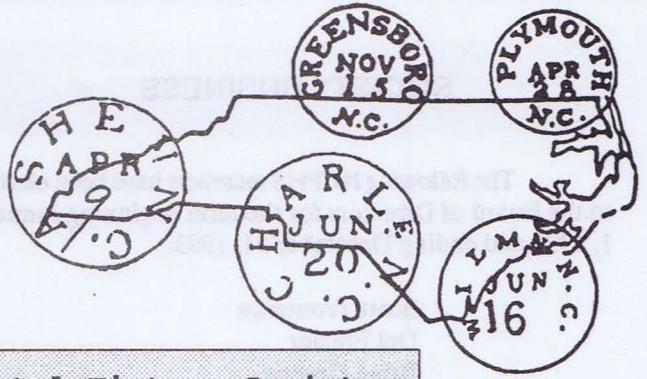


NCPHS Newsletter



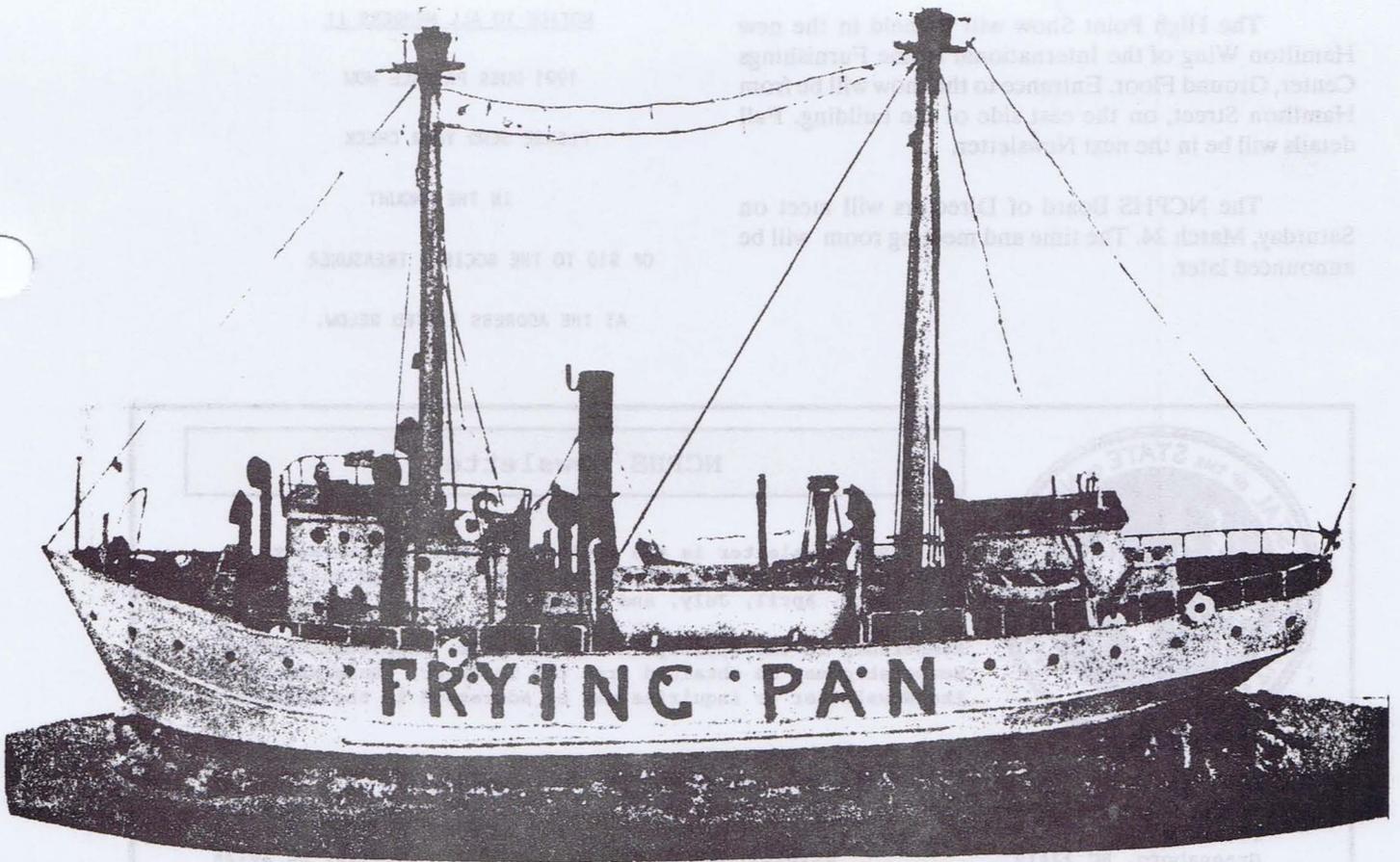
The Journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society

Volume 10, No.1

Winter 1991

Whole 35

The Eastern-most North Carolina Post Office



The Lightship LS-155
Model Made from Scrap Tin Cans

Affiliate Number 155 of the American Philatelic Society



SOCIETY BUSINESS

The following NCPHS members have been elected to the Board of Directors for the term beginning January 1, 1991 and ending December 31, 1993:

Scott Troutman
Del Frazier
Brian Greene
Stefan Jaronski.

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Call to Meet

Society President Kenneth Schoolmeester has called the next meeting of the NCPHS. It will be held in at the next High Point show, March 24 & 25.

The High Point Show will be held in the new Hamilton Wing of the International Home Furnishings Center, Ground Floor. Entrance to the show will be from Hamilton Street, on the east side of the building. Full details will be in the next Newsletter.

The NCPHS Board of Directors will meet on Saturday, March 24. The time and meeting room will be announced later.

An 1859 Visit to Charlotte
Tony L. Crumbley 14

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS !!

1991 DUES PAYABLE NOW

PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECK

IN THE AMOUNT

OF \$10 TO THE SOCIETY TREASURER

AT THE ADDRESS LISTED BELOW.



NCPHS Newsletter

The NCPHS Newsletter is the official journal of the North Carolina Postal History Society. It is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October.

Membership in the Society is \$10 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the Treasurer. Submissions for the Newsletter or inquiries may be addressed to the editors.

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A Look at the Lightship Service in North Carolina

by Scott Troutman

When you look at a map of North Carolina, it would seem that either Salvo or Avon on the Outer Banks is the farthest east in the state that you could go to mail a letter. But, for the last hundred years at least, you would be wrong, for beyond Hatteras lay the domain of the Coast Guard Lightship Service.

I do not know when the Lightship Service began, but clearly it has been in operation since the 1890's off the shores of North Carolina. Just as the Lighthouse Service provided guidance around shoals near the shore, the lightships were floating lighthouses near shoals at sea.

Figure 1 shows the lightship number 69, "The Diamond Shoals", sitting on the beach at Hatteras after the legendary hurricane of 1899. This hurricane removed Diamond City, a town of 300, from the Shackleford Banks some 50 miles to the south. Lightships typically bore the name of the danger they guarded against.

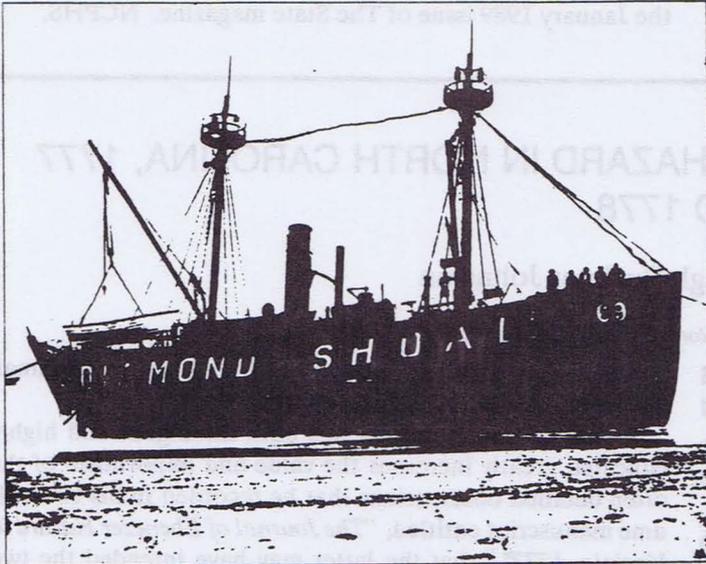


Figure 1

This article is largely about letters that have surfaced from a later lightship, the LS 115 or "Frying Pan", which guarded the Frying Pan Shoals at the entrance to the Cape Fear River.

A group of six 133 ft. class lightships was commissioned in 1930, including the "Frying Pan", which was built by the Charleston Drydock & Machine Company at a cost of \$274,424. The ship was powered by diesel-electric engines with hull and deckhouses made of steel. It was designed to be both seen and heard by on-coming vessels, and boasted a pair of electric lanterns with 375 millimeter lenses, each mounted atop a mast. It also had an electric diaphragm horn with a mushroom trumpet.

