

- 125 Years -

# Holly Springs

*"It's the seat of thrift and enterprise  
and the home  
of culture and refinement."*

- Historical Raleigh, of Holly Springs in 1913

A History of Holly Springs  
Commemorating the Town's  
125th Anniversary

Jan. 26, 2002

1877-2002

## Introduction

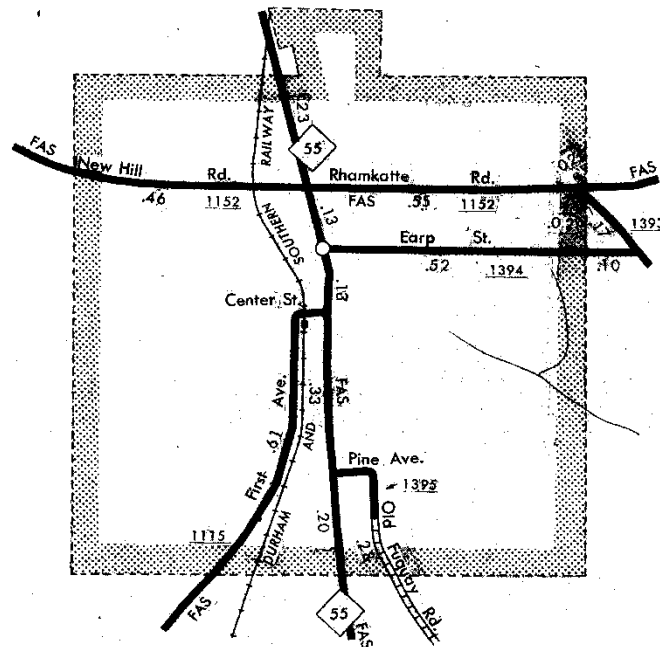
This is the story of Holly Springs, a 200-year-old community with a name which brings to mind pictures of bubbling, fresh water and trees with shiny green leaves and red berries. Stories of springs and holly trees are imbedded in the earliest history of the community. Such nostalgic mental pictures have led the Town of Holly Springs, in recent years, to adopt a holly branch as its logo. Many of the holly trees, described by historians explaining the town's name, have disappeared from the area over the years. Some of the springs still flow. The community itself is alive and well and flourishing as never before.

Holly Springs has a rich history, marked by periods of vitality and prosperity, interspersed with economic recessions, usually brought on by wars. As it enters the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the town is riding the crest of yet another wave of prosperity, this one the grandest ever, marked by an increase in population from less than 1,000 in 1990 to more than 9,000 in 2000.

Holly Springs was a bustling village, although not yet an incorporated town, long before the Civil War. After the war, it was devastated. Rebuilding began in the late 1800s under the leadership of an energetic entrepreneur named George Benton Alford, who, among other accomplishments, got the General Assembly to grant the little town a charter of incorporation in 1876. General Assembly ratification of the town's incorporation papers followed on Jan. 26, 1877. The town's original boundaries made one perfect square mile.

## One-Mile-Square

The map below is from 1972 and clearly shows the original one-mile-square boundaries of the Town of Holly Springs. Aside from the notch at the top, which resulted from an annexation sometime before 1972, this was the boundary of the Town of Holly Springs for 110 years, from 1877 to 1987.



HOLLY SPRINGS

POP. 697

In the early 1900s, Holly Springs outgrew its neighbors, Apex and Sippihaw (a community later called Fuquay Springs, and then finally Fuquay-Varina). A lively business and industrial community developed, enhanced by the arrival of a railroad. The town had several churches and schools so well-known for their excellence, some families moved to the area so their children could take advantage of the educational opportunities. Others sent children to board in Holly Springs homes and attend the local school.

Then came World War I. Men went off to fight or to work in war-related industries. Young people moved away to cities where opportunities were greater. Holly Springs' prosperity waned.

Between the two World Wars, the town made something of a comeback. Its school, by that time a public school, continued to flourish. But Col. Alford died in 1923, leaving the town without effective leadership. In 1924, the Bank of Holly Springs failed, the first bank in North Carolina to do so before the great Depression of 1929.

The Depression, followed by a second World War, which again drew people away to more urban areas, left Holly Springs without the young people, the business and industry or the money to get moving again. For a good 20 years, the sleepy little town of 500 to 600 residents sat, barely noticed, tucked in a corner of the state's capital county. It began to show signs of awakening in the 1960s under the leadership of Mayor I. M. Gattman (1945-1949 and 1961-1969), a transplanted Yankee who had married a Holly Springs girl. As mayor in the 1960s, Gattman began efforts to get street lights installed, to improve the town's appearance and to attempt to entice industry into the town. He made some progress. Street improvements and shrubbery planting led to the town's being awarded first place in a competition sponsored by the Wake County Community Development Association in 1965. Still, as late as 1966, a headline in a Raleigh newspaper referred to Holly Springs as a "Poverty pocket in wealthy Wake (County)."

A public water system was finally established in 1968, but it was not until 1985 when the town's first sewer plant was built that Holly Springs' star again began to rise. Once the town had full utility services to offer, industrial, business and residential developers began to show an interest. The decision of Warp Technologies, a new polyester-thread-producing company, to locate in Holly Springs doubled the town's tax base from \$8 million to \$16 million in one year.

Increased tax revenues enabled the town to beef up its utility systems to accommodate its next big newcomer, Sunset Ridge, a multi-million dollar, upscale residential community with golf course. Sunset Ridge began with about 500 acres and has grown to more than 700 acres and is still developing.

Those two arrivals set in motion a growth pattern which has steadily accelerated. By the early 1990s, Holly Springs had begun receiving the overflow population from booming Cary and Apex. Folks seeking a more rural way of life and somewhat lower home prices found Holly Springs. Developers saw them coming and readied residential offerings ranging from starter homes to executive styles.

