

THE LINCOLN COUNTY HISTORIAN



2020
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Paul Haynes represents the third generation of Lincoln County's Haynes Dairy family. He proudly shows off his extensive collection of vintage Haynes Dairy milk bottles and Borden's memorabilia in his personal "Mooseum," along with photos from his family's century-plus business. His latest acquisition is a vintage Pet Milk truck. Photo by Matt Donnelly

Family Cowoperation has Made Haynes Dairy a Century of Success

Elsie the Borden Cow would be so proud of Haynes Dairy, now beginning its 106th year.

Paul Haynes Jr. is equally proud of his family heritage and four generations of a family-run business.

According to Haynes, the story actually began with his great grandfather, Civil War veteran John Franklin Haynes. The land was at one time part of a huge tract owned by the Hartsoe family of Maiden. John Franklin married Barbara Frances Hartsoe and had 10 children. Harbin, their youngest, and Paul Jr.'s grandfather, would milk the cows and transport his milk by horse and wagon to the Russell Blanton Creamery in Lincolnton. To make it a little

more profitable, he also began collecting milk from other farmers and for a fee would transport their milk as well. It was 1914. In 1926 he decided to process, instead of hauling, raw milk, and formed and became proprietor of Haynes Dairy Grade A Products. At that time, Haynes Dairy was the only brand of processed milk in Lincoln County.

Harbin and wife Bessie had three children, Albert, Paul, and Margaret (Dellinger). All three children worked in the family business from the time they were young.

They delivered house to house, leaving the glass bottles of milk in a "cold box" on the porch and picking up the empty bottles.

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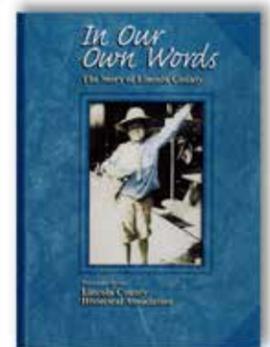
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- recognition in our newsletter
- membership in the LCHA
- exclusive invitations to special events

Your generous contribution is tax deductible.

Contact us at
LincolnCountyHistoryNC@gmail.com.

Good Reads



In Our Own Words, The Story of Lincoln County. Presented by the Lincoln Historical Association in 2006.

Reduced to \$30. Available on our website (add S&H) and in the office.

Letters to the Association

From Melissa Cordell

"I want to look at old high school yearbooks since 1950. Do you have copies?"

Old high school yearbooks make great historical records and sometimes just interesting browsing. The Historical Association has some, and the Lincoln County Room at the Lincoln County Library has a collection. DigitalNC has an extensive and constantly growing collection of yearbooks at www.DigitalNC.org/collections/yearbooks/. They include:

- Lincolnton High School "The Pine Burr" 1922-1962
- Newbold High School "The Panther" 1963
- Union High School "The Acorn" 1947-1961 47-61

From Kimberly Kurtz

"What can you tell me about the history of the Wallace Alexander house at 613 South Aspen Street?"

According to research and interviews conducted in 2001 by local historian Ann Dellinger, James T. Alexander conveyed a 10-acre tract of land and a "new house lately erected" to his son Wallace for the sum of \$100. The 1852 deed described the property as adjoining the Town of Lincolnton "on the south side of said town." Built on a center hall, double pile floor plan, the one story house with fine Greek Revival details became the home of Wallace H. Alexander and his family. Alexander was born in 1824 and like his father was employed as a saddle and harness maker. In 1850 he married Mary Royal Robertson of Caswell County, NC, and upon their marriage received six Negroes from the slave holdings of the Robertson family.



By 1858, Alexander had accumulated a great deal of debt. In 1859, to make a "family settlement of property," he conveyed to a trustee all land, house, outbuildings, five slaves, one mule, one wagon, one carryall, one buggy, and all personal property to be held in trust for his wife and present and future children.

Alexander died June 1, 1872 and was buried in the old Emmanuel Lutheran cemetery. Mary and her children continued to live in the home. For extra income, she took in a boarder, Martha "Mattie" A. Robinson of Selma, Alabama, who was attending private school in the area.

