off our 51<sup>st</sup> year.



Penelope Barker House, ca. 1782

<http://ncpedia.org/edenton>

The tour will begin with our gathering on the waterfront in the beautiful town of Edenton. The Penelope Barker House is home to the Edenton Historical Commission and its visitors' center, and registration will take place here. A time for socializing and a tour of the facility will be a part of our visit. Please make yourself at home in "Edenton's Living Room" as you enjoy the views of the water.

Edenton was founded in 1712 and incorporated in 1722 as the first colonial capital of North Carolina. Located at the head of Albemarle Sound, Edenton is the second oldest town in North Carolina (Bath being the oldest), and served as a center of trade with the other colonies and trade routes prior to the Revolution. Edenton sported many brick houses and one of the finest brick public courthouses in the fledgling colonies.

Today, Edenton considers itself one of the most beautiful small towns in America, and we are

fortunate to visit in the early spring to witness this beauty. We will walk around the beautiful historic areas, ride a trolley through the lovely streets, and enjoy the newest resident of the waterfront, the restored Roanoke River lighthouse. Built in 1886 at the mouth of the Roanoke River, it was decommissioned in 1941, became a private residence, and fell into disrepair. In 2007 the original structure was moved by barge to the Edenton waterfront. Lovingly restored, it was opened to the public in the summer of 2014.

The Historic Edenton State Historic Site is located a few blocks north of downtown. It is located in a pink house that once was the home of the slave later known as Harriet Jacobs. She was born in Edenton in 1813 and escaped by sea in 1842, Edenton being part of the maritime underground railroad. Under a pseudonym she wrote her autobiography, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (published in 1861), which described many of the same scenes we will see.

We will tour other properties under the auspices of the Historic Edenton State Historic Site, including St. Paul's Church, the Cupola House, the James Iredell House, and the Chowan County Courthouse (1767).

In 1700 the Church of England became the established church in North Carolina. The parish of



St. Paul's was organized in Edenton the next year, and the complete set of vestry minutes has survived, beginning in 1701. These tell a great deal about religion and local government in colonial NC, as members of the vestry were elected and were responsible for the poor as well as the church. The churchyard was begun in

1722, and many notable citizens of the colony were buried there. Many of the 700 graves are not marked, however. The church building was not begun until 1736 and took over 40 years to complete. It is the second oldest church in North Carolina, after St. Thomas's in Bath.

In 1712 the colonial Assembly authorized a town to be laid out on Queen Anne's Creek and the building of a courthouse in which they could meet. The present courthouse was built in 1767 and is the third on the site. It is the finest Georgian courthouse in the South. Edenton was incorporated in 1722 and named for Gov. Charles Eden, who had just died.

The Cupola House is an architectural gem, built in 1758 for the Earl of Granville's agent, Francis Corbin. Its colonial gardens should be beautiful in April.

James Iredell's house was begun in 1776 and expanded about 1816. He was one of the original justices on the Supreme Court, appointed by President Washington and serving from 1790 to 1799. His son was born in this house and served as governor of North Carolina from 1827 to 1828.

In contrast to St. Paul's Episcopal, Edenton's First Presbyterian Church was founded in 1905 by Albemarle Presbytery and is the only Presbyterian church in Chowan County. The beautiful and modern brick church is located at 200 Moseley Street.

Several historic events will be explored during our visit, including the Edenton Tea Party. On October 25, 1774, many ladies of Edenton met to express their support for the growing protest against taxation without representation. In the process, they participated in one of the first organized women's political actions in the history of our nation. The meeting was led by Penelope Barker and held at the home of Elizabeth King, where 51 women signed an agreement to give up newly taxed British tea and other goods, in support of resolves passed by the First Provincial Congress in New Bern two months earlier.

Several of the lesser-known "Founding Fathers" were residents of Edenton. Such notables as Joseph Hewes (member of the Continental Congress and signer of the Declaration of Independence), Samuel Johnston (governor and first U.S. Senator from North Carolina), and Hugh Williamson (physician and signer of the U.S. Constitution) were one-time citizens of Edenton.