Today, Holly Springs' municipal leaders are planning for enlarged sewer and water capacities, courting business and industry in order to create a more balanced tax base and, at the same time, promoting plans for a new town center, designed with a village theme and planned to include a historic park centered around the Leslie-Alford-Mims house, an imposing residence which has played an important role in the town's history for 150-plus years.

Town fathers have said they would like to see the population held to between

25,000 and 50,000. The census conducted in 2000 placed the then population at 9,192. Projections – based on the past five-year trends – have the numbers reaching 12,000 by the end of this 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of 2002 and 20,450 by the year 2010.

– **Shirley Hayes and Joni Powell**

### **In the Beginning – The Town Charter**

Below is a copy of the 13-line original town charter, ratified by the General Assembly on Jan. 26, 1877.

**TOWN OF HOLLY SPRINGS  
MAYOR'S OFFICE  
HOLLY SPRINGS, N. C.**

**An Act to Incorporate the town of Holly Springs in the county of Wake.**

**Laws of 1876- Chapter LV.-"§ 55.**

**Section 1. The General Assembly of North Carolina, do enact,**

**That the town of Holly Springs, in the County of Wake, be, and the same is hereby incorporated by the name and style of -the town of Holly Springs, and be subject to all the provisions contained in Chapter Three of Battle's Revisal and the act amending said chapter.**

**Section 2. That the corporate limits of said town shall be as follows,-  
Beginning at a point 227 Rods South West of J.F. Goodwin's residence,-  
Thence running North 320 Rods,- Thence East 320 Rods,- Thence South 320 Rods,- Thence West 320 Rods to the first station.**

**Section 3. This act shall be in force from and after its ratification.**

**Ratified the 26th day of January A.D. 1877.**

# *History of Holly Springs*

By Shirley Hayes & Joni Powell

With the Assistance of Town Historian Mrs. Mary Lee Johnson

Springs of fresh water, made particularly attractive by the abundance of holly trees around them, drew travelers to the southwest corner of what is now Wake County during Colonial times, long before “the community of Holly Springs” evolved and appropriated its name from the pleasant watering spot.

Historians have determined that Tuscarora Indians inhabited the area prior to the arrival of the colonists from Europe. Artifacts found throughout Wake County support that claim. An English adventurer and explorer, John Lawson, who traveled into the interior of the Carolina woodlands in 1701, kept a journal which is believed to be the first written record still existing of any Englishman’s entering the area that is now Wake County. He wrote of woods, rivers, waterfalls and Indians, some friendly, others not.

It was nearly four decades from the time of Lawson’s visit before the first settlers from other parts of the Colonies took up land in the wilderness that eventually became Wake County. Some obtained land grants from the state, purchasing previously un- owned land for pennies an acre.

Fred Burt of the Wilbon community -- which has a Holly Springs address -- still lives on a 300-acre tract of land which is a portion of a land grant of several thousand acres purchased by his ancestors in the 1700s. The Burt name recurs throughout Holly Springs history. So do names from the family of former mayor, Gerald Holleman (1983-2001), whose Partin ancestors also had a land grant. And there are Joneses in Holly Springs history, many descendants of Ethelred Jones, whose land grant included much of Middle Creek Township and portions of what is now Holly Springs Township.

Before she died in 2001, Joanna Proctor, who lived on Sunset Lake Road on a portion of her ancestor Ethelred Jones’s original land grant, still had documents showing that he paid 50 cents per acre for some of the land.

## Chapter 1

# *Earliest Family Names*

In Elizabeth Reid Murray's book WAKE: Capital County of North Carolina, she states that a number of Wake communities today carry the names of 18th century settlers. In the Holly Springs-Buckhorn area, she notes the family names of Burt, Holleman and Holland, who settled in the area in the 1770s. The post office at Holleman's Crossroads was officially Collins for a time, reflecting the name of another early settler, she writes. Other histories of the area mention Arthur Branch and Stephen Pearson as landowners prior to 1800.

Norris is another name known to date to the 1700s in the Holly Springs area. A memorial marker which stands about eight feet off Avent Ferry Road (historically called, "Avent's Ferry Road") 2.4 miles southwest of the Holly Springs fire department building commemorates a soldier of the Revolution who was born in 1750 and died in 1822. A news story printed in *The Fuquay-Varina Independent* in 1990 states that little is known about John Norris, Jr. except that he was probably one of the first English settlers of property near the Holleman's Crossroads area. The memorial stone was placed in 1935 by the Daughters of the American Revolution and is located in the easement on the west side of the roadway.

Norris is said to be buried in a family cemetery somewhere in the vicinity of where the marker stands, according to the newspaper account.

Ms. Murray also suggests that some residents of what is now southwest Wake County were probably among the signers of one of the petitions filed in 1770 urging "His Excellency William Tryon Esquier, (sic) Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over the privity (sic) of North Carolina ..." and the assembly to create a new, smaller county out of the oversized county of Orange to relieve these residents of the hardship of having to travel to the Orange County seat of "Hillsburrah" for attending "General musters, Elections of Burgesses and vestrymen (sic) and at Courts as witnesses and jurymen."