Emil Nordberg (fig.2) joined the crew of the Frying Pan in the 1930's. The ship carried a small crew and was always at sea, the normal case for lightships. However, they seldom went



Figure 2

anywhere. Each crew worked four months on ship and four months off. Boredom was a big problem and Emil built the model of the Frying Pan (fig.3) from tin cans salvaged from the ships cook for the project. As can be imagined, letter writing was also a popular activity.

While duty could be tedious, it was not without its hazards. Hurricanes and winter storms had to be ridden out. Early in World War II submarines liked to hide near them. And in the days before radar, more than one such vessel was struck by another ship in bad weather, sometimes with fatal results. The large lettering across the sides of the ship was an attempt to indicate not only the hazard, but that the ship was a stationary object.

Another peril of lightship duty was scouse. Scouse was an unforgettable stew of salt beef, onions and potatoes. It was the mainstay of many lightship crew, the Frying Pan being no exception. This fare, plus the steady companionship of a small band of people on a small ship made the four months at sea seem much longer.

Mail and pay moved with the tenders that brought relief crews and diesel fuel to keep the lightships powered. These tenders were originally based in Norfolk, but as the letters from Emil show, this changed to Charleston, S.C. This circa 1930's letter from Emil Nordberg is typical.

Lightship 115 March 5

My Dear Darling Bell,

Just a few lines to let you know that I am allright and truly hope this find you allright. I know mail got to go up now as we got word last night the payroll is not in the office. Captain is on liberty and the mate did not tend to it and that is about all I hot to report. Only the weather has been mostly rough since we came our here. Cold and rain and cold again on top of it. I hope this find everybody well including JoJo and will close with best wished and lots of love and kisses. I remain as ever yours,

Emil

(On the same sheet of paper)

March the 6th

We did not get the mail off today yet, perhaps to morrow or some day. I forgot to tell you but you know I told you about that new oiler the(y) sent onboard here. That skinny kid will he had an acksident while I was home. He fell against a valve manifold and brook three ribs. He was in the hospital allready when I got onboard and he is still there. I understand that a Charleston district was formed and took place on the first of March but I seen in the radio log to send all communications to Norfolk till further notice. So most likely the next tender will be from Norfolk yet. All is well with me. Hope all is well with you.
Good night dear.

Emil

Emil was right, shortly afterwards his address became-Lightship 115, c/o Light House Depot, Charleston, S.C. Emil stayed with the lightship service until the start of World War II, when the Coast Guard temporarily stopped using the ships because their bright lights and high visibility were seen as more of a help to the enemy than to allies. LS 115 did not sit out the war. From 1942 to 1945 it was stationed at Cristobal in the

Canal Zone, where it served as one of many examination shops that ran checks on all foreign vessels coming through the canal.

After the war LS 115 returned to Frying Pan Shoals and to her old duty. In the end, the use of new oil rig like towers spelled the end for lightships. In 1964 a tower replaced her. From 1964 to 1965 the Frying Pan served as a relief vessel, filling in for lightships taken out of service for repair. Finally, on November 4, 1965 she was decommissioned.

While most old lightships were scrapped or turned into fishing boats, the LS 115 was donated in 1967 by the city of Southport to be made into a ship museum. These plans fell through and she was moved to Whitehaven, Md. on the Wilcomico River. There she was partially sunk and had a mast broken off in a 1984 storm. At last report the Frying Pan had been bought for \$10,000 by a man from New York who hoped to turn it into a floating nightclub.

The long line of Diamond Shoals lightships were the last in North Carolina to succumb. When the 'Texas Tower' was installed in the 1970's almost due east from Hatteras lighthouse, the need for lightships ended. Someone told me once that the 'Texas Tower' is manned, so it may still be possible to get letters from beyond Hatteras.

The author would like to thank Rita DeLorme, Bell Nordberg's granddaughter, for copies of Emil's letters. For more information see her article, "Duty on the Frying Pan" in the January 1989 issue of The State magazine. NCPHS.

THE JOURNAL OF EBENEZER HAZARD IN NORTH CAROLINA, 1777 AND 1778

Edited by Hugh Buckner Johnston

Reprinted from the North Carolina Historical Review

The reader should keep in mind that this is a personal journal, or diary, of Ebenezer Hazard. It is un-organized, and his notes run from post office business to observations to personal feelings. It is evident that he has well educated, human, naive and had a good sense of humor. - Editor.

Ebenezer Hazard¹ (January 15, 1744/45-June 13, 1817) was a son of Samuel Hazard of Philadelphia, an educated merchant who had himself done considerable traveling. The younger Hazard, was graduated from the College of New Jersey (Princeton) with the degree of M.A. in 1765. He worked in a New York bookshop until October 5, 1775, when he was appointed the local postmaster. A little over a year later he was appointed Surveyor (i.e., Inspector) by Postmaster General Richard Bache. Having orders to regulate the Continental postal route² between Philadelphia and Savannah, Hazard made a preliminary trip to Edenton and back between May 15 and July 8,

1777, followed by a complete round trip to Savannah between October 8, 1777, to March 5, 1778.

The fact that Hazard was both intelligent and highly educated greatly increases the value and importance of the often detailed observations that he recorded in his two-volume manuscript entitled, "*The Journal of Ebenezer Hazard in Virginia, 1777*",³ that the latter may have intended the two volumes as source material for "*American Geography*" that he contemplated but never wrote. The leisureliness of Hazard's journey would have allowed him sufficient time and opportunity for collecting many of the basic documents on early American history that appeared some years later in his "*Historical Collection*".⁴

Hazard continued in the office of Postal Surveyor until his term as Postmaster General of The United States from January 28, 1782 to September 26, 1789. He visited a son at Huntsville, Alabama, in 1816 but does not appear to have taken any notes on that trip. The "Journal" was handed down in the family until 1945, when Spencer Hazard gave it to the

¹Dumas Malone and others, *Dictionary of American Biography* (New York, Scribner & Sons, 22 volumes, Index Volume, and Supplement One [XXI], and Supplement Two [XXII], 1928-), VII, 469-470.

²It is of real importance to compare the North Carolina section of Hazard's route with the Colonial "*Route from Suffolk in Virginia to the Boundary House of North and South Carolina on the Sea Coast*", from Governor William Tryon to Benjamin Barons, Esq., Deputy Post Master General for the Southern District.

The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, LXII (Richmond, Oct. 1954), 400-423.

⁴*Ebenezer Hazard, Historical Collections* (Philadelphia, Pa.: two volumes, 1792 and 1794.

Historical Society of Pennsylvania.⁵

The two extracts which follow were taken from a microfilm copy of the original manuscript secured through the courtesy of this organization. Although Alonzo T. Dill made several references in "Governor Tryon and His Palace"⁶ to Hazard's visit to New Bern, the fascinating details of the remainder of the 1777 and 1778 journeys into North Carolina have not previously appeared in print.

SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA, TO EDENTON,
JUNE 12 JUNE 20, 1777

June 12. Intended setting out for Edenton, but being informed that some Swamps through which I must ride are probably impassable by the late heavy Rains, I think it advisable to stay till Tomorrow.-Saw Mr. Lunen⁷ early this Morning: he is as drunk as ever.-One Purcel is in Confinement in this Town, upon Suspicion of being concerned with Murphy in forging Drafts on the Treasury.-There is a great Deal of Tar & Turpentine here; I am told that it is made a few Miles off, & that very large Quantities are annually made in this Part of Virginia. It sells today for 9/6 Pr Bbl.-Yesterday was very sultry before the Rain; this Day is almost intolerably hot.-Lodged, by Invitation, at Col. Willis Riddick's.⁸

13th. I find that Tar & Turpentine are the Staple of the South Parts of Virginia.-Set our early in Company with Col. Morgan,⁹ Capt. Cha^s. Biddle¹⁰ & a Mr. Shoemaker of Philadelphia. After riding about 6 or 7 miles from Suffolk we came to one of the Swamps mentioned yesterday; the Water in the Post Road was up to my Horse's Knees; this Place was about 150 Yards in Length. About three miles farther we came to another of these Swamps, on which the Water on the Post Road extended, as near as I could judge, a Quarter of a Mile, & for about half that Distance it was with Difficulty I could keep my Knees out of it; Had I come to this Place yesterday I certainly could not have crossed it. It is a fortunate Circumstance for Travellers that the Bottoms of These Places consist of Land which being wet is very firm, & as there are no Stumps or Roots in the Road there is no Danger to the Horses Stumbling: it is, however, a scandalous Thing that the Legislature do not order Bridges to be built there. This last mentioned Swamp empties into another called the Dismal Swamp¹¹ which

⁵No. 1398 in the *Guide to the Manuscript Collections of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia, 1950).

⁶Alonzo T. Dill, *Governor Tryon and His Palace* (Chapel Hill, 1955), 120, 185, 188, and 240, hereinafter cited as Dill, *Tryon's Palace*.

⁷The Reverend Mr. Patrick Lunan, "on Account of his Ill behavior and neglect of duty in the Churches", was finally dismissed by the Upper Parish of Nansemond County.

⁸Colonel Willis Riddick was a Churchwarden, Sheriff, Militia Officer, and Tobacco Collector in the Upper Parish.

⁹This was either Colonel George Morgan, Deputy Commissioner General for purchases in the Western District of Pennsylvania, or Colonel Jacob Morgan, Jr. of the Pennsylvania Militia.

