



# NEWSLETTER

BRUNSWICK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
PO BOX 874, SHALLOTTE, NC 28459

VOLUME XLVII

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## MAY MEETING TO BE HELD AT BEMC IN SUPPLY, NC MAY 14, 2007 7:30 P. M.

**The next meeting** of the Brunswick County Historical Society will be held at the Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation Building , 795 Ocean Highway West, Supply, NC. The meeting begins at 7:30 P. M. Refreshments will be served at 7:15 P. M. **We always meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in February, May, August and November.**

**The speakers will be** Miller Pope. He has just completed a book on Brunswick County, NC , "Tales of the Silver Coast, A Secret History of Brunswick County." He moved to Brunswick County in 1975 with his wife Helen. He is an accomplished illustrator with works appearing in such magazines as Leatherneck, Glamour, Seventeen, Blue Book, and Reader's Digest. He was elected to the Society of Illustrators as its youngest member in 1957. Mr. Pope is the owner of The Winds resort on Ocean Isle Beach.

**The Treasurer reports** a bank balance of \$1,569.99. This bank balance is as of May 1, 2007. The editor prints and mails the Newsletter before the May bank statement arrives. Total membership stands at 74. This includes 16 Life Members. Newsletters are sent to 5 libraries, 1 historical society and 1 state historic site. For \$100 one can become a life member and never have to worry about dues again. Today, this is truly a bargain. Talk with your friends and invite them to the next meeting. Don't assume they know about the society. We are receiving good publicity due to Jarvis Baillargeon and the meeting notices he places in area newspapers.

### Society Officers 2007-2009

President: Glenn Kye  
Vice- President: James Green  
Secretary: Annette Phelps  
Treasurer: Gwen Causey  
Directors: Sheldon Pigott, Tammy Sellers, Dave Lewis  
Newsletter Editor: Gwen Causey  
Refreshments:  
Publicity: Jarvis Baillargeon

**MISSION STATEMENT:** To collect, preserve, study, evaluate and publicize the history of Brunswick County, NC. To devote meetings to presentation of materials about Brunswick County and the Lower Cape Fear through lectures, slides, and discussion. To publish a newsletter which contains news of the Society's activities, research papers and articles that pertain to genealogy.

## DID YOU KNOW HENRY?

Henry Gray was born May 12, 1888, about one-half mile from the Old Ferry location, on the north side. Educational opportunities were limited in those days and less interesting than fishing opportunities for most young men.

When a boy, Henry made his spending money helping neighbors do odd jobs. During his early manhood, he worked on a freight boat by the name of *Josie D.* This freight boat made one or two trips a week from Supply, North Carolina, to Wilmington, North Carolina.

Several freight boats brought in supplies to the Lockwood's Folly area. At that time there were docks at Lockwood's Folly River Bridge where the present North Carolina Highway 211 crosses the river. Boats were also the main means of transportation, since there was no railroad in this area and road access was limited.

Boats would leave Supply, North Carolina, with freight bound for Southport, North Carolina, or Wilmington, North Carolina; freight was also picked up and delivered at Varnum Town. During fishing season they would pick up barrels of salt fish at the point of Long Beach and Holden Beach.

Around the turn of this century, the church pews now being used at Concord United Methodist Church at Supply were brought from Wilmington by boat and delivered at the docks in Supply.

Many of Brunswick County's raw materials were brought to Supply and shipped by boat to Wilmington where they could be shipped by railroad or larger ships to other parts of the country. Wood products such as turpentine, pine tar and lumber were plentiful at that time. There was a turpentine still in Supply, also a cotton gin. Cotton was a big crop in this county at that time.

Just think how much commercial shipping was done through the Lockwood's Folly Inlet before man invented a dredge! The inlet has become unpredictable during the past fifty years and destruction to the natural resources in the area has increased.