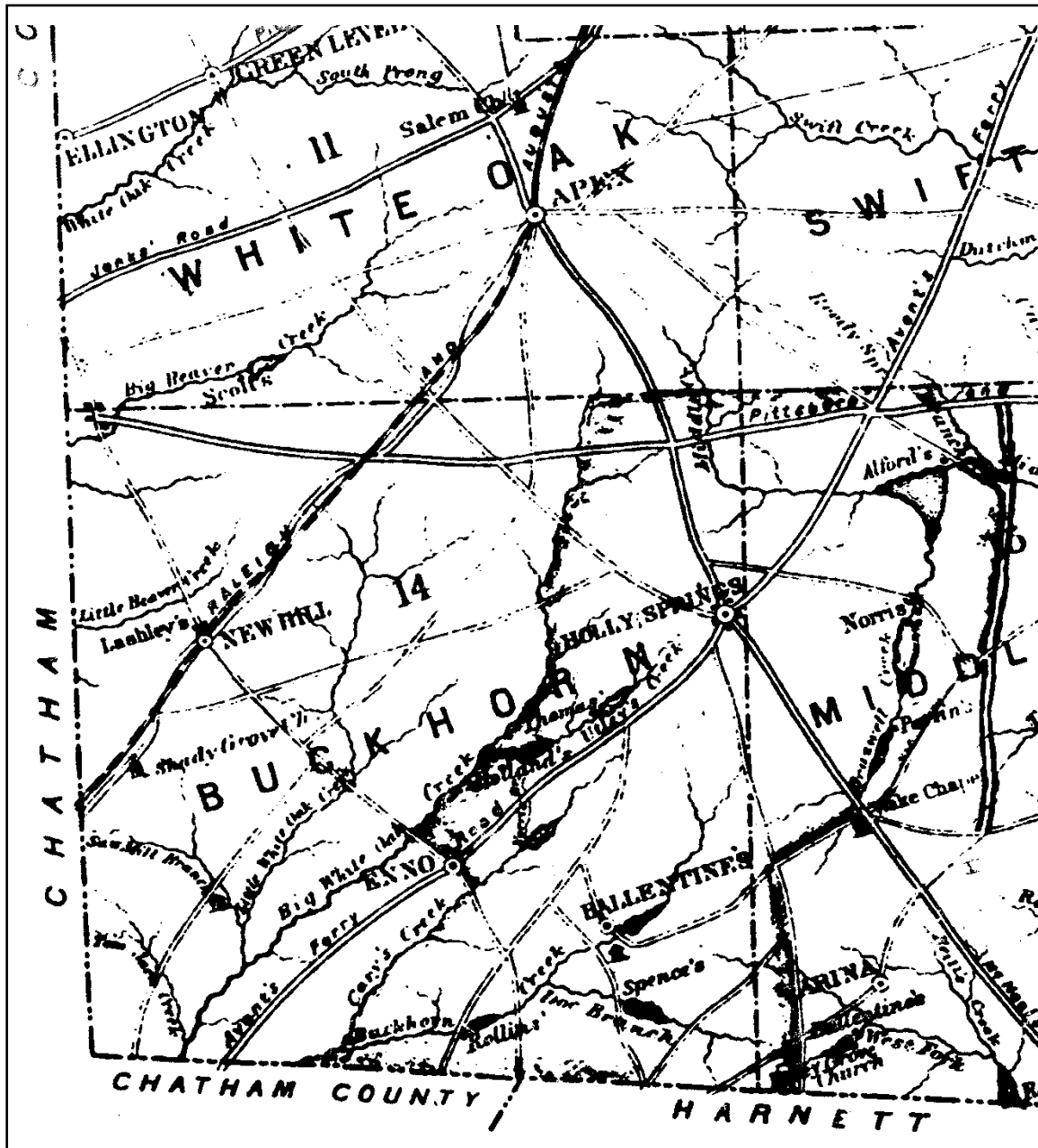
Many had to travel as often as four times a year "vast Distance" from their homes to the Orange County seat of "Hillsburrah" for these purposes. Inadequate roads and the difficulty of crossing "many Large Water Courses" not only put them to "very Considerable hardships and Inconveniences" (sic) but also often made them "Subject to have fines and forfeitures (sic) for not attending the required military, voting and court duties."

The petition cited by Murray gives no addresses for the signers but carries some last names not uncommon in the history of the Holly Springs area -- names such as Joseph Avent, Oliver Brewer, Sion Rogors, and Jacob and Isam Rogors.

The petitioners were successful and Wake County was created from parts of Orange, Cumberland and Johnston effective March 12, 1771.

### Early Map, 1887

Ten years after Holly Springs was incorporated, a portion of a survey map of Wake County titled, "Shaffer's Map of Wake County N.C. 1887" shows the rather large community of Holly Springs surrounded by roads and creeks with names connected to early families.



*"Mr. J. F. Jones came before the Council to put in a claim of \$375.00 for damages to his property by highway No. 55. The Board took no action as highway is not yet completed."*

– Dec. 7, 1936 Holly Springs Town Board Minutes Excerpt

## Chapter 2

# *Holly Springs' Beginnings*

Probably the first signs of a community in the vicinity of what is now Holly Springs developed on or near the Arthur Branch and Walter Collins properties located about two miles southwest of the present town, near the intersection of Avent's Ferry Road and Cass Holt Road (once called Rollins Mill Road). One of the earliest school houses in the area was probably a log one referred to on surveys of the Branch property and reported as having been used by a traveling Baptist evangelist to found a church.

The late Hubert Collins, a native of southwest Wake County and a descendant of the Branch and Collins families, drew a map in 1977 on which he located the site of the first Baptist church, the site of what he believed to be the original Holly Springs, also a sawmill and a cotton gin, a store and other landmarks which would indicate a small community centered near Avent's Ferry and Rollins Mill Roads.

In a letter to Wake County historian Carl Holleman of Apex in 1977, Collins wrote: "In 1896 there were two very large holly trees about 40 feet high and 30 feet apart, with the closest tree about 25 feet from the spring shown on the enclosed sketch. (The sketch shows the spring near Avent's Ferry Road and Rollins Mill Road -- today the intersection of Avent Ferry Road and Cass Holt Road.) They were the most beautiful holly trees I have ever seen in North Carolina or any other place. As a child, I was told that this spring was near the site where the first Holly Springs Baptist Church was built."

According to J. D. Marcom's history of the Holly Springs Baptist Church, the evangelist who organized the church in the log school, along with the Rev. Isaac Hicks and the Rev. Nathan Gulley, founded a Baptist Church that was active from 1810 to 1815 but then, for some reason not known, disbanded. A history of the present Holly Springs Baptist Church, compiled in 1997, suggests that the earlier church "may have been (founded) in the latter part of 1799," and gives its location as "300 yards southwest of the intersection of Rollins Mill Road and Avent Ferry Road."