Daughter Ella married Charles H. Motz in 1884 and lived with her mother in the home on South Aspen, raising two children. In 1896, Mary died in her home and was buried in the Methodist cemetery beside her youngest child, Frank, who died in 1888. After her death, her surviving mentally handicapped son, George, moved to Caswell County to live with his maternal aunt, Sallie Robertson.

In 1917 George, by his aunt and guardian Sallie, along with A.H. Motz, and Mary R. Fountain, petitioned the Lincoln County Superior Court for a sale of the house and lands now listed as 31.5 undeveloped acres. The property was conveyed by the petitioners to Charles A. Jonas of Lincoln County. The selling price was \$12,000.

Just one week later, the title changed hands when Jonas conveyed the property to L.A. Crowell for "five thousand dollars and other valuable considerations." Dr. Lester A. Crowell was a prominent local physician and co-founder of Lincoln County's first hospital. Part of the Alexander lands were utilized for new residential housing, while the house lot was surveyed as measuring 110 feet by 225 feet.

The eldest son of Dr. Lester and Mary Crowell, Gordon Bryan Crowell, entered the University of North Carolina for a medical degree, but his studies were interrupted when he enlisted in the Army Medical Corps in 1917. After serving ten months in France, he set out to continue his education and in 1921 married Frances Geitner of Hickory. Dr. Crowell and Mary lived in Philadelphia while he completed medical school.

In 1922, the Crowell parents conveyed the house and lot to their daughter-in-law Frances G. Crowell, and the young couple moved into the Wallace Alexander house. They had a daughter in 1923, and in 1926, Gordon became ill with influenza and died. Just one month after his death, Frances gave birth to their second child and moved to Hickory to live with her parents until the Carters moved in.

The house was rented. During the 1930s, Walter L. and Pearl Abernethy and their four children lived there. In 1935, Frances Crowell (now remarried to J. Frank Davidson) sold the house and lot to Ralph W. Carter, owner of a local insurance company. Although the house had changed hands, the Abernethy family continued to rent the house for several more years.

The house held a special memory for Mrs. Carter. It was her mother, Mattie Robinson Anthony who, as a student, boarded with the Alexander family so many years ago. A newspaper obituary for Mattie Anthony indicates that when she died in 1940, it was at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Ralph W. Carter.

Ralph Carter died in 1985 and his wife in 1991. The house became the property of Joey Houser in 1992. Houser made a number of cosmetic renovations, with the only structural change the removal of a closet in the den to provide access to the hallway. In 1995 the house was for sale again. It has changed hands several times since then.

The Wallace H. Alexander House is listed as part of the South Aspen Street National Register Historic District.

The Lincoln County Historian is published six times a year by the Lincoln County Historical Association for LCHA members and contributors.

Story submissions and ideas for upcoming issues are welcomed and encouraged.

Our future goal is to distribute our newsletter via email only. If you prefer a printed copy, please let us know.

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Office Hours

The Lincoln County Historical Association, located on the third floor the Lincoln Cultural Center, 403 East Main Street, is open from Noon until 5 on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday and other hours by appointment.



Photo by Matt Donnelly

Payseur Presents a Collection of Personal Stories by NC Slaves

On February 11 Steve Payseur, local writer and editor, presented his edited works, NC Slave Narratives Volumes 1 and 2, to LCHA members and friends.

As part of the Federal Writers' Project of the Work Progress Administration during the 1930s, interviewers set out to record the stories of ex-slaves, and created The Slave Narrative Collection. More than 2000 people were interviewed, and the result became what could be described as the most enduring projects of the WPA. Stories were compiled in 17 states, but Payseur's two volumes represent personal accounts from North Carolina.

Payseur shared the stories of both cruelty and kindness that made up the slave experience and shared a number of individual stories. Questions and discussion followed the presentation.

Payseur's books are available on Amazon or call him at 704-807-0036.

Museum Renovation Update

A heavy weight was lifted from our shoulders when Lloyd Rosdahl, Inc. and the County moved the Stephen Dodson Ramseur gravestone from the Museum to its new and permanent home outside of the Lincoln Cultural Center.