Recent discoveries related to The Lost Colony have revealed in the general area of Edenton in present day Bertie County. Perhaps members of the Sir Walter Raleigh party or the Ralph Lane colony walked the same ground that we will cover during our visit! A touch of mystery, beauty, history, and fun will be ours as we visit Edenton. For details and registration, see pp. 6-7. ~



Photo by Sam Martin

### **Annual Fall Meeting, Oct. 10, 2015**

This fall our society has been invited to meet at the historic Summerville Presbyterian Church in Harnett County. Organized as Tirzah Presbyterian in 1811, the church served the growing numbers of Scottish immigrants, many of whom are buried in its large cemetery. The Summer Villa plantation nearby was the home of one of its early pastors, Neill McKay. Today the congregation still meets in the perfectly preserved 1849 sanctuary, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Plan to join us there!

### **PHC Symposium: Great Awakenings**

This year's North American Symposium at the Presbyterian Heritage Center in Montreat will be "Great Awakenings: Evangelists and Their Impact on Culture," to be held on Friday and Saturday, May 29-30, 2015. The conference will be a broad survey of evangelism in America, from the colonial revivals sparked by George Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards, through the nineteenth century frontier revivals and the influence of leaders such as Charles G. Finney and Dwight L. Moody, to more recent figures such as Billy Sunday, Billy Graham, and a host of others. Topics will include evangelists at Montreat, and the influence of women such as Fanny Crosby on American evangelicalism. A new PHC exhibit on American evangelism will open at that time.

The symposium will run from Friday at 1:00 pm to Saturday noon. For NCPHS members, the registration cost is only \$85 per person, a discount from the normal \$100 per person fee. This fee covers attendance, symposium materials, a Friday reception at the Heritage Center, Friday dinner and Saturday breakfast. Hotel room reservations at Montreat are available at \$85 per room. You can register online at [www.montreat.org/great-awakenings/](http://www.montreat.org/great-awakenings/) or by calling toll free 800-572-2257. Credit cards are acceptable, or checks can be sent to Montreat Conference Center, PO Box 969, Montreat, NC, 28757. Please identify yourself as a NCPHS member when registering. ~

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### Awards:

**If you know of a recently published church history or a completed church history project that you feel is worthy of consideration for an award,** please send the book or a description of the project to Awards Chairman Mrs. Sheila Brewer, 915 Evans Dr., Sanford, NC 27330. Her contact information is above. Awards are given in the spring for works published or completed in the previous year or in a recent year.

### Report on the January Board Meeting

The NCPHS Board of Directors met on January 24, 2015, at the home of Rev. and Mrs. Thomas Spence in Sanford. We welcomed two new officers who were elected last fall. Mrs. Sheila Brewer of Sanford is our new Awards Chair. Sheila was born in Scotland and is a member of Buffalo Church,

where she often gives talks to groups visiting the historic church. Mrs. Brenda Spence is now our secretary again, a post she had filled so well before.

Program Chairman Sam Martin presented plans for a wonderful spring tour in Edenton on April 10-11. Tom Spence then proposed Summerville church in Harnett Co. as a location for our fall annual meeting on October 10, 2015. After hearing about this historic church, the board approved this proposal. Sam is also making plans for an extra excursion this summer to see *Liberty Mountain*, the new historical drama at Kings Mountain, written by Bob Inman, former news anchor in Charlotte.

Discussion then turned to the awards our society gives for church histories and historical projects. We would like to do more to encourage the writing of well-researched histories and creative historical projects that help a congregation celebrate a significant anniversary. Proposals included development of a one-day workshop on the writing of a church history, covering the highlights of how to get started, what are the available sources, what to include, and examples of excellent histories. Such a workshop could be given in each presbytery. Another program could be on the planning of anniversary celebrations. It was also suggested that we develop a program or workshop on the preservation of church records, perhaps in collaboration with the State Archives.

The officers agreed that our website needs to be revised. Newsletter editor Barbara Cain will seek input on additional content to be made available. •

### Preservation of Records and Artifacts

The State Archives of North Carolina has begun a Traveling Archivist Program, primarily to assist small institutions that have records and/or artifacts that relate to NC history and culture, but have limited resources to care for them. The archivist surveys the collection and advises on preservation of the materials, providing better access, security, etc. If your church has materials of historic interest that are on display and open to the public, you may qualify for this professional assistance. To read last year's guidelines and application (due in Sept.), enter "NCDCR TAP guidelines" in your search engine, or call the State Archives.~

## Significant Church Anniversaries in 2015

Each year our society recognizes and congratulates those PCUSA congregations in North Carolina that have reached a noteworthy anniversary of their founding. Our program chairman, Mr. Sam Martin, will be delivering certificates of recognition to each of the following:

### Presbytery of Charlotte

**McClintock Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC** **150 years**

### Presbytery of New Hope

**Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, Rocky Mount, NC** **100 years**

**Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, Kenly, NC** **100 years**

**Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, Lucama, NC** **100 years**

### Salem Presbytery

**Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Ruffin, NC** **250 years**

Congratulations to these congregations! And do let us know about any published histories or historical projects completed as part of your celebration.