The more recent history of the church is also a bit more specific about why the original one disbanded. "It seems that several members became indulged in things of this world and became unfaithful to the church (so) it died," states the writer. The late Carl Holleman, an Apex attorney and historian, in a column that appeared in a 1979 edition of *The Fuquay-Varina Independent*, told of having talked with two elderly gentlemen with memories of the early church. Bennett and Alsy Holland, one born in 1799 and the other in 1801, told Holleman they had attended meetings in that first Baptist church and that their father, David Holland, was clerk of the church. They said Isaac Hicks was pastor most of the time and Nathan Gully for a short time.



Holleman notes that “drinking and other sinful habits” engaged in by some members led the church to disband. He also acknowledges “with some embarrassment” kinship to some of those wayward members of that early church.

The Holly Springs Baptist Church history (1997) also states that the original Baptist Church was one of the first four churches to join the Raleigh Baptist Association in 1805. The association has little information about that first Baptist Church in Holly Springs but reports that it disbanded in 1815.

It was about 1800, or soon thereafter, that the first signs of a budding community began to emerge at the point where two important roads crossed, one running from Hillsborough to Smithfield, the other from Raleigh in a southerly direction to the Cape Fear River, crossing the river at a point later known as Avent’s Ferry and winding its way on to Fayetteville. That crossroads, about two miles north of the original community, became the nucleus of the town that is today Holly Springs.

The crossroads village -- which happened to be near other springs on what is now the Edwin Mims / Jim Wright property -- apparently got its commercial start when Richard Jones settled in the area shortly after 1800 and built a store. He is the first person known to have settled at the crossroads near the springs, according to a history of Holly Springs compiled in 1966 by Brooks Sanders, titled “Metamorphosis” and published in *The Fuquay-Varina Independent*. Moses N. Amis, writer of Historical Raleigh with Sketches of Wake County and Its Important Towns, states that Jones settled near the church, probably referring to the Baptist Church formed in 1822, although some histories would indicate his arrival was several years earlier. Dan Turner, in a history of the Leslie/Alford/ Mims house prepared for the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission, reports that a Scottish tailor, Archibald Leslie, opened a tailoring business and a store in the Holly Springs community around 1817. He is believed to have arrived after Jones.

According to Turner, Leslie married Isabelle Rogers, the daughter of a prominent local family. It is believed to have been about 1840 that Leslie began work on a large, impressive home near the springs at the crossroads. The house was built on a 180-acre tract. A newspaper story published in *The News and Observer* in 1949 and based on an interview with Delcie Mims, lady of the house at that time, states that the house, originally called Leslie Hall, was built by Leslie as a gift for his bride. The newspaper account describes the fine construction of the house and states that slaves carved the pine mantelpieces. According to Turner, at the time the house was built, other structures on the property included a detached kitchen, slave quarters, a harness and carriage house, a barn, a wash-smokehouse, the original Leslie store building, a turpentine distillery and a dovecote.

Although it has changed ownership and undergone numerous additions through the years, the house still stands at the heart of the Holly Springs community. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Leslie-Alford-Mims house.

## Historic Local Buildings

Reprinted from "A Selected Guide to the Historic Architecture of Wake County," published by the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission in 1998 is a page illustrating three well-known Holly Springs landmarks.



Leslie-Alford-Mims House



Holly Springs Masonic Lodge



Seagraves Drugstore

### 19. Holly Springs (p. 360)

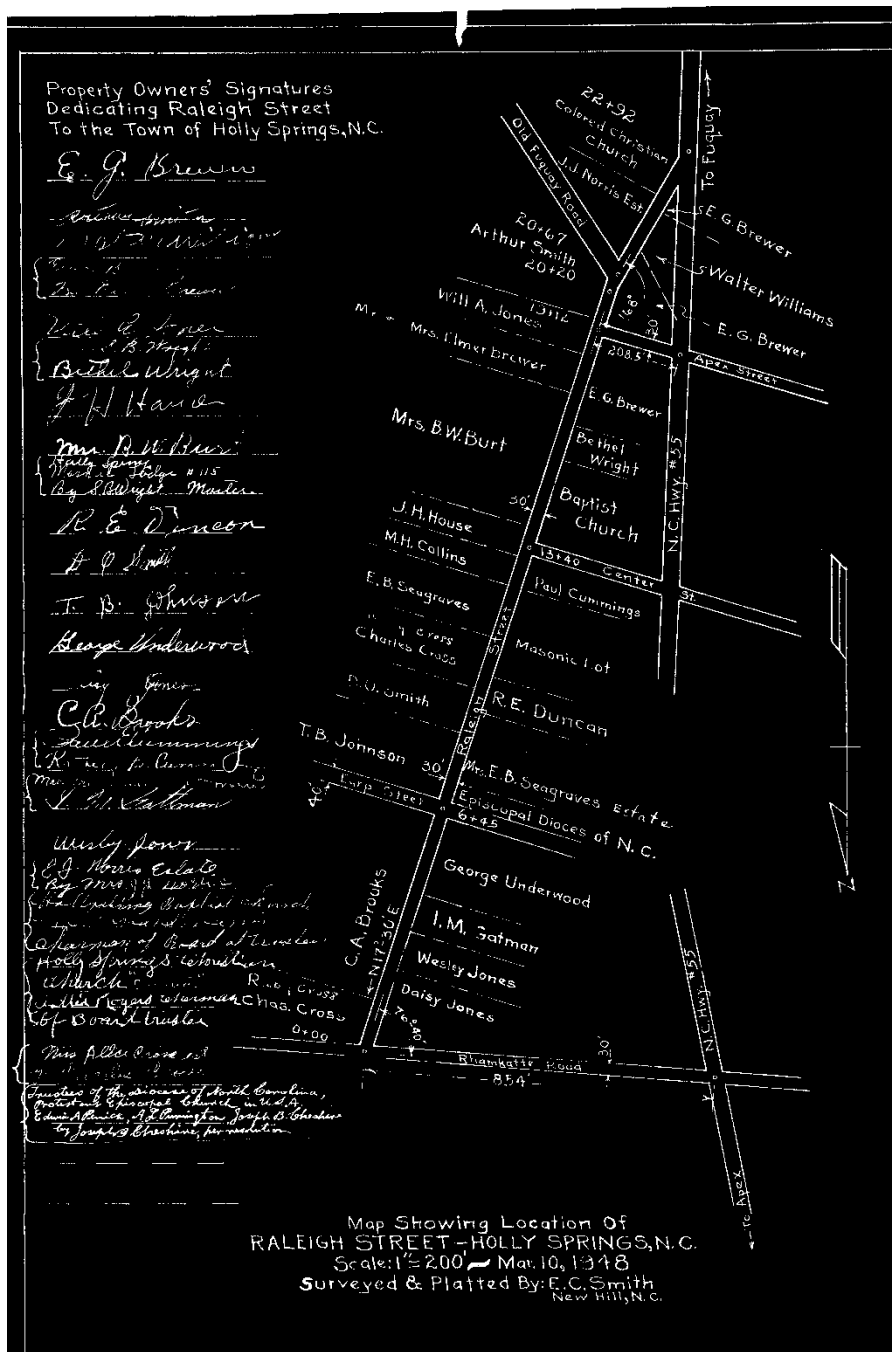
The location of Holly Springs at the intersection of two important trade roads made it an important stopping place for merchants, farmers and travelers throughout the nineteenth century.