All during Henry's adult life he appeared to be healthy; yet he never did marry. He was 5 feet, 6 or 7 inches tall and weighed approximately 165 pounds. I do not remember seeing him outside without a cap on his head; his favorite was a black Greek fishing cap. Neither did I ever see him without glasses; his were little glasses with the small gold rims. Blue denim overalls was his favorite clothing; during winter months he wore blue denim jumpers. Dipping snuff was his favorite pastime.

During his adult life he fished in the river and gathered oysters and clams. He died November 16, 1958, at the age of seventy years. He never did own an outboard motor or an automobile.

The tourists enjoyed Henry; even today many ask about him, wondering if he is still living. They would hire him to take them fishing; he would paddle them down the waterway in his flat-bottom boat. Many of the tourists would tell me they enjoyed going, even though they did not catch a fish.

lightwood had to be rich with pine tar or it would not provide much light. Henry had placed a bushel of rich lightwood in the bow of the boat before I arrived to go with him. We would have light and enough black smoke to ward off mosquitoes.

With all equipment on board and oar locks in place, Henry pushed the boat into the water. He sat down on the middle seat with his back to the bow, picked up the two oars and pointed the bow toward Lockwood's Folly Inlet. Each stroke was slow but made with precision. About one-quarter mile from Old Ferry, he pulled the bow of the boat up on the bank and informed me it was time to start the light. The sand flies were eating on me and irritating my eyes, ears, and every body part that was exposed; bug repellent had not been invented. After Henry got the fire started, I could see; but those sand flies had to leave. That smoke was too strong for them. We spent almost three hours looking before returning to Old Ferry Landing—without a fish.

A friend of Henry's, who had been fishing, pulled up to the landing at the same time, only a few feet away. "Any luck, Henry?" he asked. Henry did not reply, but slowly walked over to the friend's boat. When he discovered the friend had caught five nice flounders, he let go a big snuff spit and replied, "We ain't seen nary one."

I had a surprise when I got back home that night and looked in the mirror. My eyelashes and eyebrows had a heavy coat of that black soot from the smoke of the lightwood; no doubt I looked like someone with three times too much makeup on. The soot was even on the tips of my hair that was exposed around the edge of my cap. Next morning at breakfast, my mother was concerned about my red eyes. She said, "That smoke must have been bad last night."

During the early 1950's a friend of mine had his boat tied up at Old Ferry. It was about twenty feet long with a V-shape bottom and inboard motor. It did not have a cabin, but did have a windshield across the bow just in front of the pilot wheel. The boat was well built and was safe to go outside to the four-mile rocks. My friend insisted that I use the boat any time I needed it.

A friend of mine and his wife from Asheville came to the beach on a visit. One day when they were here, I told them it appeared the next day would be a good time to go out in the ocean and fish for black bass at the four-mile rock.

Later that afternoon I went over to check the boat and put fuel in it so that it would be ready the following morning. While I was at the boat, Henry Gray came by and asked if I was going fishing. I told him not that day but next morning. When I asked him if he would like to go, he said it had been several days since he had been fishing, and he would enjoy going. This pleased me because Henry knew the channel in the inlet and was good at locating the four-mile rocks. He said to me, "I will meet you here at the boat in the morning at seven o'clock."

It was a pretty morning to go outside fishing; the ocean was calm with very little wind when we left Old Ferry about seven o'clock. I piloted the boat out through Lockwood's Folly Inlet and with Henry's guidance went to the four-mile rock.

After we fished an hour or two, the wind breezed up; Henry looked at me and said, "We better get this boat back to the dock." I told him to pilot the boat back, since he knew the inlet better than I.

One morning I went across the waterway and as the ferry landed on the other side, I noticed a neighbor of Henry's talking to a man and his wife. This tourist couple were telling the neighbor about Henry's taking them striking the night before and how much they enjoyed it. The woman asked, "Have you seen Mr. Henry this morning?" The neighbor looked around and replied, "No, but I see him walking several hundred yards up the road." The tourist did not understand how Henry could be identified so far up the road.