¹⁰There was a Captain Charles Biddle in the Continental Navy.

¹¹The Dismal Swamp has been reduced by drainage from 2,200 square miles to 750 square miles, much of which area is still virtually an unbroken wilderness.

is about 50 Miles in Length, & 15 Miles in Breadth: in this a Lake 5 Miles long & from 3 to 4 Broad, which was first discovered about 20 years ago, as I am informed. About six Miles from the second Swamp I rode through is the Line between Virginia and North Carolina. I saw great Numbers of Pines which were cut to get Turpentine: a large Notch is cut in the Trees cross-wise, the lower Part of which is hollowed to receive the Turpentine; a pretty large Slip is cut off the Tree on the upper Part of the Notch.-Tar is made by taking a Parcel of Pine Knots or other Parts of the Trees which contain a large Quantity of Turpentine, & piling them up, covering & burning them in the same Manner as Blacksmiths in the Country usually do their Wood which they intend for Charcoal: A Trough is dug all around the Pile, with Drains communicating with both, which all empty themselves into a large Hole, from which the Tar is taken out & put into Barrels. The Coals serve for the same Purposes with other Charcoal.

In one Part of the Road [I] met with large Quantities of a fine, light, soft Kind of Grass which had been blown by the Wind out of an adjoining Field: it was the Color of Flax, & branched in a very singular manner. Breakfasted at a House called The Folly¹² in North Carolina. I forgot to mention that in crossing the second Swamp all Cap^t. Biddle's Cloathes & c in his Chair Box¹³ got wet: when I overtook him I found him drying them on the Bushes. Dined late at a Cap^t. Sumner's,¹⁴ 21 Miles from Edenton, a tolerably good House where we met with civil Usage. At 6 oClock in the Evening my Company (among whom was a Mr. Vashon¹⁵ of Baltimore, whom I forgot to mention) determined to set out for Edenton; but as the Distance was great, & I was informed there were more Swamps & a very dangerous Bridge to be passed, & no House on the Road where it was probable we could lodge, I thought it best to stay at Sumner's, & they went off & left me.-The Road today excepting the Swamps has been exceeding good.-The Land in the Part of North Carolina I have passed through appears to be better than that in the lower Parts of Virginia, & produce good Oak & other Timber;-the Farming looks much like that in Pennsylvania, but I meet with no Meadow yet.-At Sumner's is a large Cypress (white Cedar) Swamp. Through there has been a fine Air today, the heat has been so great as to give me a violent Head-Ach.

The Virginians who are rich are in general sensible, polite, hospitable, & of an independent Spirit;-the poor are ignorant & abject;-all are of an inquisitive Turn, & in many other Instances very much resemble the People of Connecticut, but differ widely from them in their Morals; the former being much addicted to Gambling, drinking, swearing, horse-racing, Cock-fighting, & most Kinds of Dissipation.-There is a much greater Disparity between Rich & Poor in Virginia than any of the Northern States. Lodged at Cap^t. Sumner's,

¹²"The Folly" appeared on both Henry Mouzon's Map of 1775 and John Collet's Map of 1777.

¹³This was a storage compartment in the bottom of a riding chair.

¹⁴On April 4, 1776, the Provincial Congress at Halifax commissioned Lt. James Sumner of the Second Company of Light Horse Troops. James Sumner died in Gates County in 1787.

¹⁵On April 11, 1794, Charles Vashon was buried in St. Paul's Cemetery in the City of Baltimore.

who keeps as good an House as the Times will admit of. Variety of Provision must not be expected in this Country at this Time of the Year; Bacon is almost the only Dish to be had, & I do not recollect that I have dined any where since I first entered Maryland but Bacon was upon the Table.

June 14th. Set out early for Edenton where I breakfasted, & met with my Company again. The Road from Sumner's to Edenton is not as good as from Suffolk to Sumner's, (excluding the Swamps) being more sandy & the Land is many Places deep.

The Country is Pine Barren. The Ticks, Gnats & Horse Flies are very troublesome; particularly the latter, which are large, vigorous, & endowed with no small Share of Perseverance; if they once get fixed upon a Horse, it is not an easy matter to remove them. My Companions set out for the Southward, but the Heat is so intense I cannot stand it & have determined to return. Edenton is a small Town (the Capital of Chowan County) situate upon Albemarle Sound; the Houses in general are low, wooden Buildings & much scattered.-The Hon: Joseph Hewes¹⁶ & three other Gentⁿ are building a Rope-Walk¹⁷ here which I imagine will be the best on the Continent. The Sound at Edenton is twelve Miles wide, & in blustering Weather the Navigation is very dangerous; the Water is fresh, has no Currents, & is crossed in open Boats badly fitted. This Ferry must be crossed by all who go by the lower Road, as it is Called, to Charlestown¹⁸ the other, or upper Road, goes through Halifax; the Country upon it, I am told, is well settled, & all the large Ferries are avoided by going that Way.-Some Quakers in North Carolina have lately emancipated their Negroes, & the Assembly have passed a Law for apprehending the Negroes, and selling them as Slaves; the Money to be put into the public Treasury. The Reason assigned for this Proceeding, I am told, is that the Quakers refuse to give Security that the Negroes shall not become Burthensome to the State. I think this Conduct cannot be vindicated; it is infamous & violent breach of Faith, as well as an intrusion upon private Property, & directly repugnant to every principle upon which we contend for Liberty. It certainly would have been better to allow of the Emancipation & passed a Law that such Negroes as could not maintain themselves, & actually became burthensome to the State, should, when they became so, be hired as Servants to some Person who should maintain them.-I am told, that at the Meeting of the Assembly, a Dispute arose between them and the Senate, which should be the Upper House; it was determined by a Majority of Votes, & as each County send two Assembly Men & but one Senator, the Assembly carried it of Course. A Vessel is lately arrive at Edenton from Cape Francois¹⁹ with 117 Pigs of Lead & 100 french Hhds. (about 60 galls. each) of Rum, belonging to Congress; the Lead is Part of a large Cargo from old France, which has been distributed among a number of small Vessels

¹⁶Joseph Hewes (1735-1779) of Edenton, a wealthy shipbuilder and also one of the North Carolina Signers of the Declaration of Independence.

¹⁷This was a long, low building used for the manufacture of rope.

¹⁸Charleston, South Carolina.

¹⁹The Port of Cape Francois, on the northern coast of Santo Domingo, is now called Cabo Frances Viejo.

to prevent its falling into the Hands of the Enemy; brass Field Pieces, I am told, formed a Part of it. Lodged at George Gray's²⁰, a pretty good House, at which I met with Cap^l Fairchild²¹ June 15th. Last Night a Sloop arrived from St. Croix²² loaded with Rum. Dined with the Hon. Joseph Hewes Esq. formerly Member of Congress for this State, but left out now as he has served 3 years, & the People think that a sufficient Length of Time for one Man to be entrusted with so much Power. I learned in Virginia that Richard Henry Lee²³ was not continued in Congress by that State, because he leased his lands upon Condition that the Rent should be paid in hard Money or something which would produce it, thereby depreciating the Continental Currency.

Hot, sultry Weather, but the Heat a little alleviated by a Breeze from the Sound. This being Sunday, the Negroes have an Holy-Day, according to the Custom of the Southern States. There is the same Nakedness among the Negroes all along the Road & here which I observed at Williamsburgh; both there & in the other Places I have passed through the Females have a coarse Kind of Cloth wrapped round their Waists unless they are very small.

16th. The Edenton People themselves acknowledge this to be an exceeding hot Day;-there is no Wind at all. At Night a very heavy Squall of Wind from the North West drove a Brig & Schooner on Shore in the Sound directly opposite to Edenton; it was accompanied with as heavy a Rain as ever I saw; red Lightnings flashed almost incessantly, and Peals of dreadful Thunder followed each other in terrible Succession. The Oaths & Imprecations of some Sea Captains who were uneasy about their Vessels added Horror to the awful Scene.-Profane Swearing is but a rascally Vice at best, but at such Times seems more unpardonable than at any other. Mr. Buchanan²⁴ (Brother of Thos. Buchanan²⁵ of New York was crossing the Sound at the Time. The Squall came up & [he] had got within a Mile of the other Shore, but was forced to return to Edenton.

17th. The Court sits today at Edenton. It is expected that some Persons supposed to be unfriendly to the American Cause will be called upon to take an Oath of Fidelity to the State, or to give Bond to depart from it in 60 Days, agreeable to a late Act of Assembly.

The Court met & adjourned till tomorrow.

In consequence of last Night's Rain the Weather is more cool than it has been, but it is hot enough to satisfy any reasonable Man yet.

18th. The suspected Persons were called upon to & refused to take the Oath of Fidelity;-they are to leave the State.

²⁰George Gray of Edenton died testate in 1785. On June 13, 1785, the heirs of Captain George Gray were granted 3,840 acres of land for his 84 months of military service.

²¹Captain Reuben Fairchild, Master of the show "Jenny". Y of New York.

²²A West Indian Island forty miles SSE of St. Thomas.