The antebellum prosperity of Holly Springs is reflected in a distinctive landmark and a prominent example of Creek Revival architecture in Wake County, the Leslie-Alford-Mims House (100 Avent Ferry Road; NR; LM). The main block of the house dates to the 1840s and was built for Archibald Leslie. Later additions, including the side wings, third story addition and widows walk, were completed by Confederate veteran and merchant Col. G. B. Alford. Adjacent to the house is a monument to the Twenty-sixth Regiment, North Carolina Troops erected in 1923. By far the oldest lodge and school building in Wake County, the Holly Springs Masonic Lodge (127 Raleigh Street; SL) was built in 1854 and beginning in 1856 was used as a school for girls. In 1892 the Masons assumed control of the school, which operated until 1908. The building still serves as a Masonic lodge.

The Seagraves Drugstore (110 Ballentine St.) exemplifies the solid simplicity of commercial architecture that proliferated in small towns across the county in the early twentieth century.

# The Holly Springs Name

As the focus of development shifts from the intersection of Avent's Ferry and Rollin Mill Roads, there arises the question of the town's name. Which community used it first? In Marcom's history of the Baptist Church, he suggests that the original church was named Holly Springs Baptist Church because its first meeting house was "hard by a bold spring surrounded by a group of holly trees..." Marcom continues, "The village that grew up around the church was incorporated as the Town of Holly Springs..." suggesting that the church used the name Holly Springs first. The original church had disbanded, however, when development began at the crossroads.



## The Beginnings of Raleigh Street

In 1948, property owners along Raleigh Street dedicated a public easement for the roadway. A map illustrating the names and signatures of those owners is below. Note that the bearing of the map is South, rather than North. Holly Springs Road today is what is labeled "Rhamkatte Road" on the map.

*"P. S. A sign was to be made by Mr. Price and put in place by Mr. Blevins showing to the public that the St. to the spring is closed."*

– July 11, 1938 Holly Springs Town Board Minutes Excerpt

### Chapter 3

## *Early Influences -- Masons and Baptists*

As the village of Holly Springs began to take shape, the Baptists were once again a part of the early story, along with the Masons. Both groups had made early efforts to organize in southwest Wake County, had faltered for one reason or another, then made a comeback.

After their original church disbanded, the Baptists came into the newly developing community of Holly Springs at the crossroads in 1822 to build a new church on four acres of land donated by Woodson Clements and located "one and a half miles northeast of the original site on the highway leading to Raleigh," according to a 1997 history of the Baptist Church. Clements, described as one of the best businessmen of his day and a one-time sheriff of Wake County, reportedly specified in the deed that the property was "...to be used for church purposes so long as there was one grain of sand on the hill, but not to be used as a burial ground." The property he gave the Baptists was located just west of the Leslie-Alford-Mims house on what was then Fish Dam Road.

The first Masonic Lodge in southwest Wake County, known as the Western Sun Masonic Lodge Number 72, existed for about 10 years, roughly from 1818 till 1828. Murray's history of Wake County states that fire destroyed the building of the Western Sun Lodge and that it was not until 1851 that the local Masons acquired a charter for Holly Springs Lodge No. 115. The Lodge's own history, compiled by Bob Dixon in 1998, states that the present lodge obtained its charter on Dec. 10, 1847. Dixon also notes that several members of the old Western Sun Lodge were also charter members of Lodge 115.

Joshua Rogers was one of them. The minutes of the first meeting of Lodge 115 state that, "The petition of Brother Joshua Rogers was presented, stating that he had served some time as an entered apprentice in the Western Sun Lodge Number 72, Wake County, as praying to be further advanced in Masonry by being passed to that of a Fellow Craft if found worthy." He was granted his request.

No writers of history of the area seem to have determined the location of the home of the Western Sun Lodge which is reported to have burned, although Hubert Collins, a native of Holly Springs and a historian, in a letter to Carl Holleman, suggested that it was probably located north and east of Holly Springs. (He based his conclusion on having identified the residences on a map of most of the charter members of Lodge No. 115. He believed these members had also been affiliated with Lodge No. 72). In an interview before he passed away, lifelong Holly Springs resident Edwin Mims recalled, however, that Collins (his uncle) once suggested to him that the Western Sun Lodge might have met upstairs in the Leslie store building, which is known to have burned.

