

# The Heritage Of Old Buncombe County Volume I — 1981

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HERITAGE OF OLD BUNCOMBE  
COUNTY. VOL. I. 1981



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peddler also was welcomed by farmers and pioneers throughout Western North Carolina. Carrying several hundred pounds of goods on pack horses, his wares included hardware, clothes such as socks; suspenders, needles, and also linens, curtains and taffetas for Sunday dresses. For the youngster, the peddler brought geegaws and toys, for the farmer, precious news from the outside world.

Still regarded as strangers and not as residents, Jews in significant numbers finally settled in Asheville in the 1880's. They came, partly because of the booming economy of the region and, in some measure, because of the reputation of Zebulon Baird Vance. Beloved throughout the region for his fiery independence, and defense of Southern rights, he had, by the 1880's also established himself as a folk hero to Jews in the South, by declaring that (Jewish) ideas fill the world, and move the wheels of progress . . ."

The first wave of Jews who came to Asheville contributed substantially to the city's economic and intellectual growth. One such merchant family was that of Solomon Lipinsky with his brothers-in-law, the Whitlocks, who opened a retail store at Eagle and Biltmore Street. Lipinsky introduced the large "single-price" store whereby the price of each unit independently was attached to each item. In 1889 he established Bon Marche which he moved to Haywood Street in 1923, thereby creating a new business district.

### Discount Prices

In 1908 Barney Pearlman inaugurated his system of bringing in factory close-outs and railroad salvage goods for resale at discount prices. In Asheville in 1915 as part of a clothing chain Joseph Max Cooper later opened Fields Men's Corner which combined "chain store princes" with personalized service and tailoring in men's clothes. In similar fashion, Edward Fater opened a wholesale cigar and soda shop on Pack Square in 1922.

While there are no Jewish neighborhoods in the traditional sense in Asheville, Jews have, for the most part, tended to settle in North Asheville and, in earlier days, in Kenilworth. There are currently from four to five hundred families who live in the Asheville area.

They brought with them a high regard for education, a cosmopolitan view of the world outside Asheville, and lastly, a "fiddler on the roof" optimism that offset mountaineer fatalism.

It was, for example, Louis Lipinsky who was instrumental in establishing a unit of the University of North Carolina system in Asheville; Joseph Vanderwart who helped a chamber music series survive in a small urban environment; and lastly, it was the Jewish community that supported, in disproportionate numbers, public issues forums and discussions of world events.

rather optimistic view of human nature that Jews stressed the importance of social justice. Thus, it was in the area of social justice and civic improvement that Asheville's Jews made their greatest contributions.

Edna Lichtenfels was prominent in the city's garden clubs, PTA, League of Women Voters, Girl Scout Council, and Red Cross. Many of Asheville's greatest civic projects, the Civic Center, regional airport, Memorial Mission Hospital, Red Cross and the United Fund either originated in or were made successful in part by the support of Asheville's Jewish community.

Southern mountaineers and Jews both share a strong commitment to place, to religion, to an ethical sense of values, to a long and tortured history, and to a loyalty to the land.

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— The Book Committee

## WOMEN IN THE MOUNTAINS: NEW DIRECTIONS

The OBCGS is pleased to draw to the attention of WNC genealogists, the work of an organization called The Council on Appalachian Women, Inc. Their work was funded by the North Carolina Humanities Committee — 1978 through 1980. Our Book Committee felt that their social studies done on a scientific level of research and literary presentation would make for an interesting comparison to what is said by the lay persons writing about their own families from individual observations and existing family records.

We bring you here, notice of a booklet published by the above Council, which contains several interesting essays entitled: *The American Woman: Our Common Threads*, by Alice Mathews of Western Carolina University; Is



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#### Calvinistic In Nature

Calvinistic in nature, mountaineers in WNC tended to believe that man was born in sin. Yet Judaism taught that man was "just a little lower than the angels," and it is from this

civic improvement that Asheville's Jews made their greatest contributions.

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Washing the clothes — an outdoor laundry . . .