²³Richard Henry Lee (1732_1794) of Virginia was a distinguished statesman of the Revolutionary War period. On June 7, 1776, he introduced the motion that severed political connection with England.

²⁴George Buchanan was a member of the Saint Andrews Society of the State of New York.

²⁵Thomas Buchanan (1744_1815) of Thomas Buchanan & Company of New York.

No Dignity in the Court.-A hot Day.-The Court House is a decent two Story Brick Building.

Edenton is a dull disagreeable Place.

I am told the following Lines were written by a Man who was ill-treated here, & put up at the Church Door;

A broken window'd Church
With an unfinished Steeple,
A Herring catching Parson
And a d___d set of People.

19th. No remarkable Occurrence. Very warm weather.

20th. Set out in Company with Cap^t. Fairchilds for Williamsburgh. There is a large Quantity of Moss on many of the trees; some of it is above four Feet in Length. I am told that the North Carolina People frequently stuff the Seats of their Chairs, & Mattrasses with it. Lodged at the Folly.

21st. Rode as far as Smithfield [Va], where we lodged. Saw some Rice growing.-Howel²⁶ has a Daughter whose Christian Name is Mourning.

22nd. Got to Williamsburgh.

WILLIAMSBURGH TO EDENTON, BATH,
NEW BERN, AND WILMINGTON,
DECEMBER 14, 1777 - JANUARY 16, 1778

[December] 14th. [1777] Moderate Weather. A Methodist of the name of Hill²⁷ preached in the Capitol; he appears to be an honest man, but does not shine as a Preacher. Nine french Soldiers deserted last Night.

15th. Cloudy all Day & was rather sultry towards Noon. Set out for Edenton. Got safe over Sandy Bay (a narrow deep Gut, washed through the Sand near James Town, by the Tide, which is very dangerous at high Water) & James River, & rode to Nelson's²⁸ where I lodged.

16th. Rain at Night. Very foggy in the Morning but cleared up warm afterwards. Rode to Suffolk, where I lodged at Whitefield's²⁹ who keeps the only Tavern now in the Town, which is a bad one. He at first denied me Admittance on Account of his House being full, but after enquiring for Lodgings at five private Houses, I was obliged to return to Whitefield's and coax him to take me in. Met with a young married Woman who disliked her Husband.

17th. Rode to Sumner's where I lodged. The old Woman at the Folly was so drunk that she could not cook me any Dinner, & I was forced to go without.-There was a very heavy Fog this Morning; the Remainder of the Day was clear & moderate; some Parts of it rather warm. Suffolk is crowded at present by People who have come there to purchase Salt & lately arrived at South Quay.³⁰ Met with Cap^t. Fairchild.

²⁶Thomas Howell died intestate in Isle of Wight County, Va. shortly before January 1778.

²⁷Green Hill (1741-1826) was from Bute, now Franklin, County, North Carolina. On April 20, 1785 the first North Carolina Methodist Conference met under his roof.

²⁸William Nelson (died 1785) In 1782 Nelson was listed in Surry County with nine whites and twenty-six blacks.

²⁹This was William Whitfield, Sexton of the Upper Parish Church in Suffolk Hall.

The Chevalier de la Roche³¹ lodged with us at Sumner's. He described the heat of Charlestown by saying "between Charles - Town & Hell is no more as one Sheet Papier, & that is very tin too."

18th. Very foggy all the Morning & cloudy the rest of the Day. Dined at Edenton. In my Way saw vast Numbers of Robbins: as they are the very same Thing we have among us, & I saw none here last Summer, I conclude that they are a Bird of Passage, & that these have come from the Northward.-This is the Day appointed by Congress for a general Thanksgiving on account of the Victory obtained over Gen^l. Burgoyne³² Guns were fired at Noon from the Fort & Ships in the Harbour.

19th. At Edenton. Clear, cold Weather. I understand that Mr. William Lowther³³ who left Edenton because he would not take the Test ordered by the Assembly is gone to New York.-The Assembly have passed a Law directing a Tax of a Halfpenny in the Pound to be raised upon all Property in North Carolina: one of the Collectors told me it would amount to £60,000.

20th. Fine, clear Weather. An Aurora Borealis at Night.

21st. Exceeding fine moderate Weather. Dined with Mr. Hewes. Am informed the halfpenny Tax will amount to £120,000.

22nd. Intended setting out for Bath, but the Ferryman has run away, which prevented me. Tried to get over in the Boat from the other Side of the Sound, but as the Wind was ahead, & we should not get over till some Time after Night, I concluded to stay for another Opportunity.

23rd. Rain all Day. Supped at Cap^t. Collins's.³⁴ Had arrack Punch³⁵ Oranges and Almonds.

24th. Cloudy Weather.

25th. Xmass. Heard Mr. Earl³⁶ preach in the Church. The Clarke, previous to singing an Hymn to the Tune of "God save the King" said "let us sing upon this solemn & rejoicing Occasion, a few Lines composed by Dr. Whitefield."³⁷ The Parson's Notes were very yellow & the last Leaf loose, from which I conjecture they were rather ancient & had been much used. Our Landlord, Geo. Gray, entertained his Lodgers today gratis & genteely. We had, inter Dia, Arrack Punch and

³¹Heitman, *Historical Register of Continental Officers*.

³²General John Burgoyne surrendered to General Horatio Gates at Saratoga, New York, on October 17, 1777.

³³The Collett Map of 1777 shows the Lowther plantation just north of the entrance of Roanoke River into Albemarle Sound.

³⁴Capt. Joshua Collins belonged to the Edenton firm of Collins, (Nathaniel) Adams, and (Samuel) Dickinson. Collins owned thirty slaves in 1790, and the company one hundred and thirteen.

³⁵It is suggested that the thirsty reader try the following recipe: Strain the juice of two large oranges and pour over three-fourths of a pound of loaf sugar. Add several very thin slices of the outside peeling. Pour upon this one quart of boiling water, one pint of West Indian arrack (rum), and one pint of hot red wine. Stir thoroughly and serve cold. The punch can be bottled and will improve with age.

³⁶In 1759 the Reverend Daniel Earl succeeded the Reverend Clement Hall as Rector of St. Paul's Parish in Edenton. He served until 1778 and died testate in 1785.

³⁷Dr. George Whitefield (1714-1770), founder of the Calvinistic Methodists, was an immensely popular preacher in both England and America

Venison.-Spent the Evening with Charles Bonfield³⁸ Had a Frolic afterwards. Guns were fired at noon by Way of rejoicing, & all the Negroes had a Holiday. In the Morning I attempted crossing the Sound but the Wind blew up right ahead, & I was forced to stay at Edenton.

26th. Appointed Charles Bonfield Esq. Post Master. Put my Horse on board the Ferry Boat, but as the Wind was ahead, & the Passage would be tedious I preferred going in what they call a Canoe but it is more like one of our New York small Pettiaugers³⁹ without Masts. For this Purpose I hired a Negro to assist one of the Ferrymen in rowing me over, but when I got down to the Boat I found the Fellow had given me the Slip, & I was forced to return. A Mr. Ryan⁴⁰ who lives on the South Side of the Sound was kind enough to lend me one of his Negroes, & I was rowed over to Mrs. Pierson's,⁴¹ which is seven Miles from Edenton. People going to Charles Town⁴² usually crossover to Mackay's⁴³ (12 Miles) which is the best Way, as several Ferries are avoided by it, but a Kind of Fatality seemed to attend me, which prevented my going there. In my Way to Mrs. Pierson's I passed the Mouth of Chowan River, which appears to be about 3 Miles wide. The Water in the Sound near Edenton is very shoal & brackish. As there was no Wind my Horse did not get over till after Night. I lodged very comfortably at Mrs. Pierson's, who keeps an exceeding good House, & is sensible. She is from Lancashire in England.-The Weather has been very fine today, & moderate.

27th. Set out on my Journey; the Weather warm & cloudy. I was directed to go to Kooshoak,⁴⁴ but understanding afterwards that it was out of my Way, I Rode to Spruel's Ferry⁴⁵ upon Kooshy River.⁴⁶ I was caught in several Showers in my Way, but before I could leave Mrs. Spruel's it began to rain very fast, & continued so till Night. A very heavy Fog came rolling up the River and soon disappeared: it looked much like a white Cloud. Mrs. Spruel informed me that they sometimes have dreadful Storms of Wind in this Country which do a vast Deal of Damage. There was one about six, & another about two Years ago. In the last she left her Dwelling House & went to a Negro Cabbin for Shelter. Mrs. Pearson told me she did so too, & that she had two framed Houses blown down by that Storm. It happened in September. Mrs. Spruel observed that

that she had been told that Philadelphia was the "Metropolis of this America." Lodged at her House, which has not a Pane of Glass belonging to it.