Mims said Collins told him of a cornerstone from the burned building with a date

chiseled on it. Mims speculated that a store building would not have a marked cornerstone, but a Lodge building probably would. Mims saw logic in a Masonic Lodge, a secret organization, meeting in an upstairs room away from the public eye.

Further support for the contention that the first lodge may have shared space in the Leslie store can be found in Kelly Lally's book, *Architecture of Wake County N. C.*, in which she has identified a photograph of the Leslie store building as the "Leslie/Lodge building."

## Chapter 4

# *More Businesses and a School*

By 1860, the village of Holly Springs consisted of five stores, a Baptist church and a Masonic lodge, all surrounded by a community of prosperous farmers, some of whom owned slaves. A writer in Historical Raleigh gives the names of two of the store owners as Young Booker and Paschat Booker.

Also in the years preceding the Civil War, the community established its first truly organized school. The Holly Springs Academy was founded in 1854. Sanders, writing his history in 1966, states: "The movement for a school had begun a year earlier when the Raleigh Baptist Association had decided that a good high school was necessary to supply Wake Forest College with qualified students. The Association canvassed the seven counties in its district to find the best school site, and Holly Springs was chosen. The Masons and the townspeople were the main forces behind the establishment of the academy. The original board of trustees included: James Adams, Green Beckwith, Enoch Booker, Bennett Holland, James Rogers, Gaston Utley and the officers of the Raleigh Baptist Association. (*The Raleigh Courier Journal*).

"To accommodate the large number of boarding students, a dormitory was built and equipped, and students began coming to the academy from all parts of the state. The dormitory was destroyed by fire soon after its opening, however. The students, all boys, were then housed in private homes.

"The first principal was Minton Y. Chappell. One year later, he was succeeded by Albert H. Dowell, a graduate of Randolph Macon College, who headed the Academy until its closing at the start of the War Between the States. (*The Raleigh Courier Journal*)."

Soon after the founding of the all-male academy, the women of the Holly Springs community demanded a school for their daughters. Miss Nancy Turner opened a school for girls in 1856 on the first floor of the Masonic Lodge. According to lodge history, the building had been completed in 1853.

It was also in the years just preceding the Civil War that the Holly Springs Methodist Church was formed. The effort to start the new church was led by two men, Alvin Cross and William Wheeler. For a time, meetings were held in private homes, but the growing congregation soon needed a permanent place of worship, so the church made plans to purchase the old Holly Springs Academy building located on the hill bordering the present Holly Springs Cemetery. The purchase was accomplished in 1860.

The first minister was B. B. Culbreth, who was, at the time, pastor of the Cokesbury Charge. In 1869, a steeple and narthex were added to the building and later two class rooms.

And so in the years leading up to the Civil War, the crossroads community of Holly Springs was enjoying prosperity. Its stores, schools, churches and the Masonic Lodge were surrounded by prosperous farmers with names such as Adams, Betts, Beckwith, Booth, Booker, Brown, Clements, Dupree, Hunter, Jones, Marcom, Norris, Olive, Rogers, Turner and Utley. (from *Raleigh Courier*

*Journal*). Then came the war and the picture changed.



**From the 1915-1916 "Catalogue of Holly Springs Public High School"**



**The Woman's Betterment Association**

### **Woman's School Betterment Association**

#### **OFFICERS**

**MRS. J. R. CARTER, President.**

**MISS PASSIE WOOD, Secretary.**

**MISS PAULINE HOLT, Vice-President.**

**MRS. W. A. SEGRAVES, Treasurer.**

Since its organization, in 1907, the Woman's School Betterment Association has made \$3,980.50 and has been a most active factor in school and civic improvement. The Association has united the women of the town, helped to secure the location of a county high school in Holly Springs, aided in the passage of a local tax, aided in the passage of a \$10,000 bond issue for an addition to the old building, helped to equip a domestic science department, seated the new auditorium, and has been active along many other lines too numerous to recount here.

## Chapter 5

# *War Causes Setback*

With the declaration of war, Oscar R. Rand, a recruiter for Gov. Zeb Vance's famous 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment, arrived in town to form and train a company for the Confederate Army. The men left with Capt. Rand to join Vance. Many of those who left so proudly did not return. (Amis, Historical Raleigh with Sketches of Wake County and Its Important Towns). A monument near the springs commemorates their valor.

In 1976, *News and Observer* columnist Charles Craven wrote about the 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment:

"Col. Hubert Collins, U. S. Army (ret.), a native of Holly Springs, has painstakingly researched the role of the 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment in the bloody disastrous action which came to be known as 'Pickett's Charge,' Pickett being Maj. Gen. George Edward Pickett of Virginia.

"Col. Collins, now of Fort Collins, Colo., recently wrote his nephew, Ivan Mims of Holly Springs, some details of the 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment's part in the charge over wide open ground.

"Collins, a veteran of World War I and World War II, points out that hardly any recognition has come to the 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment, an outfit actually conspicuous for its valor."

Collins wrote, according to Craven's column: "The 26<sup>th</sup> North Carolina Infantry was the regiment that, during Pickett's Charge, (July 3, 1863) advanced to the point known as the 'High-water Mark' of the Confederacy. The regiment in a single day had 14 commanding officers -- 13 of them falling during the charge. Eight hundred and eighty men entered the engagement, but only 81 mustered when the battle was over...

"One of the commanders who fell was Maj. J. T. Adams (of Holly Springs). After long convalescence, he returned and was with the 26<sup>th</sup> when Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appamatox. Colonel Adams was a close friend of our family. When I grew up as a boy, I learned much about Pickett's Charge from him."

Collins continues: "In the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava (Crimean War) on Oct. 25, 1854, the British brigade lost less than 70 percent of the troops engaged; but eight years, eight months and eight days later, the 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry lost more than 90 per cent (90.8 per cent to be exact) of its total strength before withdrawing from the battlefield. Many college students both North and South can quote a few lines from the 'Charge of the Light Brigade.'

Craven observes that "no poem was ever written" about the 26<sup>th</sup>.