The neighbor said, "I will tell you three things about Henry: (1) You can recognize him walking as far as you can see him. He never does take over twenty-five steps forward before he will stop, turn all the way around and look back. (2) Never do anything to Henry to cause him to be angry at you. If you do, he will not accommodate you for love or money. (3) Never stand on the downwind side of Henry when he is talking to you. When he gets excited talking, there is a good possibility you will be sprayed with snuff."

I was a small boy when I had my first introduction to Henry Gray. My father took me with him to get some oysters. We went to Henry's landing which was located east of the Old Ferry Crossing. Brunswick County Coast was in its natural condition; this was several years before the Intracoastal Waterway was dredged.

Henry's landing was on a natural creek which originated in Lockwood's Folly Inlet and extended to Cedar Landing. Between Henry's landing and the inlet was a large area where oysters and clams were plentiful.

My father paid Henry twenty-five cents a bushel for the oysters; this was standard price at that time. There was no tourist trade then, and sales were limited to the local community. During the late 1930's the price of oysters was fifty and seventy-five cents a bushel. In the early 1940's the price increased to seventy-five cents, and then a dollar a bushel when the demand increased.

The first time I went fishing (striking at night) with Henry, was during the early 1930's, a year or two after the Intracoastal Waterway was dredged through this area. He, like several of his neighbors, kept his boat at the Old Ferry. His boat was about ten or twelve feet long, had a flat bottom and sharp bow, and was about thirty inches wide in the stern. His equipment included the following: two oar locks, two oars about six feet long, and a four-prong pitchfork with the prongs worn down to four or five inches in length. This pitchfork did not have a standard handle, but a special handle Henry had made of a young black gum tree. The handle was about 1½ inches in diameter, after the bark was removed, and was about 8 feet long. This pitchfork was used as a gig. (Not many people had a real gig those days.) The strong handle of the pitchfork made it useful for pushing the boat along and for gigging flounders below.

Underwater striking lights had not been invented in the 1930's. There was a limited number of gas lights in use along the North Carolina coast, so Henry used the most popular light. It was made from lightwood or kindling wood. A piece of light metal frame was placed across the boat, one end extending out from the boat about two feet; in the part extending out over the water was a little wire basket. This wire basket was about the size of a small dishpan. In this little wire basket the fire was built to provide the light. The

As we approached the inlet, I could see the seas breaking and I knew it would be choppy. It was so rough we were all standing up behind Henry, so that the windshield would protect us from the spray. The second sea that broke on the bow gave Henry a good spraying in the face. When this happened he looked around at me and said, "You will have to take the wheel; I can't see nary thing through my glasses." I did take the pilot wheel and Henry moved back behind. Two or three minutes after I took the wheel, my friend's wife let out a loud *distress* call, "What are you trying to do?" As I looked back over my shoulder, I saw Henry with his glasses in one hand and a handful of the lady's petticoat in the other. His apology to her was, "Lady, I didn't mean nary bit of harm."

The lady had never seen Henry before we went fishing; her husband enjoyed her predicament, and I knew Henry did not mean any harm. He just needed to clean his glasses.

Everyone who knew Henry can understand why he had so many friends.



*Henry Gray displays flounders he caught by striking the night before. Courtesy of the Gray family.*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This article is Chapter XIV from the book, **Holden Beach History** by John F. Holden. It was published in 1988.



**Brief History of Catholic  
Communities in Columbus and  
Brunswick Counties, NC  
Contributed by Natasha Miles  
Submitted November 2006  
Brunswick County, North  
Carolina  
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**Brief History of Catholic Communities in Columbus and Brunswick  
Counties, NC**

**Submitted with permission of Lorrie Patterson who retains all rights  
to this material.**

**This information comes from a series of church bulletins from March  
1954 for Our Lady of the Snows Parish. It was written by Mrs. Harvey  
V. Norris, formerly Mary Applewhite, and grandmother to Lorrie  
Patterson who allowed me to reproduce this information for online  
viewing. It has been available for years on the Columbus County NC  
GenWeb site, but I have included it here also as it pertains to  
Brunswick County as well as Columbus County.**