- four children:
- I. Joseph Alexander Hopson Jr. married I. Tammy Morgan, 2. Vicy Sprinkles.
  - II. Saphronia Hopson married Stephan S. Shook.
  - III. Nancy Lavada Hopson married Benjamin Filmore Arrowood.
  - IV. William Henry Hopson, died in the Spanish American War.

Joseph Alexander Hopson's second marriage was to Ollie Jane Stanley from Mitchell County, North Carolina. To this union were born eight children. They were Minervia Hopson who married Hughes; Elizabeth Hopson who married Jim Garland; Jane Hopson who married Mark Wright; Myra Hopson who never married; Jason Stanley Hopson who married (first) Emma Burleson, (second) Hannah Capps and (third) Mildred Anders; Zeb B. Hopson who never married; George Greenlee Hopson who married Lula Ann Freeman and Sarah Hopson who died in infancy.

— Marion Marshbanks Jamerson

## GEORGE HURST FAMILY

389

The genealogical chart of my Hurst ancestors was a gift to me from a great, great uncle who died in 1910.

In his "Reminiscences or Sketch of the Life of J. M. Hurst" (Franklin Printing Co., Atlanta, 1906), he begins with his grandfather, George Hurst and his Christian wife who lived on this beautiful stream as early settlers. The name of George's wife is never mentioned.

The earliest record of George Hurst (ca 1758 — 1846) appears in Surry County, NC in 1787 and, curiously, another Hurst by the name of James appears in similar County Records in 1786 (he was described as aged and infirm.) I am currently seeking to somehow relate these two as father and son since George christened his first born James, and the name continues through the generations to me.

George migrated to the frontier of Buncombe County in 1807. He purchased 50 acres of prime property on Big Ivy Creek from Jacob Byler. The 1810 census lists his family as totaling 10, which would include the following: George, his wife, and 8 children: James (b. 1783), John (b. 1788-1853), Pleasant (b. 1804), John Martin (b. 1811-1898), Hannah (Whitmore), Mary "Polly" (Greenwood), Elizabeth (Anderson), and a Mrs. Cole. It seems that ties with Surry County were maintained after the migration since Mary "Polly" Hurst married John Greenwood there in the 1800's and George Hurst was witness at William Hurst's wedding to Mildred Whitlock April 22, 1805. Obviously, family remained after the initial move.

Pertaining to the female children of George Hurst, little else is known. His sons, Pleasant, John Martin, and James, remained on Buncombe County soil (now part of Madison Co.) for the rest of their lives as pioneers and raised large families.

Pleasant Hurst's children were Hannah (b.

wood), Rebecca (B. 1845), John E. (1842 — 1912).

John Martin Hurst's children were Mary E. (Carson), (1839 — 1884), James Wesley (1842-1937), Margaret Buckner (1845-1883), Joshua Young (1847 — 1863), Ellen (Carson) (1845 — 1883), Joshua Young (1847 — 1863), Ellen (Carson) (1845 — 1912), Wm. Bernard (1851-1932), Sarah (Buckner) (1853 — 1901), Joseph Sire (1855 — 1937), Martha Louisa (Buckner) (1863 — 1932), Jane (Anders) (b. 1865), Ann (Buckner) (1858 — 1935).

James Hurst's children were: Mary "Polly" (Bernard), Cozie (Greenwood), Wm. Henderson (1825) — 1915, Minerva (b. 1830, Louis (b. 1833), Henry (b. 1827).

Lastly, my great, great grandfather John Hurst felt it necessary to move on and began scouting the frontiers to the south from 1810 to 1814. He found what he was looking for in Jasper County, Ga., where she married Elizabeth Montgomery (whose family was also from NC) on June 30, 1814. He and his bride returned to Buncombe County and raised part of their family: George Jackson (1816 — 1894), David Martin (1818 — 1842), William Rabun (named for Rabun Gap, Ga.) 1820 — 1864), James Montgomery (named for his mother and author of "Reminiscences.") (1821 — 1910), Elizabeth Hawthorne (Sawyer) (1824 — 1853), John Newton (named for Newton Co., Ga. where his family later settled), Minerva Margaret (Sawyer) (b. 1827)

In 1828 the permanent migration to Newton County, Ga. took place. It was there that he raised the rest of his family: Mary Matilda (Lane) (b. 1829), Susan Francis (Adams) (1833 — 1905), Matilda Jame (Thornton) (b. 1835), Louisa Ann (1837 — 1874), Anderson L. Columbus (named for Andersonville, Columbus Co., Ga. where his father also owned land) (b. 1839), and finally, my great grandfather Martin Franklin (1841 — 1901) (he became a circuit minister of the Primitive Baptist persuasion).