28th. Cloudy Weather, & a heavy mist in the Morning. Crossed Cooshy River, which is not half a Mile wide in the broadest Part. It empties into Albemarle Sound, & runs into the Country a little above Windsor, where there is a Bridge across it. After I had crossed it I found that one Stewart⁴⁷ (whose Ferry I was to go) no longer kept a Ferry, & I went to the Widow Ryan's⁴⁸, from whence I was rowed by two Negroes a little Way down Cooshy River, then through a Thoroughfare (as they call it) of two Miles in Length, into Roanoke, & down that River about 4 Miles to a Place called the Wharf. I was caught in several Showers in my Way down. The lands on both Sides of the Thoroughfare & Roanoke are Swamps, which the People of this County call Pocosin. Another Thoroughfare runs from Roanoke to Cooshy called the Middle River. Between the first & the Wharf in Roanoke is an Island⁴⁹ about a Mile long which ends within half a Mile of the Wharf. Roanoke always runs toward the Sound (into which it empties). It appears to me to be about 3/4 of a Mile wide. When I landed at the Wharf I went to a Mr. Webb's⁵⁰ who treated me with great Civility but could not lodge me. I met there with a Mr. Hough⁵¹ (Cousin to Tommy Hough of Philadelphia) who invited me to his House. I ate nothing there, & drank nothing but Water, & Milk & Water; Slept very comfortably. Pine Knots (according to the Custom of the Country) served for Candles.

29th. Set out for Bath, but before I got away from Mr. Hough's my Horse ran away, but I was fortunate enough to catch him again.-Weather very clear & intensely cold.-Made a late Breakfast at Hardeson's⁵², upon cold Boiled Pork, Pone Toast,⁵³ & Yopon⁵⁴ Tea sweetened with Honey. The Tea was made in a Coffee Pot, & had no Milk with it. It has not the same Taste with Bohea⁵⁵, but I think is not inferior to it: the Bush is an Evergreen, & has a Leaf much like the Prim of which Hedges are made. The Country between Hough's & Bath is very poor, & mostly low, sunken Land. Lodged at Major Brown⁵⁶ at Bath, who is Post Master, Tavern Keeper, &

³⁸In 1775 Rebecca Bondfield was one of the fifty celebrated women of Edenton who refused to use British tea. In 1779 Charles Bondfield was Clerk of the Superior Court of Edenton District.

³⁹This is a variation of the Spanish "piragua", a large dugout or a flat-bottomed boat with two masts.

⁴⁰Cornelius Ryan of Bertie County had a large family and thirty-eight slaves in 1790.

⁴¹Margaret Pearson was the widow of a lawyer named John Pearson who had died in 1777. She died in 1785.

⁴²Charleston, S.C.

⁴³In 1735 William Mackey of Edenton petitioned the General Assembly for permission to operate a ferry.

⁴⁴On December 22, 1745, the will of Mary Jones of Bertie County mentioned a niece Elizabeth Spruell and left a nephew named John Sutton one hundred acres "in Cishooke." On December 7, 1753, James Lockhart of the same county bequeathed two plantations "at Cashoak" to his son George Lockhart.

⁴⁵Elizabeth Spruill died testate in Bertie County in 1788.

⁴⁶Cashie River.

⁴⁷John Stewart died testate in Bertie County in 1774.

⁴⁸Probably the widow of James Ryan who died in Bertie County in 1771.

⁴⁹This is Batts Island, or Batts Grave, named for Nathaniel Batts, an early settler who formerly lived in Nansemond County, Va. Do not be misled by the romantic but purely fictional account of Jesse Batts in Robinson, *North Carolina Guide*, 186-187.

⁵⁰Harmon Webb, Sr. of Tyrrell County owned seventeen slaves in 1790.

⁵¹The Tyrrell County Census of 1790 lists Richard Hoff with a family of five and three slaves.

⁵²Benjamin Hardison of Tyrrell County had four in his family and two slaves in 1790.

⁵³Toast made from corn bread.

⁵⁴Yaupon is a southern holly of the class *Ilex vomitoria*.

⁵⁵Bohea is an inferior kind of black tea, also applied to Souchong, Pekoe, and Congou.

⁵⁶William Brown sat in the Provincial Congress in New Bern on August 25, 1774, and was on the Committee of Safety in 1775.

member of the Assembly.

Dec.30th. Water froze in my Bed Chamber last Night: very cold this Morning: grew something warmer towards Noon. Bath is a small Town in Beaufort County, situate upon a Creek called Bath Town Creek, which is about a Quarter of a Mile wide & empties itself two Miles below the Town into Pamlico River. The Town contains about 20 framed Houses, & I am informed is the oldest in North Carolina.

Dec.31st. Met with Richard Nassau Stephens⁵⁷ who formerly lived at New York: he invited me to his House. I lodged there. Clear, moderate Weather. In North Carolina they have Deer, Bears, Wild Cats, Opossums, Panthers, Alligators, Snakes in Abundance, & a very great Variety of other Animals.-The female Opossum has a false Belly in which she breeds & protects her Young: they appear at first (or in Embryo) like a Kidney Bean upon the Teat, & hang or stick to it till they are big enough to venture abroad. When they want to suck, or are in Danger they go into the false Belly of their Dam, & remain there as long as they find it convenient. Among the Snakes is one called the Glass Snake, of which I heard also in Virginia: I have been told by those who have seen it, that this Snake, when struck, breaks into Pieces (from whence it gets its Name) & it is commonly reported that these Pieces will again unite, & the Snake be as lively & vigorous as ever. Among their Plants in this State is the Myrtle, an odoriferous Bush, which bears a small Berry, of which the Inhabitants frequently make a Wax: mixed with Tallow this Wax makes excellent Candles. It is of a dusky green Color, & they commonly add a little Verdigrease to brighten it.-N^o.Carolina abounds with wild Fowl of almost all Kinds. Went to Town with Mr. Stephens & did not return home till 2 O'clock in the Morning.

1778 Jan. 1. Fine, clear, moderate Weather in the Day, but cold at Night. Went to Town again, & returned between 1 & 2 in the Morning. Appointed Mr. Stephens Surveyor of the Post Office in the Southern District of the United States;-to begin to act after 5th April, 1778. Supped at Cap^t. Keyes.⁵⁸

Jan 2nd. Exceeding pleasant Weather.-Went to Town again. Saw some Negroes hired out for a Year; it was done by Way of Vendue. For several of them £28.15. each was bid.

3rd. Set out in Company with Mr. Stephens for Newbern. Bath Town Creek empties itself but 2 Miles below the Town into Pamlico River, which is here 3 Miles wide: this River runs about 16 miles up & then forks; the right Hand Fork is called Tar River: Pamlico empties into Pamlico Sound. From Mrs. Bond's⁵⁹(on the South Side of the Ferry) we rode to Moore's Tavern,⁶⁰ where we Lodged. The Road from Mrs. Bond's all the Way to Newbern (which is 28 Miles) runs

⁵⁷Stephens had been a "freeman" of New York City before coming to North Carolina. He was the Commissary for Beaufort in 1782, but had died or left the State before 1790.

⁵⁸In the census of 1790, Nathaniel Kies (or Keias) had seven whites, six blacks, and two free persons in his listing.

⁵⁹Bond's Ferry is shown on Mouzon's Map of 1775. Mrs. Bond was undoubtedly the widow of John Bond who died testate in Beaufort County in 1749. Their sons John and Robert were well-to-do planters of Beaufort County in 1790.

⁶⁰In 1790 John Moore had a family of seven persons.

through a barren Neck of Land, which is formed by Pamlico & Neuse Rivers.

To make Myrtle Wax the Berries are put in warm Water, which makes the Wax separate from them; it is then skimmed off & melted into a Cake.

The Generality of the Farmers in N^o. Carolina take no Care of their Horses, Cattle, Sheep & Hogs during the Winter but let them shift for themselves in the Woods as well as they can: the Woods produce a small Reed, an Evergreen, of which the Cattle &c are very fond, & on which they feed.

Instead of Mile Stones, Posts are usually fixed by the Road Side, with the Number of Miles marked on them in Roman Numerals, & as many Notches cut in the Side of it as you have Miles to travel; these Notches I suppose are for the Benefit of the unlearned.-Saw a Tar Kill [kiln].

Jan. 4. Rode to Newbern. In my Way crossed Neuse River, which is 2½ Miles wide: it empties into Pamlico Sound. There is an Island in the ferrying Place, which produces nothing but Sedge. Between Bath and Newbern are large Quantities of Land which have never yet been patented. The Reason is that they are so poor that they would not produce enough to pay the Quit Rent; they serve at present as Ranges for Cattle. There is in North Carolina a Briar called the Bamboo Briar; it grows exactly like a Grape Vine, runs up to the Top of the highest Trees & bears a pretty Flour; It is very tough. Last Night there was a severe Frost; this Morning the air was very keen, but the Weather grew warm at Noon & continued so the rest of the Day. The Weather is amazingly fine for the Season; in many Places the Grass is quite green. Lodged at Wrensford's⁶¹ at Newbern.-Saw a Kind of Grass called Fox Grass from the Seed Part (or Head) of it curling like a Fox's Tail: when it is green it smells exactly like Lime, & has a sourish Taste. The natural Grapes of N^o. Carolina are the red & white Muscadine, the former very plenty, the latter scarce; male & female of both; red ripe Middle Sept^r white latter End [October]. The red & white Fox Grape, the latter scarce, ripe about latter end September. The Bunch Grape, a blackish red, & very sweet, plenty; ripe 1st week Sept^r. Small black Winter Grape; ripe 1st Frost. Mr. Stephens informs me that a Mr. Barrow⁶² (whom I saw at his House) made an Experiment upon Persimons by distilling them agreeable to the Directions published in the Memoirs of the American Philosophical Society;⁶³ he expressed the Juice & distilled it immediately, but as it did not yield as much Spirit as he thought he had a Right to expect from the Quantity of Juice, he fermented the next he was to distil, & then distilled it: in Consequence of the Fermentation he got upwards of a Gallon more Spirit from a Barrel of Juice that he had in former Way (& could have got more) & of a vastly superior Quality. He fermented the Liquor with the Yeast of small Beer: he filled the Cask with the Liquor, &

⁶¹A Loyalist, Edmund Wrenford was ordered to leave New Bern by June 12, 1777, but he decided to take the Test Oath on June 14.