This gravestone was once located in the St. Luke's Episcopal Church cemetery, but took a very hard hit during Hurricane Hugo, chipping off several corners. A new stone was erected in its place, and the damaged one was moved to the Museum. Following the Museum flood, the gravestone was sitting on a square of moldy carpet, and had to be moved to continue the work. It has been difficult to find a company that had the right equipment to move the very heavy artifact. With the stone now in its new home, the County can move forward with repairs, and soon we'll have a "new" Museum with new exhibits for all to enjoy.



Photo by Carole Howell

Recent Acquisitions

2019.037 by Betty Wyrick

Collection includes an original framed painting by artist Lem Nolen of a white house with white trees and fields; a black and white framed photo of Nolen; and a plate depicting Crouse and the Nolen home painted on a plate by Elizabeth Nolen Tharp.

Reunion and Homecoming Research

It's not too early to begin thinking about upcoming family reunions and church homecoming celebrations. Send us your date and location, and let us help you research family or church history to share with your group. Call the LCHA Office at 704-748-9090 or drop an email to LincolnCountyHistoryNC@gmail.com.

Since 1987, Women's History Month has been set aside in March to honor women's contributions to culture, art, science, and history.

Lincolnton's own Alda Keener Crow stitched her way from a childhood of flour sack dresses to a reputation as a designer who attracted attention of statewide as well as Saks Fifth Avenue, and Ivey's.

She was a talented seamstress who could cut directly from the fabric to create unique masterpieces of French lace and silk organza. Her reputation as a dress designer for three NC Governor's wives made Lincolnton an unlikely fashion destination.

In what started as a greasy garage, her shop was located for years at the corner of Oak and Main, right next to a carwash; an inauspicious location for a nationally recognized fashion designer. The name on the building was simply Alda Crowe, the "e" being added for extra flair, the shop drew customers from all over.



Photo courtesy: NC Museum of History

One-of-a kind occasion dresses were her specialty. Prom and debutant ball gowns with hoop skirts and yards of ruffles, strapless May Day gowns and elegant wedding dresses now grace many closets in Lincolnton and beyond. Crowe's inaugural gowns are now part of a permanent display in Raleigh.

Crowe was known as a savvy business woman with an eye for predicting fashion trends for the New York buyer, yet she chose to stay and work in her hometown. She once said, "I've been offered lots of jobs in New York, but I really couldn't leave my family." Several local seamstresses made their living sewing for Crowe.

In 1970, she and husband John built what is now known as the Alda Crowe Mansion. The 12,000 square foot home was her passion and her pride. Architect Richard Gillespie designed the house to her specifications, patterned after Carter's Grove Plantation near Williamsburg and it took four years to build. It sits on 50 acres off of Highway 150 in Lincoln County. The Lifetime movie *My Stepmom, My Lover* (also known as *Love, Murder, and Deceit*) was filmed in part at the mansion.

Crowe died in 1988 at the age of 81, leaving her mark with a rags to riches story that once put Lincolnton on the map for fashion.



First Lady Carolyn Leonard Hunt wore this coral silk gown to her husband's second inaugural ball in 1981. Designer Alda Crowe of Lincolnton made the tiered frock with tapered sleeves, rose belt, and a surplice neckline using re-embroidered lace. Photo courtesy: NC Museum of History



Paul Haynes Sr. was the second generation of the Haynes family to operate the dairy, which evolved into Paul's Distributing Company delivering Borden milk and ice cream to local stores. Haynes Family photo.

Customers would write their special orders for sour cream and whipping cream on slips of paper and stick them in top of a bottle.

In the mid-40s Harbin retired, leaving his son, Paul Sr., in charge of the dairy.

"By the end of Dad's Haynes Dairy days, we weren't milking cows, but buying milk from other local farmers, processing and delivering it," says Paul Jr. "It was hard work, and the entire family was involved, including Albert, Margaret, and Grandma. My mother, Alma, ran the laboratory, testing the raw milk for quality, and the final product after processing. She also made the butter and cottage cheese."