John Hurst remained in Newton Co. until his death at age 65. However, through his life he kept close contact with his relations in old Buncombe County. His wife Elizabeth lived until age 94 (1889) and was survived by 8 of their 13 children. They are interred in the family plot at Brick Store, Newton County, Ga. with a number of their children and tenants.

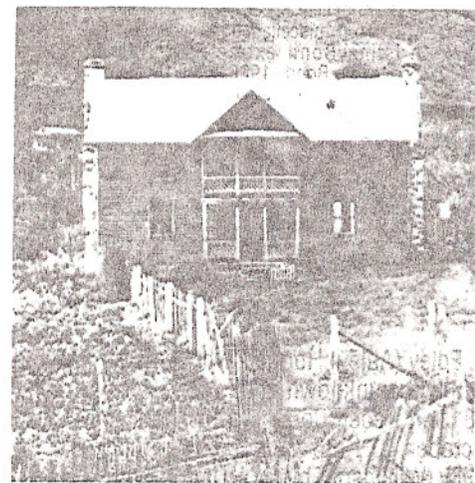
My ancestor's memories of old Buncombe County can be summed up in the first passage of James Hurst's "Reminiscences" . . . born December 31, 1821, on Big Ivy Creek, Buncombe Co., NC, about 20 miles west of Asheville. This beautiful stream has many attractions because of its crystal waters, high banks covered with laurel and Ivy bushes, so intertwined with beautiful foliage and blossoms as to give exquisite pleasure to the eye of the lovers of nature."

— James M. Hurst

## WRIGHT HUTCHINGS

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Wright Hutchins lived in Yancey County, N.C. near the confluence of South Toe and North Toe Rivers, near Kona, N.C. He owned the land between the rivers and some below the confluence in Yancey County and some in Mitchell County. He received this in grant from the Governor of North Carolina — one grant from Governor Dudley and dated 1835 the other the same year in December. He probably came here from Rutherford County and the land cost him five dollars per hundred acres with some conditions probably attached.



Home of John C. Hutchins on Cattail Creek, Yancey County. The house is still standing.

The US Census of 1840 shows that Wright Hutchins had two boys and two girls under 20 years of age. Later it was determined that one of the boys was named John C. Hutchins. He married Sarah Ann Biggs and lived in a log house on Cattail Creek. The house is still standing. Their children were:

William Wright Hutchins, b. Oct. 29, 1848 died Dec. 15, 1919; Mary Malissa, born May 18, 1851 who married Tom Harris; Margare Emaline who married Willard McMahan; John Madison, wife unknown, but whose son was the best natural gunsmith in the country; Finnetta Catharine, born Sept. 25, 1857 who married Charlie McMahan; Landon Hayes, born August 20, 1859, who married Trissie Lovada Shepherd, and James Columbia who was born, Dec. 3, 1861, married Eura Ann Rathbone, and died on May 30, 1941.

Landon Hayes Hutchins was a school teacher, and the county superintendent for two terms, covering a period of over 50 years. His children were: James, who taught school; A.J., who became Superintendent of the Asheville High School, and later of Canton High School; William who was a farmer; Charles, a lawyer and representative to the State Legislature for at least two terms, and his wife Effie for one term. His wife was a record-breaking hiker. When she was 33 years old she hiked from Burnsville to Asheville on April 25, 1927 — forty mile hike in seven hours and thirty eight minutes.

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# The Heritage of Old Buncombe County North Carolina Volume II 1987

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HERITAGE OF OLD BUNCOMBE  
COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA.