### How NOT to celebrate!

It is with sadness we report that the First Presbyterian Church of Swannanoa celebrated its 220<sup>th</sup> anniversary on October 25, 2014, and closed the same day. It is thought to have been the oldest organized congregation of any denomination in what is now Buncombe Co., organized in 1794. There are over 1700 graves in the beautiful Piney Grove Cemetery surrounding the church, including those of Dr. and Mrs. Nelson Bell, parents of Ruth Graham. Our society shared an evening meal with members there during our tour in 2010. Plans are to incorporate the cemetery in order to protect it, and to sell the church building.~

## A Great Historical Resource On-Line

Among the many resources available on-line for researching congregational or personal history is one that is often overlooked -- **Google Books**, which can be accessed by simply entering "Google books" in the search engine. Enter a word or phrase in the initial Search box, and Google will instantly search for it in all the millions of books and periodicals that they have digitized, and will present you with a list of works that contain that word or phrase. Clicking on a book will usually bring you to the pages where the word or phrase is found. Sometimes only snippets of the book can be read, but more often the book can be browsed for the full context of the reference. If a book containing it cannot be read at all on-line, information about the book is given, including the number of pages that contain that term.

For example, a search for the term "Henry Pattillo" will list first a reprint of his *Geographical Catechism*, which is fully readable on-line, and then his *Sermons*, printed in 1788, which is not. Entry of the name in that spelling and in the other standard spelling, "Henry Patillo," will bring up many more references to him in a great variety of older and more recent works, including an interesting description of him at the age of 74, printed in the *Connecticut Evangelical Magazine* of Dec. 1800.

If one of the books is a free ebook, you can click on the word "Read" that appears after the date of the book. That will bring you to the beginning of the book rather than a page on which your reference appears. You can then scroll down the pages on-line, or, by clicking the tools symbol in the upper right-hand corner, you can download the book in PDF.

To go to a book directly, enter "Google books advanced search" into your search engine. On that page you can choose "Full view only" and can search by title, author, etc.

Among the myriad of books that are fully searchable are printed histories of the Presbyterian Church; printed records such as General Assembly minutes; many individual church histories; the *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*; county histories; will abstracts; genealogical works, etc. Enter the name of your church, and you are likely to find a surprising variety of references. ~



## Notes on our 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting



This very special meeting took place in the very Presbyterian county of Mecklenburg, at the lovely church called Ramah. We really enjoyed touring the church and its extensive cemetery, as well as its large 1930s log hut used for Bible classes, social functions, and scouts.

The most important part of the meeting, however, was the program – a long and free-wheeling discussion of the North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society, its past and its future. As a starting point, Sam Martin handed out questions for us to think about and write out our responses, which we did. Then, however, the discussion took off. Your editor was asked to take note and write up a summary for all the membership, so here it is.