From the Our Lady of the Snows Parish Bulletin  
February and March 1954

"The Our Lady of the Snows Parish embraces all of Bladen County and Ransom  
Township in Columbus County. Its parishoners reside in Acme, Armour,  
Bladenboro, Delco, Dublin, Elizabethtown, Freeman, Rieglewood, and Tar Heel.  
In this parish there are two Church Buildings, Our Lady of the Snows Church in  
Elizabethtown and Saint Elizabeth of Hungary in Delco. Our Catholic Population  
is 78 souls. The rectory is in Elizabethtown and the telephone number is  
Elizabethtown 3449.

**Parish History**

"In this column during the next few weeks will appear a brief historical sketch of  
the Delco Mission written by Mrs. Harvey V. Norris, formerly Mary Applewhite,  
one of the early Catholics of the Delco mission. A granddaughter of Bartley Dean  
Applewhite. (First convert in Columbus County)....

"History of the Catholic Church in Parts of Brunswick and Columbus Counties.

This history is limited to the territory that is now known as a part of Brunswick and Columbus Counties. Most of the early history took place in what is now Northwest Township of Brunswick County and Ransom Township of Columbus County. Ransom Township was a part of Brunswick County until 1880. In some instances, the names of the communities have undergone changes. What was formerly known as Farmers Turnout in Brunswick County is now called Maco. Livingston was changed to Cronly in 1880 and is now Acme in Columbus County. Brinkley in Columbus County was changed to New Berlin and is now Delco. Armour, named for the Love Family, is a station on the Seaboard Airline Railway.

#### Early Catholic Pioneers: Benjamin A. Jones Family

"Sarah Rabon was born near Southport (formerly Smithfield) in Brunswick County of non-Catholic parents. While very young, at the death of her mother, she was adopted by a Catholic family of Boston, Massachusetts, Mr. and Mrs. Winder who spent their summers in Southport. Sarah Rabon lived with her adopted parents in Boston until grown and was reared a Catholic. In the year 1850, while on a visit to Southport, she married Benjamin A. Jones who later embraced the faith.

In the year 1862 Benjamin A. Jones and his wife, Sarah, moved to Armour in Columbus County. They were the only known Catholics in that section. They were the parents of six children, Abbie Virginia, Benjamin F., Mark A., Rebecca, John P., and Samuel M. A great granddaughter of Benjamin and Sarah Jones is a Carmelite Nun. Holy Mass was said in the Jones Home prior to 1880. Father Hand, Father White, and Father Mark Gross came from Wilmington once or twice a year. Some of the ones that attended Mass there were Michael Russell and Louis Manning from the Freeman section and Gilbert O'Day from the Northwest section. Some members of the Applewhite family later attended Mass in the Jones home. Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Jones are buried in the Catholic Cemetery on Market Street in Wilmington. The descendants of this couple are among the prominent Catholics of this and other dioceses.

#### Irish Settlers

"Mr. Louis Manning and his wife, Lockey Jones, came from Ireland in the early '60s. Mr. Manning was a soldier in the Confederate Army. He lived in the Freeman community. His daughter, Sarah, married Robert Henry, one of the Catholic pioneers of Brunswick County. Michael Russell came from County Cork. Many of his descendants live in Ransom township. Gilbert O'Day is buried in Saint Paul's Cemetery, Maco. At the time of his death, he was making his home with Joseph Sellers, a well known confederate veteran. Mr. Sellers, although not a Catholic, walked to Wilmington (a distance of about 20 miles) to get a priest for his dying friend.