GEORGIA ROOM  
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Doris Cline Ward, Editor  
Charles D. Biddix, Associate Editor  
Roberta Snyder Hall, Assistant Editor

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**DAVID HENRY SWANN****571**

The eldest son of Rev. William (Billy) and Mary Ellen (Engle) Swann was David Henry Swann, born November 2, 1849, on Ox Creek in Buncombe County, North Carolina. He married Mary Caroline Clark who was born on July 16, 1848, also in Buncombe County.

They established a homestead on the headwaters of the Riceville Community of Buncombe County and eleven children were born of the union, one of whom was Oscar Stanley Swann, born October 29, 1889 and the father of this writer's husband.

The eleven children were:

William Francis Swann, born June 13, 1869 and who died May 15, 1935. He married Lena Westall, born March 3, 1875 and who died March 29, 1931. They are buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery, Columbus, N.C.

John Henry Swann, who went to Jacksonville, Illinois, as a young man. He married and reared a family in that locality and is buried there.

Alfred P. Swann, who married Emma Young of Elizabethtown, Tennessee. He and his family are buried there.

A. Doak Swann, born December 15, 1883, and who died July 3, 1902. He is buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery, Columbus, N.C. He was never married.

Herman L. Swann, born December 24, 1885, and died January 20, 1986. He married Anna Walker who was born May 12, 1894 and who died August 19, 1977. They reared their family in High Point, N.C. and both are buried in Floral Garden Park, High Point.

Oscar Stanley Swann, born October 29, 1889 and who died March 30, 1962. He married Bonnie Laura Davis who was born February 25, 1891 and who died July 18, 1979. Both are buried in the Oakdale Cemetery, Hendersonville, N.C.

Sara Ellen Swann, born November 26, 1867 and who died November 22, 1947. She married Willie Ballard, born July 29, 1864. They are buried in the Tryon Cemetery, Tryon, N.C.

Thula Swann, who went to Illinois at an early age and married Charlie Lewis of Godfrey, Illinois. Both are buried there.

Oda Inez Swann, born August 30, 1874, and who died January 24, 1964. She married John G. Monroe who was born October 11, 1879 and who died April 10, 1940. They are buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery in Columbus, N.C.

Donnie Swann, who married first, Clarence Rhodes, and secondly, a Mr. Blockwell.

Mattie, who married Andy Goodman. They are buried at Mud Creek in Henderson County.

David Henry married the second time to Carrie Sue Bennett and they had two children — Bessie who married Russell Whitlock, and Christine who married Halbert Blair.

David Henry Swann and his first wife Mary Caroline (Clark) are buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery, Columbus, N.C.

Source: Personal knowledge.

— Ruth McDarris Swann.

**REV WILLIAM (BILLY) SWANN AND FAMILY****572**

William (Billy) Swann was born in Buncombe County, North Carolina, around 1825, of ancestors who had come from Holland. Billy became a farmer and also became a Methodist Minister, resulting from the evangelistic influence of Francis Asbury and the Methodist Societies which sprang up throughout this area in the wake of his visits.

In 1848 he married Mary Ellen Engle who was born in 1830 in Reems Creek Valley, Buncombe County, but whose ancestors had come to America from Germany.

Billy and Mary Ellen established a home and farm on Ox Creek in the Reems Creek Valley, reared eleven children and here they lived to the end of their days.

Their children were as follows: David Henry, born 1849; Nichols (Nick), born 1851; Susan E, born 1853 who married John E. Penland, and who are both buried in the Brank Cemetery on Reems Creek; Alfred, born 1855.

James R. was born in 1860 and married Nan Harwood. They went to live in Black Mountain, N.C.

There was Mary Ellen, born 1863 who married James Wiley McDarris.

Charles W. (Charlie) born 1865, married Hattie Burnette, and both are buried in the Bethesda United Methodist Church Cemetery, Old Haw Creek Road, Asheville, N.C.

There was Mattie, born 1873, who married John Bartlett, and settled on Reems Creek.

There were three more: Elizabeth (Betty), born in 1867; Neilly, born 1869; and Liza who married Newton Ballard and also settled for life on Reems Creek.

Source: Personal knowledge.