⁶²John Barrow represented Beaufort County in the Halifax Congress in 1776.

⁶³The American Philosophical Society was organized at Philadelphia in 1744 and has published over twenty volumes of transactions and over one hundred parts of proceedings.

stopped the Fermentation (as soon as the Froth began to lower at the Bung Hole) by putting in the Bung, but opened a Vent Hole now & then, to prevent the Cask's bursting, until he could distil the Liquor.

The Produce of the Lands along the Coast of North Carolina is

Indian Corn	Wheat
Oats	Cotton
Flax	Pease
Rye	Barley (just beginning)

They are famous for great Numbers of small horned Cattle, and Hogs - few Sheep. The Banks (so called) abound with wild Horses; they were formerly so plenty that any Horse in the Going [for sale at auction] might be bought for 40/. (5 Dollars) The Timber (along the Coast) is Pitch Pine (of which they make Pitch, Tar & Turpentine) Cypress, Juniper, red & white Oak, spanish Oak, Post Oak (which lasts many Years in the Ground) & live Oak. There is also Hickory & a Variety of other Wood, but in small Quantities.

The principal Exports are Tobacco (which comes from the back Country) Naval Stores, Raw Hides, Deer Skins, Raccoon Skins, Myrtle & Bees Wax, & Tallow; Pork, Beef in small Quantities, Boards, Scantling & Staves, Snake Root both Seneca & Virginia. The Country produces Ipecacuanha in Abundance. Both Indigo & Rice are raised here, but in small Quantities; however some Gentn. have raised so much (by Way of Experiment) as to encourage them to go on; one of them sold so much of one Year's Produce as amounted to £1000. The wild Indigo grows here in great Abundance; it need be sown but once forever; it makes a tolerable Dye.-Laurel is plenty.

5th. At Newbern. Dined with Col. Cogdell⁶⁴ on Compy. with his Son in Law Mr. Ja^s. Green.⁶⁵ The Weather was so warm that we sat without Fire.

6th. Very fine, clear, warm Weather. I have lately met with a Number of Negro Children of both sexes, entirely naked: I suppose they have never had Clothes on them.

7th. Intended setting out for Wilmington, but was prevented by my Washerwoman's not bringing my Cloaths home seasonably. Exceeding fine Weather. Dined with Tho^s⁶⁶ & Titus Ogden.⁶⁷ People begin to talk of Gardening. Wrensford keeps an exceeding good House, but his Charges are extravagant. Newbern covers more Ground than any Town I have met with since I left Annapolis, but the Houses are scattered, & each of them has a Garden Spot belonging to it. The Buildings are mostly framed. The Town is situated on the Side of a Bay between Neuse River on the North, and Trent River on the South. The Governor's Residence, called The Palace,⁶⁸ is an

⁶⁴Richard Cogdell represented New Bern at the Provincial Congress of August 21, 1774, the Hillsborough Assembly of August 21, 1775, and the Smithfield Assembly of May 3, 1779. He served on the Committee of Safety.

⁶⁵James Green sold his local property and bought a vessel and a cargo of corn, all of which was lost at Antigua when the British confiscated it. He was not in Craven County in 1790.

⁶⁶A merchant of New Bern

⁶⁷Went into hiding in 1781 when Major James Craig and the British troops arrived.

⁶⁸Refer to Dill, *Tryon's Palace*.

elegant, two Story, Brick Building with proper Offices. Upon opening the Street Door you enter a Hall in which are four Niches for Statues; directly opposite the Street Door is another Door which opens into an Entry leading to the back Part of the Palace: over it is this Inscription, painted in white Capital Letters upon a black Ground; viz:

Guilmo. Tryon Armigo. &c &c &c:
Regnante Provinciam An: Dom: 1771
Augusto huic Aedifico ea Carmina vovit Guls. Draper
Balnei Eques, Manilla Victor (in one line)
underneath
Rege pio felix, diris inimica Tyrannis
Virtuti Has Aedes libera Terra dedit
Sint Domus & Dominus Saeclis Exempla futuris
Hinc Artes, Mores, Justitiamq: colant. D: D: D:

(Manilla Victor reminded me of a Piece of Sir William Draper's Vanity exhibited on a Cenotaph at his Seat at Clifton Down near Bristol in England, on which is this Inscription "Here lies the Mother of Sr. W^m. Draper").⁶⁹

Immediately on getting into the Entry you see an elegant Stair Case with Mahogany Banisters, which reaches to the Top of the House, & is there covered by a glazed Cupola, which serves to illuminate it. The Rooms are spacious, elegant, & neatly finished: one of them is appropriated to the use of the Senate (Council) which I think is an Imposition upon the Gov^r. In this are the Pictures of the King & Queen at full Length.-I am told that some of the back Country Members moved to Leave to bring in a Bill for selling the Palace; & that some of them when they come to attend the Assembly bring their Pork in their Wallets with them by Way of saving Expenses.-I met with a Tree in Seed, called the Pride of China: the Seed hung in Clusters, & looked like Cherries, only that they were yellow: the Tree grows very quick & bears (as I am informed) a very beautiful Flower. Sent M.C. some of the Seed.

8th. Mr. Stephens set out for home & I for Wilmington. Crossed Trent River 13 Miles from Newbern; the River is not above 20 Yards wide here, but very deep; the Boat is pulled across by a Rope. dull cloudy Weather, high Winds, & small drizzle Rains all Day. It is very dangerous riding in No. Carolina when the Winds blow hard, for you ride all the Way through Pines, many of which have been "boxed" to get the Turpentine out & others have been so much burned by burning the Woods that a high Wind is very apt to upset them.

There is an exceeding good Causeway of near 8 Miles long on the Road between Trent River & Mrs. Warburton's⁷⁰ where I lodged to Night. It extends from Trent to White Oak River, which is rather a Swamp covered with

⁶⁹Sir William Draper (1721-1787) received his M.A. from Cambridge University in 1749. In 1762, he and Admiral Cornish captured Manila from the Spaniards by assault. In 1770 he traveled through North Carolina.

⁷⁰Mrs. Warburton's place appears on the Mouzon Map of 1775. It was about halfway between Trent River and Snead's Ferry.

with Water than a River. Mrs. W. told me it was made-out of Spite. The Overseer of the Road's Daughter was delivered of a Mulatto Child. The Women of the Neighborhood talked freely of it: one swore she had slept with her one Night & in the Morning she observed her Shift had been much wet with Milk from her Breasts; another swore that the young Woman had gone to a Midwife, and enquired of her whether it was possible for a Woman to be got with Child when she was asleep without knowing it, &c: the Overseer of the Road, Believing the Fact to be as it was, & finding it would be hard with his Daughter, compromised the Matter as well as he could, & in Order to have Satisfaction of his Neighbours, altered the Road & made them come & make this Causeway through a Swamp. The Road all the Way from Newbern to Mrs. Warburton's is very good. Nutmeg, scraped, & put into a hollow Tooth, gave immediate Relief.

The Assembly of North Carolina have passed an Act for confiscating the Estates of the King & Lord Granville⁷¹ in that State. I understand that Lord Granville is both a Minor & an Idiot. I am informed that Trent River, though so narrow where I crossed it, runs 40 Miles up the Country by Land, but to that Place by Water is 150 Miles, the River being extremely serpentine.

The Rattan grows in some of the low Grounds of No. Carolina in the Form of a Vine. Brick dust & Vinegar rubbed on Mahogany will take out all Staines, & then a little Oil or Cream will give it a fine Gloss. Newbern is the Capitol of North Carolina, & is in Craven County-While there I went into the Church Yard where I met with the following Inscriptions

To the Memory of
Charles Elliot⁷² late attorney General
For this Province who died anno 1756.
An honest Lawyer indeed.

Here Lyes Buryed the Body of
Mr. Josiah Howard
Son of John Howard Esq.⁷³
A Young man of Surprising Ingenuity
who departed this Life Octob^r. 10th
1759 aged 22 years.

Ingenious Youth tho art Laid in Dust
Thy Friends for thee in Tears did burst
But as thy Youthful Piety was Great
We all Submit with thee to follow CHRIST the great
Altho in Youth thou art Laid in Dust
Thy GOD will Raise thee up we Trust.