Paul Jr. remembers that as a small boy about age six, he would help carry the crates of empty bottles and deliver them to Lester Holly, the bottle washer.

"Daddy never talked about paying me, but when I finished, I could go in the cooler and get Haynes Dairy chocolate milk and Green Spot Orange drink. I never could decide which I liked the best, so I'd drink two or three chocolates and two or three orange drinks."

"Dad figured out that processing and bottling milk on a small scale was a thing of the past, and turned his attention to delivering milk for Borden. He named the new business Paul's Distributing Company." They delivered house to house as well as small independent grocery stores. Albert and John Haynes did deliveries.

As Paul Jr. got older, he realized the kind of sacrifices it takes to run a family business.

"Growing up, I was with my Daddy every Saturday, and in the summer every day. When football season came, I was Captain of the team at Lincolnton. One day a fellow that was running the house to house route for us quit and Daddy told me he needed me to do it. I reminded him that Coach Von Ray Harris would not appreciate the captain quitting the team to run a milk route, but football was second in his eyes.

"The route started at midnight, and if everything went smoothly, I would get home at 6:30 with just enough time to clean up and get to school. From Monday through Thursday, we were on the practice field. I'd get home at 5:30, eat supper, do homework, get a few hours of sleep, and start again at midnight.

Paul Jr. was determined to become a teacher and football coach, but when his father died at age 50 while on his route, he left teaching to join his uncle Albert and his mother in running the business, and he's still there. Paul Jr.'s wife Cecelia now serves as bookkeeper, and his oldest son, Kane, is following in his father's footsteps as the fourth generation.

"There's a fifth generation, but we don't know what they want to do, and we don't worry about that. If one of our grandchildren would like to take it up, that would be okay too, but we won't force it on anybody. It's a lot of hard work, and if it's not in your blood, it would be hard to take on as a career. Like everything, there have been good times and bad times, but the real key to our longevity has always been family."

— Carole Howell



Through a century, the Haynes family has kept the business in the family with most family members pitching in at one time or another. Margaret Haynes, Paul Sr.'s sister, was Lincolnton's first "milkwoman." Haynes Family photo.

Upcoming Events

- April 26** "I Love to Tell the Story," an oral history workshop with tips on starting conversations with your loved ones and recording them for future generations. Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Cultural Center Second Floor Community Room. No charge. Donations encouraged. Call 704-748-9090 to register.
- May 12** What was the Battle of Ramsour's Mill all about? View "The White Paper," followed by Q&A discussion with the Thunder Over Carolina cast. Tuesday at 7 p.m., Cultural Center Reception Hall. No charge. Donations encouraged.
- June is Heritage Month**
- June 6 & 7** Battle of Ramsour's Mill Weekend: 240th anniversary of the battle – Revolutionary War encampment and reenactment, demonstrations, Ghost Walk on Friday and Saturday nights, SAR and DAR wreath-laying ceremony at the mass gravesite at 10 a.m. on Saturday.
- June 19-21** Thunder Over Carolina – Historical drama based on the Battle of Ramsour's Mill, Lincoln County's Revolutionary War battle. June 19-21 at James W. Warren Citizen's Center, 115 W. Main St., Lincolnton. Performance times and ticket prices TBA.
- July 10-11** Mid-Year Pottery Market at Lincoln Cultural Center. Catawba Valley and utilitarian pottery by local artists. Admission \$5.

New and Renewed Memberships

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
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Members added after Feb. 29 will appear in the May-June issue.

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- Rebecca Alson in memory of Dr. S.E. Richbourg
- Dewey Henderson in memory of Hollis Henderson
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LINCOLN COUNTY
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

403 East Main St.
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currently closed
for renovation.**

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Other hours by
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LINCOLN
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Please join us in our mission to research, record, document, and promote the history of Lincolnton and Lincoln County. All members and contributors receive our bi-monthly newsletter as well as advance notice and invitations to special exhibits and events.

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If you prefer Paypal, visit our website at: LincolnCountyHistory.com/membership

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