— Ruth McDarris Swann

**ISOM ANDREW TAYLOR FAMILY****573**

Isom Andrew Taylor was born January 1, 1934, son of Ransom & Mary Harris Taylor of Mills River area of Henderson County, N.C. His parents sent him to Buncombe County to attend the Luther School where he met his wife Laura Ann Selena Luther daughter of George Michael & Sarah Moffit Luther of Candler, N.C.

Isom & Laura lived a few years in Henderson County, then moved to Buncombe County and made their home in Candler. He was a farmer and also a carpenter. The Isom Taylor family was among the founding families of Snow Hill United Methodist Church, located in the Pole Creek area of Candler, N.C.

Isom and Laura were the parents of 11 children. Their children were 1. Martha E. b: 1-8-1857 — d: 7-12-1859, 2. Sarah Louise "Lou" Elizabeth b: 5-6-1859 — d: 11-13-1946 married Joshua Columbus Curtis son of Benjamin & Susan Joyce Curtis Jr. of Candler, N.C. 3. Mary "Toby" L. b: 8-2-1861 — d: 4-23-1896 married Fidilla Wilson, 4. Jane b: 3-15-1863 d: 1957 married Hamilton Bryson, 5. Arthur Albutus b: 9-5-1866 — d: 1-11-1938

married Lola Morgan, 6. Eunice Leona b: 7-24-1868 — d: 4-23-1921 married Henry Steven Hall son of William Franklin & Margaret Cole Hall of Buncombe Co., 7. James Loren b: 7-24-1870 — d: 12-12-1955 married Julia Tinsley, 8. Julia Miranda b: 8-5-1872 — d: 7-2-1951 married John Stines, 9. Robert "Bob" Belton b: 3-13-1875 — d: 2-1-1956 married Sarah "Sally" Cathey daughter of John Lafayette & Louisa L. Hyatt Cathey of Big Cove area of Candler, 10. Infant (Twin to "Bob") b: 3-13-1875 — d: 3-13-1875, 11. Infant (died at birth) b: 4- -1877 — d: 4- -1877. Isom Andrew died 5-8-1918. Laura was born 11-13-1834 and died 12-21-1911.

Isom & Laura were buried at Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church located on Luther Road, Candler, N.C.

Source: Joshua Columbus & Lou Taylor Curtis Bible.

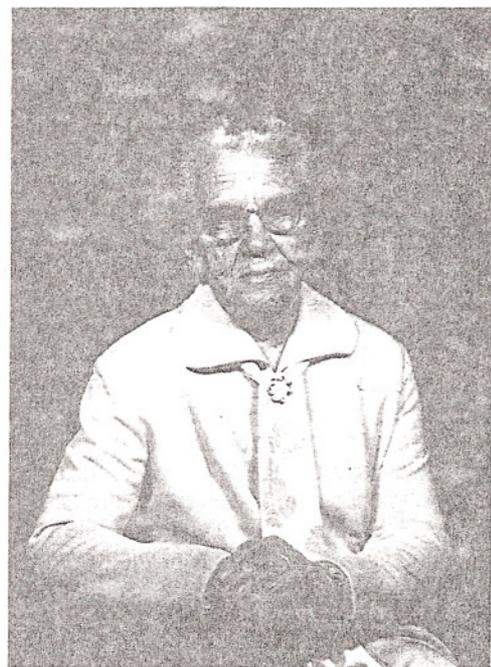
— John Alexander Taylor

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**JOHN TAYLOR JR. (1818-1899)****574**

John Taylor was born in 1818 in Buncombe County, in what is now Henderson County. He raised his family on land south of Asheville in Limestone Township. The only information we have on his ancestors is as follows:

His grandfather, Robert Taylor (1715-1807), whose birthplace and ancestry is unknown, came to what was then Tryon County, N.C. sometime prior to 1773. He lived in Rutherford and Tryon Counties, N.C. and married Susannah Anderson. We do not know the names of all of their children, but the following have been verified: Joshua, Caleb, Susannah, Mary, John, Robert, Arthur, James, Jeremiah and Issac. Robert Taylor was a planter, and prospered on 100 acres, and later purchased 300 acres more in 1774 on Mountain Creek. He was listed on the 1790 Census, and left a will.



Marie Baker, taken Dec. 1977, Hamburg, Iowa.