#### The Henry Family and the Beginning of the Farmers Turnout Mission

"In the year 1870, William Raphael Henry, his wife, Jane Jenkins Henry and three daughters, Martha, Minnie, and Anna moved from the Moore's Creek section of Pender County to Farmers Turnout in Brunswick County. They were all

converts. It was through their friendship with the Montague family and their acquaintance with Bishop Gibbons, who later became Cardinal Gibbons, that they embraced the faith. For a number of years Mass was said in the Henry home. Father White, Father Mark Gross, and Father Moore in succession attended the Mission. Word was sent to the scattered Catholics and although travelling was difficult, the Jones family from Armour, the Applewhites and others came. The Henry family were devout Catholics and no doubt played an important part in bringing others into the fold. Mr. and Mrs. Henry's daughters married and settled nearby. Martha married Major James Reilly; Minnie Married William Alderman, and Anna married Frank Jones.

#### Converts

"Among the converts made there at this time were Robert Henry, brother of William R. Henry, Lloyd C. McCoy wife and three children, Miss Kate McCoy and three nephews. Mrs. Charlotte Robbins Williams and three children, Mrs. Eliza Jacobs, William Alderman, and a few others. It soon became apparent that a church was necessary.

#### Major James Reilly

"Major James Reilly came to America as a young man from Ireland. He joined the United States Army and served in the Mexican War. He later joined the Confederate Army and was in command of Fort Fisher, the last stronghold of the Confederacy, when it fell. He was a gallant soldier. He lived first in Wilmington but after his second marriage, he moved to Farmers Turnout, where his wife Martha Henry had made her home. Major Reilly was not only a brave soldier, but he was a zealous Catholic. His home was headquarters for the priests while on the Farmers Turnout Mission. Major Reilly realizing a church was needed in this section, used his influence and with untiring efforts a beginning was made.

#### History of the Beginning of Catholicity in the Applewhite Family

"Catholicity came to the Applewhite Family through two sterling women; one Miss Ida Norcum, a Catholic and the other, Miss Viola Felt, a non-Catholic who later joined the church and who was educated by the Sisters of Mercy, through the interest and influence of Cardinal Gibbons.

#### This is the story:

In the year 1868 Cardinal Gibbons was visiting the home of one of his parishoners in Wilmington. He was talking with the little childre in the home. Among them was a little red haired girl that lived next door. He found out the little girl's parents had just died, and on questioning her she told him she would like to go to the Catholic School her little playmate attended. Cardinal Gibbons (at the time Bishop Gibbons) at once gave her a card and told the little non-Catholic, Viola Felt, to present it to the Mother Superios of the Sisters of Mercy. There she leraned to love the Catholic religion, although she did not come into the church until some years later. After reaching young womanhood, she married Robert Council Applewhite, and lived at Brinkley, Ransom Township in Columbus County. God blessed this couple with ten children. Eight lived to reach adult live and they cherished their Catholic faith bequeathed to them by their mother, Viola



Felt. Robert Council Applewhite, husband of Viola Felt, came into the church later. Both were descended from a long line of English Protestant Ancestry. About that time, 1879, a teacher, Miss Ida Norcum, a fine Catholic lady, daughter of Dr. Norcum of Wilmington, was secured to conduct school in the Applewhite neighbourhood and to live in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bartley Dean Applewhite. Mr. Applewhite was in very bad health and was confined to bed. Miss Norcum kindly kept him supplied with reading matter. Some of the books he read concerned Catholicity. He became very much interested in the Church and questioned Miss Norcum often. Realizing his days were numbered, he asked for a Catholic Priest to come to see him. Miss Norcum contacted Father Mark Gross who came. In a short while, Bartley D. Applewhite was baptized by Father P. Moore, Feb. 28, 1880. At the same time, his daughter Matilda (who later married Benjamin J. Price, brother of Father Thomas F. Price) was baptized. Also, Viola Felt Applewhite and her two young children Mary and Bartley. That was the beginning of Catholicity in the Applewhite family. Years later Elisha L. Applewhite, youngest son of Bartley D. Applewhite, was baptized by Father Price. A grandson, Henry J. Applewhite of Savannah, Georgia, is a recent convert. About 100 descendants of the pioneer convert, Bartley D. Applewhite, up to the present year, 1953, have been blessed with our Holy Faith.