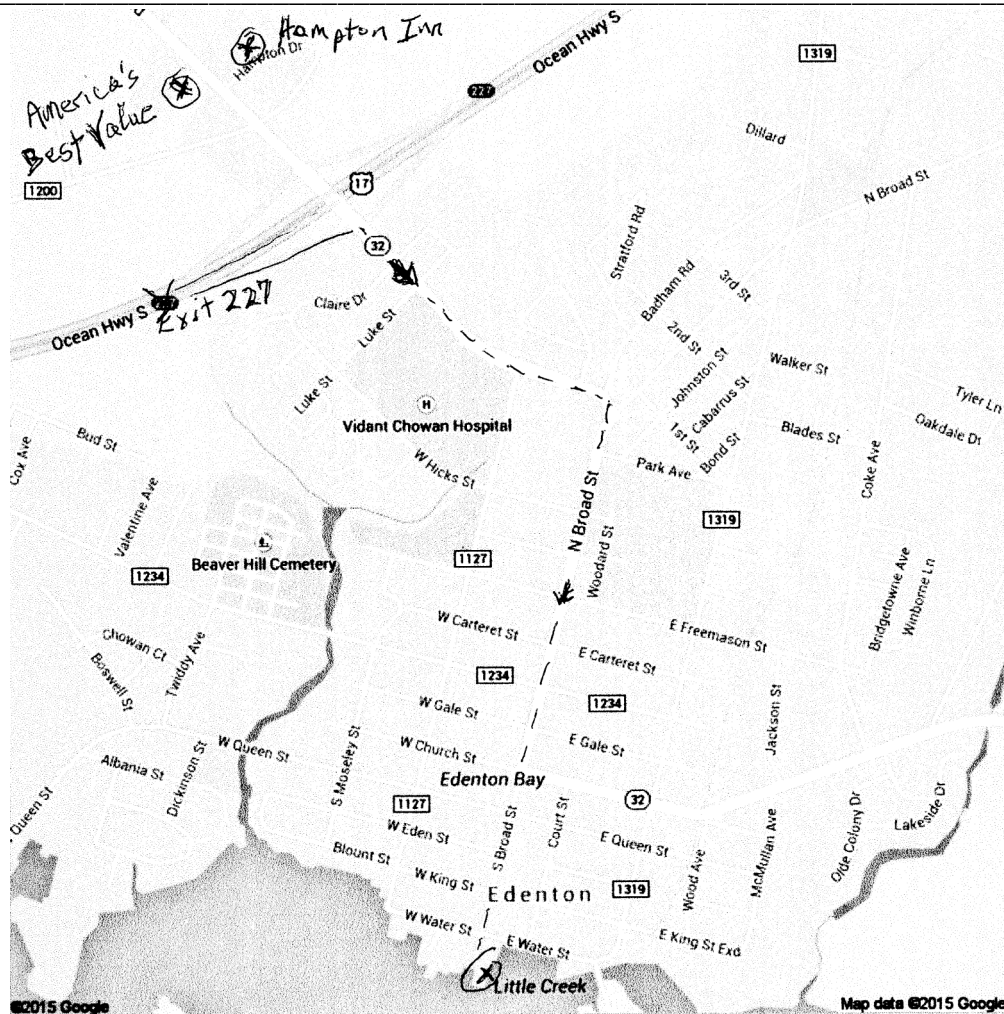
Our brainstorming resulted in many suggestions for outreach and events. Will you join the conversation?

1. Develop programs about Presbyterian history that could be given at Presbyterian and other retirement homes. Hand out brochures and talk to the events planner at each place about the possibility of their bringing a van to join us on one of our excursions in their area.
2. Many churches have fellowship groups for older adults, who might also be interested in a program about some aspect of Presbyterian history or simply information about our society and upcoming events. There are also adult study groups such as the Questers, which is active in Sanford.
3. At the presbytery level, we could present about the importance of Presbyterian history to the meetings of Presbyterian Women, who are writing about their history every year, and perhaps at staff development workshops.
4. We should do more to involve Presbyterian colleges in the state and their historians – for example, a tour including Johnson C. Smith, Queens, and Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte. A program about Presbyterian history relating to higher education might interesting for the Presbyterian Student Centers.
5. We should work more closely with the Presbyterian Heritage Center in Montreat, especially to develop workshops on writing a church history. We should also publicize what they are doing and help them build resources. [One suggestion in the discussion was that we should develop material for Sunday School classes, but the latest newsletter of the PHC says that they are doing just that.]
6. We should include more about the history of African-American Presbyterians in our state, and about their churches and colleges. McClintock Presbyterian Church in Charlotte will be celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and is looking for both information about the church and ideas for the celebration.
7. If possible, we should find out about upcoming church celebrations and let people know about them – perhaps through emails to our members and also via our website. But how to find out about these in a timely way?
8. We should reach out to the Associate Reformed Presbyterians about our meetings.
9. We need to settle on the dates of meetings and tours a year or two ahead of time, so they can be on everyone's calendar. Suggestions for future tours included the Nutbush/Grassy Creek area, the area around Ashpole, colleges in Charlotte, and possibly a tour of churches in South Carolina.
10. We could schedule occasional events outside the usual spring and fall meetings, such as a summer trip to Kings Mountain for the play "Liberty Mountain" by Bob Inman.
11. Finally, we must re-do our website to make updating it easier, to make space for more photos, to allow for church anniversaries and events to be posted, and to provide information and references for Presbyterian history in North Carolina.