I rode through Part of Craven, Carteret & Onslow Counties today.

⁷¹John Carteret, Earl Granville (1690-1763) had a daughter, Louisa, who married Thomas Thynne, "succeeded to the Carteret estates on the death of his uncle Robert". Carteret, second Earl Granville, died without children in 1776.

⁷²Appointed Attorney General by Governor Arthur Dobbs.

⁷³Justice in Onslow County as early as 1741-42.

Mrs. Warburton says she has had Pease in the Ground a Week: it is common Practice to plant them by Twelfth Day.

Saw a Number of negro Children of both Sexes, stark naked today; they have never been clothed yet: saw also a Negro Woman with nothing on her but a very ragged Petticoat.

9th. A clear, severe Sky. Air rather cool. Towards noon the Wind rose, & blew flawy all the rest of the Day. The Country hitherto has been remarkably level, but I have met with a Number of Hills today though they are small. The Road from Mrs. Simmons's⁷⁴ (where I dined) to Mr. Snead's⁷⁵ on New River, where I lodge, is, for the most Part very sandy; in some Places the Sand is very deep:-the Roots of the Pine Trees run across the Road, & are so buried in the Sand that a Horse can not see them, & they are very apt to trip him. New River, at the Ferry, is about three Eighths of a Mile wide, but a little lower down is three Miles broad: it empties into the Sea.

There is an upper Road from Newbern to Wilmington by which New River Ferry⁷⁶ may be avoided; but the Stages on it are not as good as on the lower Road. New River is about 40 Miles long; it is but 6 Miles from Snead's Ferry to the Sea. Saw a Handmill for grinding Corn with a Pair of Stones. The Stones were about the Size of middling large Grind Stones.

10th. Crossed New River Ferry. The Road from hence to Collier's,⁷⁷ (where I lodge to-night) is a very fine deep loose, white Sand, in some Places four, & in some even six Inches deep: the Depth of the Sand & blundering over the Roots of the Pines fatigued my Horse very much. From Snead's to Sage's⁷⁸ (which is 13 Miles) there is but one House on the Board, the Country is totally uncultivated. I have frequently rode 5 & 6 Miles in this Journey without seeing any Sign of Cultivation.-Weather clear & moderate today. Had Excellent Oysters for Supper last Night at Snead's. Notwithstanding Mrs. Collier's Character for Singularity, she treated me with great Civility & I fared very well there-so did my Horse.

11th. Set out for Wilmington. It rained and blew very hard in the Night, and there was some Rain this Morning. This was much in my Favor, for it settled the Land in the Road: it was deep notwithstanding. When I was between 7 & 8 miles from Wilmington, at a Mile's Distance from any House, there came up a violent Storm of Wind & Rain;-my Horse could not face it but turned his Head in order to avoid it:-I rode fast, but was wet to the Skin before I could get to a House: a little hospitable Hut afforded me Shelter for myself & my Horse. I set out again after the Rain, but it began to rain again when I was within two Miles of Wilmington; I stopped at one McCulloch's (a Tavern) where I dined, & when the Rain was

⁷⁴A widow, Nancy Simmons, was listed in Onslow County in 1790 with two females and three slaves.

⁷⁵Robert W. Snead represented Onslow County in the House of Commons in 1789, the Senate in 1790, 1791 and 1793. In 1790 he owned twenty-four slaves.

⁷⁶Mouzon's Map of 1775 shows the Ferry on the east side of New River, but the modern town of Snead's Ferry is on the west side.

⁷⁷The Collet Map of 1777 shows the Collier place about three-fifths of the way from Snead's Ferry to Wilmington.

⁷⁸The Collet Map shows Sege's about two-fifths of the distance between Snead's Ferry and Wilmington.

over I went to Wilmington. Lodged at Mr. DuBois's.⁷⁹ There are vast Quantities of Moss (very long) & Mistletoe all along the Sea Coast of North Carolina; they are not confined to the Oak, but each of them grows on a Variety of Trees. From Snead's at New River, all the Way to Wilmington the Road is remarkably sandy, but the deepest Land is from Sege's to Wilmington.

12th. Wilmington is a small Town situated in a sandy Hollow surrounded with Sand Hills; it lies upon the North Branch of Cape Fear River which is here about 300 Yards wide: it is the Capitol of New Hanover County. The River is defended by a Battery of 9 nine Pounders, & another of 8 Guns from 5 to 12 prs.-Here are also two Iron Field Pieces on traveling Carriages. The Houses in Wilmington are mostly framed, & but indifferent Buildings. When Mrs. Tryon⁸⁰ was in North Carolina she desired the Ladies to address her, when they spoke or wrote to her, by the Title of her Excellency; and intimated that they ought to stand when in her Presence, alleging that as the Governor & his Lady were the Representatives of their Majesties, they ought to be treated with equal Ceremony.-People in North Carolina differ much respecting Gov^r. Tryon's Conduct in the affair of the Regulators; some blame him & some them, & some both of them; but all agree that Col. Fanning⁸¹ was at the Bottom of it: they say that he insisted upon & took larger Fees than the Law allowed; & that when he was in the Back Country he took Money from them for Lands of which he promised to procure Grants for them, but neither did it nor returned the Money; & when they complained to the Gov^r. for Redress, he told them he would believe Col. Fanning's Word sooner than their Oath.

The following Instance of Gov^r. Tryon's Cruelty has been mentioned by every Person with whom I have conversed about the Regulators. There was one Meroi⁸² (see March 27th), a Rifle-Maker by Trade, from whom some of the Regulators purchased their Rifles; upon their saying they bought them to him, the Man was apprehended as belonging to their Body, & tho' no further Proof of it appeared against him he was hanged. He left behind him a Wife & eleven Children. Staid in Wilmington till the 16th. when I crossed the Ferry, rode over a dismal, swampy Island, (which seems to be a Haunt for Herons & Turkey Buzzards) of about a Mile & a Quarter wide, crossed a Ferry over Northwest River (about 150 Yards wide) lodged, not far from the Bank of it, at Mrs. Eagan's.⁸³ The Weather has been rather cool, & there have been two pretty smart Frosts since the 11th, Saw Cap^t. W^m. Robeson.⁸⁴

⁷⁹There was a Captain Dubois from Wilmington District in the Revolutionary War. Nicholas Dubois enlisted for the war in Captain Bradley's Company on June 18, 1779, but deserted on Oct. 26

⁸⁰Margaret Wake of London married Captain William Tryon in 1757. She possessed a dowry of £30,000.

⁸¹refer to Marshall DeLancey Haywood, *Governor William Tryon*.

⁸²Hazard's informant offered a confused account of Captain Benjamin Merrill who was hanged by Governor Tryon and was survived by a wife and only eight children.

⁸³James Eagan died in Bladen County in 1783 leaving a wife and daughter.

⁸⁴Represented Pitt County at the Halifax Provincial Congress in 1776.

There is a Causeway across the Island, but it is in very bad order.

17th. Agreeable Weather early in the Morning, but rather cool; rode over a Causeway 3 Miles long:-it is in bad Order.-Took a "short Cut" to save 12 Miles Riding-Memorandum. Take no more short Cuts in North Carolina.-Had to cross two Mill Dams & met with great Difficulty. Rode through a very gloomy Cypress Swamp:-lost my Way.-Saw Palmettos growing; they look like Fans. Crossed Town Creek at Davis's Ferry;⁸⁵ very narrow.-Met with a Man at Davis's of the Name of Leonard⁸⁶ a Relation to the Leonards at Princeton;-fortunately, for me, he was going to Lockwood's Folly⁸⁷we rode in Company. After riding 2 Miles reached one Potter's⁸⁸ did not see him: he is said to be very sensible but married to a Mulatto Woman. The Corn there was mouldy. My Horse would not eat it. Got a Draught of Yellow Water at this rascally House: it afforded nothing better. Was caught in the Rain here, & had to stay till 2 O'Clock P.M.-Very cloudy all the rest of the Day.

From Potter's to the Widow Mill's is 12 Miles, & not a House all the Way. The Road is nothing more than a Foot Path, & runs through Swamps & wet Savannahs (or Heaths) for the most Part. In one of the Swamps the Water came up to my Saddle Skirts. If Mr. Leonard had not been with me I certainly should have returned to Mrs. Eagen's, for the Swamps had so terrible an appearance that I should not have ventured through them. Mrs. Mill's⁸⁹ House looked so badly that I would not stop there, especially as I was but 5 Miles from Lockwood's Folly, & the Sun began to appear in such a Manner as to induce me to think I might get to the Folly before it rained. In my Way saw 5 or 6 wild Deer run across the Road. The Wind has been very high the most of the Day. A vicious Mare which Mr. Leonard led, kicked at my Horse as she passed him; she was very near hitting my Leg: had she done it, I think she must have broke it.-Could get no Fodder for my Horse last Night;-instead of it he had Marsh Hay, which is a Composition of Weeds & the wildest Kind of Grass imaginable;-he would not eat it.-He would have been a Fool if he had.-Lodged at Bell's at Lockwood's Folly, a mean looking House where both I & my Horse had plenty with Civility. Mrs. Bell⁹⁰ is from near Montock at the East End of Long Island: her maiden name was Parsons.-Lockwood's Folly is a Creek which empties into the Sea: it gets its Name from one Lockwood who mistook it for Cape Fear Inlet, & lost his Vessel. Crossed it by a Bridge near Bell's.-But little Rain before Bed Time, but the wind excessively high. Mrs. Eagan's House (where I lodged last Night)

⁸⁵Mouzon's Map of 1775 shows Davis's Ferry on Old Town Creek.