#### The Cronly Mission

"About the year 1884, a small industrial community sprang up in Ransom Township, Columbus County. Situated on the old Carolina Central Railroad or the Seaboard Airline Railway. It was first known as Livingston, from the nearby creek, but was then named Cronly, and is now Acme. Mr. James W. Moran and family moved there from Baltimore. Mr. Moran was superintendent of one of the plants. He asked the Bishop to send a priest as often as possible to administer to the spiritual needs of the Catholics that lived there, which was done. Saint Paul's at Farmer's Turnout was several miles away, roads were very bad and conveyances few. The priest came only on week days and not too regularly. They made the Moran home headquarters while there and Mass was celebrated in their home. The priests who came to Cronly and said Mass in the Moran home were Father Moore, Father Dennen, Father Burns, Father Price, Father Griffin and perhaps others. Among the Catholics at Cronly at this time besides the Moran family were the Applewhites, Prices, Twiggs, Thigpens, McCoys, Knowles, Jones, Manning, Thalley and others. The first Catholic marriage to take place in Cronly was between Mollie Twiggs, daughter of a good Irish lady, Mrs. Nora Twiggs, and William Thigpen. Mr. Moran was truly a Tar Heel Apostle. He and his wife had religious instructions and Mass prayers every Sunday morning for many years in their home. This held the Catholic group together and no doubt preserved the faith for many. After a number of years the Moran family returned to Baltimore. The Cronly Mission furnished the first student to the Sacred Heart Academy, Belmont, NC, Mary (Mamie) Applewhite. As a very small girl while coming up from Wilmington on the train, she spoke to two Sisters of Mercy and as her mother, Viola had confided to Cardian Gibbons years before, told them she would like to go to school to the Sisters when she was older. The sisters were Sister Catherine Price and Sister Cecilia Cobb. When Sacred Heart Academy opened in 1892, Sister Catherine did not forget to notify the little girl from Cronly, and she

was the first enrolled and graduated with the class of 1895.

Another family came to Cronly after the Moran family left, Mr. Thomas Kane and family from Atlanta Ga. Religious instructions were held in the Town Hall on Sundays by Mr. Kane. At this time the priest stayed in the home of Mr. R.C. Applewhite and said Mass there. The altar was a beautiful old square rosewood piano, now in the possession of Mr. F.B. Greer of Whiteville. Father Thomas F. Price, co-founder of Maryknolls said Mass on this piano and also Fathers Michael Irwin and William F. O'Brien and others. Father Price conducted a Mission in Cronly in 1899.

After the R.C. Applewhite family left Cronly, Mass was said in the homes of Mrs Mary Bridgen and Mr. Thomas Applewhite. Fathers Gallagher and Watkins and others attended the Mission at this time. By 1914 the Catholic families had left Cronly. Bartley F. Applewhite and his wife Martha Reilly, were now living at the former Brinkley Station, known then as New Berlin, so a Mission was begun there that was the beginning of the Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Church at Delco.

#### Saint Paul's Church -- Farmer's Turnout

"About 1880, Major James Reilly gave the ground on which to build a church. Lloyd McCoy, a recent convert, donated the lumber. Mr. McCoy also gave to the coloured people who got out the timber, enough lumber to build a church for themselves. Charley Morrell supervised the construction of the Church. Practically all of the labor was done by William R. Henry and his son-in-law, William Alderman, without monetary compensation. The interior walls, communion rail, frames for the stations of the Cross, etc. were all done by the skilled hands of William Raphael Henry. Father Marck Gross was the priest in charge of the Mission at this time. The church was dedicated in 1882 by Bishop H.P. Northrop of Charleston, South Carolina under the title and heavenly patronage of Saint Paul the Apostle. On the day the church was dedicated, a special train was run from Wilmington and there was a joyful celebration in this little community. An immense throng was present for the dedication. Mass was said in Saint Paul's once a month from its dedication in 1882 until 1902. The priest from Wilmington came to take care of the Mission. The priests who followed Father Gross were Father Patrick Moore, Father Christopher Dennen, Father Burns, Father Schall, Father Griffin, Father Quinn, Father William F. O'Brien, Father Patrick Marion, and perhaps others.