We ran out of time to discuss some of Sam's other questions. They are printed on the next page, and we would very much like for you to send in your responses along with your dues renewal and registration for the spring meeting.

Please think about these questions and send us your thoughts along with your dues!

1. In your experience, when was the NCPHS the most vibrant, active, and involved? What was going on? What was your role?
2. If money was no object, how would you suggest that membership be increased?
3. What programs would you like to see the NCPHS initiate or develop more fully?
4. What is the most meaningful facet of being a member of NCPHS?
5. Where would you like to go for NCPHS meetings, activities, and/or tours?
6. How do you see the NCPHS in 10 years?



Barker House

Directions to Edenton: From Raleigh, take US 64 East. Before Williamston, US 17 joins US 64. Continue on US 17 North toward Elizabeth City. After crossing the Chowan River, take Exit 227 to Virginia Road. Turn left if you want to go to the motel first. Motels are across Virginia Road from each other. For the Penelope Barker House, turn right on Virginia Road, then right on Broad St. to the waterfront.

#### Motels:

America's Best Value Inn	501 Virginia Road	(252) 482-2017	Approx. \$67 to \$79, incl. taxes
Hampton Inn	115 Hampton Drive	(252) 482-3500	Approx. \$116 incl. taxes

## North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society Edenton Tour

### Friday, April 10, 2015

12:00 noon	Registration at <b>Penelope Barker House, 505 S. Broad St.</b>
1:00	Tour of Barker House and waterfront
2:30	Trolley Tour of Edenton
4:00	First Presbyterian Church, 200 S. Moseley St.
	Check-in at motel
6:30	Dinner at Nothing Fancy Café and Market, 701C North Broad Street
9:00	Board Meeting at motel

### Saturday, April 11, 2015

7:00-8:30	Breakfast and check-out at motel
9:00	Historic Edenton Tour, 108 N. Broad St. (House of Harriet Jacobs Chowan County Courthouse, 117 E. King St. Cupola House, 408 S. Broad St. St. Paul's Episcopal Church and churchyard, W. Church St. & N. Broad Iredell House, 107 E. Church St.)
12:00	Lunch and brief business meeting at 309 Bistro and Spirits, 309 Broad Street
2:30	Adjourn

Registration: \$21.00. (Tours are included, but not meals.) Suggested accommodations and map are on the opposite page.

Please send form below and check (payable to NCPHS) by April 4 to NCPHS, P.O. Box 20804, Raleigh, NC 27619-0804. If you have questions, please contact our Program Chairman Sam Martin, (910) 428-4165, [smartin8@embarqmail.com](mailto:smartin8@embarqmail.com).

### **Registration, Spring Tour, April 10-11, 2015**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of registrations \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$21 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dues if included (Individual \$15; Family \$20; Individual Life Membership, \$125): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Please send this form with your check (made out to NCPHS) **by April 1** to NCPHS, P.O. Box 20804, Raleigh, NC 27619-0804.

**Please also send or bring your responses to the questions on p. 6. This is an ongoing discussion!**

**If you can do so, please put the following announcement in your church bulletin or newsletter:**

**The North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society** will hold its **Annual Spring Tour** on Friday and Saturday, April 10-11, in the beautiful colonial town of Edenton. Many of our colonial and state leaders lived there, as well as the slave and later author, Harriet Jacobs. We will visit historic houses, a restored lighthouse, the colonial courthouse, St. Paul's Episcopal (organized 1701) as well as First Presbyterian, and will learn about colonial religion in an area with few Presbyterians. Please join us for a memorable tour. Registration is only \$21. The schedule, registration form, and address are on our website at [www.ncphsociety.org](http://www.ncphsociety.org), or contact Program Chair Sam Martin at (910) 428-4165.

\*\*\*\* If you haven't paid your 2015 dues yet, please send them with the registration form. Individual \$15  
Family \$20; Individual Life Membership, \$125. \*\*\*\*

North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society  
P.O. Box 20804  
Raleigh, NC 27619-0804

**Springtime in Edenton! April 10-11, 2015**  
See registration form on p. 7.