## *Effects of the War*

Sanders, writing of the effect of the war on the town: "With the exit of the men came a change in the economic picture of the community. The two schools closed



because there were no men to pay tuition.”

But nothing like the devastation to other southern towns reached Holly Springs until the end of the war.

“In January of 1875, the Union General, William Tecumseh Sherman, started his drive north from the burned city of Atlanta that eventually ended with his meeting the southern General Joseph E. Johnston at Bennett Place near Durham. When Sherman began this march through the Carolinas, he cut himself off from his supply base at Savannah. Therefore, his troops had to live off the land, roaming the countryside.

“There were strict regulations governing those foraging parties, but the orders were often disregarded. Many of the groups degenerated into bands of marauding robbers, operating on their own without the supervision of an officer. A band of these ‘bummers’ hit Holly Springs and committed a good amount of destruction. Col. W. J. Palmer arrived and set himself up in the Leslie home, making it the headquarters of the 14<sup>th</sup> Army Corps for about two weeks.” (from John Gilchrist Barrett’s *North Carolina as a Civil War Battleground, 1861-1865*, N. C. Department of Archives, 1964)

A reporter for *The News and Observer*, writing about the Leslie house in 1949, reported that Mrs. Leslie, “hated the Yankees bitterly, but she loved her home and so she treated them with cool civility. The result was that while much of the country was put to the torch, Leslie Hall was untouched.”

In a 1992 audio-taped interview among longtime residents Mary Lee Johnson, Sylvian Brooks and Edwin Mims, Mrs. Johnson asked Mr. Mims, “Ed, didn’t Sherman’s Army take the chandeliers out of your house when they came through?”

“Um-huh, that’s what they say,” Mr. Mims, the most recent inhabitant of the Leslie-Alford-Mims house, agreed.

Mrs. Brooks shared the same account as the 1949 news article, “Legend has it that the lady of the house charmed the soldiers so that they didn’t burn house down... they did get the chickens, though.”

Mims added, “and the chandeliers.”

Another woman living in the area during the war, Rebecca Jones Alford, mother of the man who would later buy the Leslie house and become a leader in Holly Springs (and Mr. Mims’ great-grandmother), was not so civil to the invaders from the North. On her tombstone in the cemetery at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, her epitaph tells the story: “A devoted Christian mother who whipped Sherman’s bummers with scalding water while (they were) trying to take her dinner pot which contained a ham bone being cooked for her (Confederate) soldier boys.”

## *War Leaves Devastation, But Freed Slaves Form A Strong Community*

As with the rest of North Carolina, the local economy of Holly Springs was devastated by the war and Reconstruction which followed. A number of families moved away. The exodus was encouraged by the construction of the Chatham Railroad through the village of Apex, giving Apex a transportation and freight handling link to the outside world which Holly Springs did not have. This railroad eventually changed hands and was renamed the Seaboard Air Line. It became a principal north-south freight and passenger line.

The detrimental effect on Holly Springs is evidenced in a county survey done about 1871 which shows only 10 buildings of any size in the town. (Sanders).

Historian M. N. Amis described the town at that time as “a deserted village.”

Slaves living in the vicinity of Holly Springs found themselves free men and women following the Emancipation Proclamation. Almost immediately, in 1865, a group of approximately 50 freed men of the area pooled their resources and bought a half-acre plot of land between the fork of Buckhorn and Fuquay Roads for an African-American Baptist Church.

(Hubert Collins notes in a letter to Carl Holleman written in 1977 that prior to the Civil War, 20 slaves had been accepted into membership of the Holly Springs Baptist Church.) The original services were held in a log cabin, but through the years new buildings were constructed. The original church structure burned, according to the Holly Springs Centennial Committee's history compiled in 1976. The site of the church -- now the First Baptist Church -- was moved to its present location on Grigsby Avenue. The present structure of the First Baptist Church of Holly Springs was built in 1880. It has been renovated several times, and it was faced with brick in 1955.

It was also soon after the Civil War -- in 1871 -- that the Holly Springs Christian Church was organized by the Rev. Jackson Jeffers with three original members, Prince Page, Mrs. Eddie Page and Ned Balitine. Worship services were held in the Masonic Lodge for the first year. Then, under the leadership of the Rev. John Kent, the congregation grew and the church was able to purchase land on Grigsby Avenue and build a church. The church building has been enlarged and renovated over the years.

*"We can convince any capitalist who will visit our town with a view to locating any manufacturing enterprise in our state that there is no place in the state to surpass Holly Springs as to health and pure spring water. "*

– Col. George Benton Alford, editorial, The Cape Fear Enterprise, 1899

## Chapter 6

# *Good Times Return*

The start of good times returning to the village of Holly Springs after the war can be dated to the arrival in 1875 of George Benton Alford who (one writer says was "attracted by the healthfulness of the location") moved his successful mercantile business from Middle Creek Township to Holly Springs and was instrumental in beginning an economic revival in the community. A year later he bought the Archibald Leslie house which was the centerpiece of the village. Over the years he made significant additions, adding the east wing around 1877 and the larger west wing in the early 1900s, until it became "one of the largest mansions in the county." (Turner, Page 1, Section 7)

The house had 31 rooms. It was one of the few in Wake County which had its own ballroom. The Alfords were never as social as the Leslies had been, however. Alford was first of all a businessman.

Just two years after his arrival -- in 1877 -- Alford led an effort to get the General Assembly to grant Holly Springs a charter of incorporation. (Laws of N. C.) and by 1880 the town had a population of close to 300.

Alford was born in 1845 some two miles south of Cary. As the son of Green Haywood and Rebecca Jones Alford, he was descended through both his father and mother from old and prominent Wake County families which had long been active in the affairs of the county. (Turner from Alford family publication.) Alford was a civic-minded individual, serving at various times as both a justice of the peace and a county commissioner. He was also a successful and progressive businessman with a dream of making Holly Springs into an industrial city. The village became something of a boom town at the turn of the century, largely through his efforts. (Turner)

Alford had numerous business interests, among which were the general mercantile store, a sawmill, a cotton gin, a turpentine works and a brick kiln. Edwin Mims also remembered that it was Alford who once drained Sunset Lake to plant rice paddies. He also started the Holly Springs Land and Improvement Company which, along with other undertakings, was to build and operate cotton mills.