⁸⁶Census of 1790 lists a Henry Leonard with five whites; Samuel Leonard with five whites and two slaves.

⁸⁷Lockwood's Folly Inlet and Creek lie between Southport and Shalotte.

⁸⁸James Potter had a family of seven persons in 1790 census.

⁸⁹The 1790 census lists Jane Mills, one male under sixteen, and three slaves.

⁹⁰She must have been the wife of James Bell, Sr., listed in the 1790 census with two females and nine slaves.

had many Panes in the Windows broke; each of these was stopped up with a Bunch of Moss. Sultry the most of the Day.

18th. Rained, & blew excessively hard in the Night. Fine clear Weather this Morning. As I understood I could get no Corn on the Road I took some with me, & fed my Horse in the Woods. No House for 9 Miles, & after that none within 13.-No Tavern at present in 26 Miles. Sandy Road. Crossed Little

River in South Carolina by a Bridge. Lodged at Mr. Vereen's,⁹¹ a Public House in the Craven District. Neither ate nor drank from the Time I first set out this Morning till I reached Verreen's.

⁹¹Mouzon's Map of 1775 shows the Verreen place about 3 miles present Little River and two or three miles north of Conway, South Carolina.

VICTIM OF FRAUD

Scott and Amy Troutman

Recently we turned up a UX5 postal card sent from Greensboro, North Carolina to the Voltaic Belt Company of Marshall, Michigan. The year was 1880. Voltaic Belt was one of a number of manufacturers of quack medical devices making use of the newly discovered "electricity" to cure any of a number of ills. The belts, which went around various parts of the body, emitted low grade electrical shocks to "effect" a cure.

The postal card reads as follows:

Greensboro, N.C., March 11, 1880

Dear Sir,

Please send me your Electric Voltaic Belts and other electric as I have seen advertised in the New North State on thirty days trial. My complaint is weak back.

Yours truly,
D.S. Hall
Greensboro P.O.
Guilford Co.

For fun we decided to see if we could find the advertisement to which Mr. Hall had responded. The New North State was a four page newspaper from Greensboro, N.C. first put out in the late 1870's. In the 1880's the name was changed to "The North State".

The North Carolina State University has a fine collection of these, which are mysteriously hidden under "G" for Greensboro.

Voltaic Belt was a regular advertiser and the advertisement shown is from the January 22, 1880 edition. In case the ad is hard to read, it goes as follows:

ON 30 DAYS TRIAL

We will send our Electric Voltaic Belts upon trial for 30 days to those suffering from NERVOUS DEBILITY, rheumatism, Paralysis, or any disease of the Liver or Kidneys, and Many other diseases. A sure cure or no pay. VOLTAIC BELT CO., MARSHALL, MICH.

Luckily Mr. Hall sent no money as it is doubtful that he got any kind of a cure.

ON 30 DAYS TRIAL.

We will send our ELECTRIC VOLTAIC BELTS and other Electric Appliances upon trial for 30 days to those suffering from Nervous Debility, Rheumatism, Paralysis or any disease of the Liver or Kidneys, and many other diseases. A Sure cure guaranteed or no pay. Address, VOLTAIC BELT CO., Marshall,



*Voltaic Belt Co
Marshall Mich*

AN 1859 VISIT TO CHARLOTTE

from the Collection of Tony L. Crumbley

Occasionally the old covers which we collect will have the contents intact. When we find one with descriptions of those harder times, it is important that we consider them, for these almost forgotten times moulded our great-grandparents, who, in turn, moulded our grandparents, our parents and us.

The writer of this letter was a early route salesman or peddler. His wares were pills, such as the Lydia Pinkham's, Carter's Little Liver Pills, Grove's Pills, and many more. It is astonishing to us today that, as was routine that he travelled alone, by horse-drawn wagon, from Illinois across the Smokies and Blue Ridge Mountains, and returned. - Editor.



Thos. E. North Esq
Belleville
Illinois

Newton Catawba Co. NC

Thos. E.

I arrived here at 8 o'clock last night in usual good health, yesterday I drove 38 miles. Stopped one hour at noon & gave the horses 6 ears of corn each, & an armfull of hay. I carried the feed in the wagon with me. Corn is very scarce & worth one dollar per bushel. The horses are quite poor, & I am afraid will remain so till I get back. I now think I can make Belleville by 3 August at farthest, will then be ready for the Ky. route. I prefer taking but one horse on the Ky route. I can do it nearly as quick & with much less expense, of course it matters not to me whether I take one or two, but would be some Surger's advantage to take but one, for the expense saved would be that much in their pockets. I suppose you will be gone to Ind^a so I will not see you till fall. Perhaps S.E. will be there. I have now collected in cash \$1,617.33, notes \$248.21. Expense \$436.62. I sent home \$100 from Charlotte last Thursday 24th. I will cross the Blue Ridge on Friday & get to the 10SE [Tennessee] line by Monday. Will cross Holston River next week. I was fishing in Catawba River on Friday evening. Caught Cat & one Eel. The eel however got away from me. I have not been in bathin this summer yet but will try in French Broad next Saturday if spared.

(page 2)

The weather is very oppressively warm at this time. I think I will visit Miss B when I get and see what kind of a looking piece of humanity she is. There are two Miss. B.'s I am told worth \$10,000 each. Consider me after some of it, will you. I could have owned seven niggers in this State, if I had been so minded. Jog my memory when I get back

Sunday

June 26th 1859

& I will tell you how I could have come in possession of them without paying out one cent of money. Leave me a line at BV & tell me where to write you so that we may keep the run of each other. Tell me how Jim stood the trip & how you liked him. I think him a very good horse, nearly if not altogether as good as any the Company owns. Do you still think of visiting Pa^a this fall? I have a proposition to make to you in regard to a certain matter but will wait till I get back & see you.

William Davis is now in Mifflintown & Editor of the Juniata Sentinel. From this to the Ky. is nothing but hills all the way. There is a branch mint in Charlotte which I intended to visit but forgot it. Charlotte's called a city by the people who live in it, but its a young one not ¼ as large as Belleville. Do you know of any business in which we could embark to make money faster than we are now doing?

(page 3)

I presume you are a judge of made up clothing. Do you think we could locate anywere in Illinois in that branch of business & make money? Give me your views on it. I have been thinking of it for some time. Perhaps you would not fancy a business of that kind. Have you ever been in Summerfield, would it support a clothing store. The world owes me a living & intend to have it without going back to hard work. That is a sure case. My notion is somewhat like yours in regard to the pill business, but cannot act as independent yet as you, so I will say positively what I will do but time will tell.

I think SE said in one of his letters to me that he had been offered \$405 per month to go in a telegraph office. He is silly not to take it. He will not make it at any other business. John Moore is married to Lizze Kelley to Tuscarora Valley. Rebecca Moore was not expected to live long when father wrote me. She is consumpted. You recollect John B. Smith, son of old John Smith above town, he is dead and buried. The overseers bound out Jas. McAllister children in May, he was not able to support them. Geo. Shuman of Millerstown who it was reported made so much money RR contracting is broke. Louisa Bolinger has gone to 10SE to spend the summer with her Bro W^m. Did you see him on your way home? Tell me in yours left at BV how you liked to board with Mr. Belt at the Thomas House or did you stop with him. Does he keep as good table as he did at the American Hotel?

(page 4)

Don't you tire, nor don't your weary,
Reading this long letter so dreary.

I have nothing to write of any account but as the postage will be all the same, I will fill it with something, if it should be nonsense, like the rest of it. Have you any claims on a young lady whose initials are Miss Kate McMeen. I think mother wrote me once that she was sending you her respects & she is considered athe most intelligent lady in the valley. I suppose you have heard that Lucinda Sharon is dead.

Wheat is all through here & many feeding wheat in the sheafs for want of corn.

I haven't shaved since February, but need it now quite badly. If you visit Pa. this winter do you expect to stay there till Spring, or make your stay of short duration. What do you think of doing if you quit the pill business, or do you have anything in view. I am perhaps too inquisitive but answer only such as you choose. Do you still intend taking a Mellodian if you go. Perhaps she would rather have it in money, but that would be laid out in course of time & nothing to remember you, while a Mellodian would be something to remember you as long as she lives, providing proper care be taken of it.

Now I will quit & say no more this time, hoping to hear from you at B. Plains & BV.

I remain Very Respy & c.

[P.S] Don't tire before you read it all,
have patience till you get through,
this line fills the sheat, don't it?

Yes, it do.

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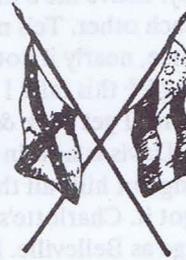
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