Confirmation was conferred twice in the church at Farmer's Turnout. The first time by Bishop Northrup of Charleston, SC on June 4th 1866 and by Bishop Leo Haid in 1891. When Mass was said, all the congregation would attend including the several families that then had residence at Cronly and the families at Brinkley. In all the congregation numbered about fifty. Some of the members of Saint Paul's were Mr. and Mrs. William R. Henry; Mr. and Mrs. William Alderman; Misses Pauline, May, Valeria, and Allie Alderman; Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin

Franklin Jones; William F. Jones; Benjamin M. Jones; Lillie Jones (Mrs. Robert Jarman of Wilmington); Major and Mrs. James Reilly; Miss Madgie Reily (Mrs. B.F. Applewhite of Delco); Miss Janie Reilly (now Mrs. Enoch L. Lee of Wilmington); Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd McCoy; Fenmore, Frederick M, and Clarence McCoy; Mrs. Charlotte Robbins Williams; Mrs. Eliza Jacobs; Mr. and Mrs. James W. Moran of Cronly; Richard, William H., and George L. Moran; Mrs. Robert C. Applewhite of Brinkley; Mamie Applewhite (Mrs. H.V. Norris); Bartley F. Applewhite; Thomas E. Applewhite and small children; Mr. and Mrs. B.J. Price and small children of Cronly; Mr. Seth Robbins; Mr. and Mrs. Archie Rushing of Whiteville; and others.

After the death of the heads of the original Catholic families in the community in the '70s and '80s, a majority of the descendants moved to Wilmington and elsewhere. As the families began to move away, the congregation began to grow less and soon the church was abandoned. For years the church stood empty and idle. Pigeons took possession of the belfry and their moaning noises soon led to the spreading of the report among the superstitious that the church was haunted. Also the nearness of the mysterious light said to be seen at Hood Creek Trestle added to the report.

The re-establishment of the Mission which had been abandoned was authorized by Bishop William J. Hafey in 1929. Under the direction of Father James McCourt, the church was repaired and restored somewhat. In May 1929 the doors were reopened. There was an illustrated lecture on the Mass in the Evening. A motor car parade came up from Wilmington. Some descendants of the pioneer members were in attendance and the countryside was invited. Holy Mass was said there on a few occasions. Father Frank Howard also tried to encourage an attendance at the services but it was not a success. The community was non-Catholic and Delco by that time had a church. Once again the building gradually decayed. Rather than let it go to ruin, permission was given by Bishop McGuinness to dismantle the church and salvage the lumber to help build the churches at Tabor City and Southport. The building was torn down in 1940. The floor joists and all the framing of the Saint Francis Xavier Church at Tabor City came from Saint Paul's at Maco. Also much lumber was used in the construction of Sacred Heart Church at Southport.

The church served a useful purpose. It was said to be the only Catholic Church between Wilmington and Florence, SC on the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad. Many a prominent Catholic of southeastern North Carolina traces his origin back to Saint Paul's Church at old Farmer's Turnout in Brunswick County.

#### Saint Paul's School

"As the community grew at Farmer's Turnout the people were concerned about the education of their children. Major James Reilly with his usual zeal, was instrumental in getting the school started. Prior to the erection of the school in 1889, sessions were held in Saint Paul's Church. The school was opened in 1888, and lasted seven or eight years. The building was sold in 1905 and moved away.

The following are the lay teachers who taught in the school; Miss Kate Sweeny of Wilmington, Miss Belle Monagan of Fayetteville, who later married Mr. McMillan of Fayetteville, Miss Alice Teresa Monagan of Fayetteville, Miss Elizabeth Darby who married Mr. James W. Moran of Cronly and Miss Teresa Francis who married Sydney Murphy of Charlotte. There were about twenty-five children enrolled in all grades. Several non-Catholic children also attended this school. Some of the children in attendance were the Morans of Cronly, Mamie Applewhite of Brinkley, the McCoys of Northwest, Jones', Alderman's, Reilly's children and others of Farmers Turnout. These fine Catholic ladies besides instructing the children in the three Rs, spent a great deal of time teaching our Holy Faith, preparing us for Holy Communion and Confirmation, for wick we are very thankful. One memory stands out among the few living alumnae of Saint Paul's and that is we saw President Grover Cleveland. It happened this way; the railroads at that period were still using wood burning locomotives. Major Reilly furnished them wood and trains would stop at Farmers Turnout for fuel. Major Reilly, hearing that President Cleveland was enroute to Wilmington after a hunting trip in Georgetown, SC made arrangements for the train to stop a little longer than usual that the President of the United States might speak to Saint Paul's school children and to their teacher, Miss Elizabeth Darby.

#### Saint Paul's Cemetery

"Beside the church, a plot of ground was set aside for a cemetery. A Captain Arnold was the first to be buried there. He had lived in the community about two years. Little was known of him. Some say he was a veteran of both Mexican and Civil Wars. He died in 1884. Mr. Gilbert O'Day was next buried there. He died in 1885. Others buried there whose names are well known are: Agnes Williams, Mr. and Mrs. William R. Henry, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Franklin Jones, Miss Penny Jacobs, Julius Herring, Mrs. Ida Childs, Mrs. Nora Twiggs, Mrs. William Thigen, Mr. Robert Henry, Allie Alderman, Minnie Alderman, May and Pauline Alderman and Tudy Alderman and their father, William Alderman, Seth Robbins, and some children, my uncle Benny's little girl, Mary Francis, and my baby sister Dorothy."

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Brunswick County, NC GenWeb**

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**Will of John G. Grisset 1858**  
**Brunswick County, North Carolina**  
**contributed by Jim Lang**  
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Brunswick County, North Carolina Will Record Book, Page 17  
(Spelling, punctuation and grammar exactly as written.)

John G. Grisset, 28 Sep 1858  
No 82 State of North Carolina  
Brunswick County

I, John G. Grisset, a resident of the County and State aforesaid now in my eightieth year, do make and ordain this to be my last will and testament in manner and form following to wit

Item I I direct that my body be decently interred in the family graveyard at the Ivy plantation where Isaac Generette now lives.

Item II I give and devise to Geo W Gause, son of Wm R Gause, Fifty acres of land, to be laid out so as to include the plantation where Wm R Gause now lives, to him the said George W Gause, his heirs and assigns forever

Item III I give and bequeath to my granddaughter Sarah Ann Grisset, one bedsted one feather bed and necessary furniture therefore also Fifty dollars in money to be paid her by my Executors hereinafter named

Item IV I give and bequeath unto my granddaughter Martha M Kethan, now the wife of Moses M Kethan, the sum of Five Dollars, to be paid to her by my Executors hereinafter named

Item V All the rest and residue of my lands, tenements and hereditaments not herein before described, consisting in part of my homestead Danford? B? Sunimon? and Stosepan Island tracts of land. My negro slaves Virgil Shade and Joe, my horses, cattle, hogs and stock of every kind, with all my household and kitchen furniture - I give and devise unto my grandson John B Gause, his heirs, Executors, administrators and assigns absolutely no fee Simple forever, hereby declaring that it is my will and desire, that my grandson John B Gause foresaid Shall enjoy the residue of my estate aforesaid

Item VI I hereby declare, nominate constitute and appoint my trusty friends John St Brook and Robert M McRackin as my Executors to carry into effect this my last Will and Testament, in accordance with the tenor hereof, and with the laws of the State of North Carolina - Hereby utterly revoking all other wills by me at any time made

In testimony whereof, I the said John G Grisset have here unto set my hand and seal this 28th day of September AD 1858.

(Signed) John G Grisset

Signed, sealed and declared in our presence by John G Grisset to be his last will and Testament who in his presence and at his request have subscribed our names as witnesses thereto

(Signed) D R Bennett  
(Signed) Joel Reeves