In 1899, he founded the Cape Fear News and Advertising Company, which published *The Cape Fear Enterprise*. The newspaper was the voice of Alford's single-handed attempt to build up the town. His weekly editorials touted the

achievements and attributes of Holly Springs and urged investors to buy stock in the Holly Springs Land and Improvement Company.

In 1891, along with 20 other prominent men in the Holly Springs community, Alford formed and received a charter of incorporation from the General Assembly for the Cape Fear and Northern Railroad.

The writer of Historical Raleigh reports: "This road was intended by the promoter to open up the country and give shipping facilities for the town. On account of the hard times which followed immediately afterwards, the work of construction could not be undertaken, and the charter was extended from time to time by succeeding Legislatures. Finally, by 1889, Benjamin N. Duke and other capitalists of Durham had become interested and construction finally began.

The first shovelful of dirt was thrown by Miss Mattie V. Alford, daughter of George Benton Alford, at Holly Springs, on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1898." (Historical Raleigh)

Alford was the railroad's first president. He was succeeded by Duke. J. C. Angler was manager. The railroad was later bought by Benjamin Duke and became the Durham and Southern. Mrs. Mary Lee Johnson, a lifelong resident of Holly Springs, now in her 80s, remembers when the trains came through. The depot was on Avent Ferry Road behind where the town hall is today.

Laughing at the memory, Mrs. Johnson said, "Every child, I reckon from Dunn to Durham, would hear the train and they'd run and (the conductor) would throw them out some candy... and he'd wave at every child."

She recalls the times she rode the train to Durham.

"I was a little bitty thing," Mrs. Johnson said, recounting the time she and her little companion were so excited about a trip, she said.

"We were scared to death that thing was going to jump the track, we thought it was just a'flyin'," she said, laughing a little at her memory as an adult that the train was really just creeping along.

Chuckling, Mrs. Brooks added in agreement, "It would take all day for the train to go just 96 miles."

All three residents (Johnson, Brooks, Mims audio tape) recalled how much vitality the depot added to life in Holly Springs. Folks would "go to the depot" anytime fresh fish was scheduled to arrive... and, of course, to wait on the mail.

"That's when life wasn't at such a fast pace," Mims said. "We don't have time to wait for the mail now."

## *Promoting Holly Springs*

The little town's intrepid leader pulled out all the stops when promoting his community in editorials in his newspaper, *The Cape Fear Enterprise*. In 1899, he wrote:

"This beautiful village of 250 inhabitants is within a few miles of the center of the state, 16 miles southwest of Raleigh, the capital, connected by rail with Raleigh by two different lines, the C.F.&N to Apex and then via S.A.L. to Raleigh

and at a junction on the Raleigh & Cape Fear railroad to Raleigh.

“Iron ore of a very rich quality in considerable quantities has recently been discovered near here with about 60 percent of metallic iron and two very fine mineral springs flowing beneath these ore hills, containing six grains or more per gallon of solid matter, mostly iron. Gold has also been found near here. The town is well located for almost any type of manufacturing enterprise. The natural drainage cannot be surpassed; the water supply for drinking and for steam purposes is inexhaustible, of purest of water.

“We can convince any capitalist who will visit our town with a view to locating any manufacturing enterprise in our state that there is no place in the state to surpass Holly Springs as to health and pure spring water.”

He goes on to point out the availability of labor and the willingness of the Holly Springs Land and Improvement Company -- “which has control of most of the best sites”-- to assist any capitalist interested. “This company has power to manufacture everything you can think of and also carry on any and all kinds of business, including banking business,” Alford adds.

He is pushing especially for a cotton mill in this and subsequent editorials.

In an editorial written in 1900, he urges residents to buy shares at \$50 each in the Holly Springs Land and Improvement Company which was trying to raise \$25,000 to build a cotton mill. He suggests “it is not impossible for this stock to double in value (in) less than five years.”

In a subsequent editorial he reports that the Land and Improvement Company is giving away “beautiful town lots to subscribers to stock in our company.” To get a lot, a subscriber had to buy four stock shares for a total of \$200 and agree to build a house valued between \$300 and \$500. Alford assures would-be purchasers that “We honestly believe that every one who joins our company under this arrangement will be able to get at least \$200 for the lot and more than \$200 for the stock which will double in 24 months.”

Alford sought not only to foster the growth of Holly Springs through education and industrial development; he also attempted to capitalize on the area’s natural beauty and natural resources by developing the springs into a resort. The large 1900s addition to the Leslie-Alford house was designed as guest quarters to accommodate visitors to the springs. His dreams of a resort did not materialize. Alford’s second wife, Texanna Collins Alford, housed boarders in the addition.

Alford was a Confederate veteran, having served as a private in Company I, 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment of North Carolina State Troops (3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, N.C. Cavalry) and was instrumental in the establishment of the Oscar R. Rand Camp of the United Confederate Veterans. Dr. D. B. Utley served as adjutant. The writer of Historical Raleigh writes:

“One of the greatest days Holly Springs has ever witnessed was the day Capt. Oscar R. Rand visited the meeting of the camp named in his honor. In its report of the day, *The News and Observer* stated that there was a Confederate flag on a tall pole, planted in the same hold that the Confederate flag pole stood in during the war when Capt. Rand had his headquarters here, organizing his

famous company.” At one time there was also a chapter of Daughters of the Confederacy in the village.

It was from his leadership of the local UCV troop and his devotion to keeping alive the achievements and sacrifices of the 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment that Alford earned his honorary title of colonel. And it was Alford who led a fund-raising effort to erect the handsome monument in front of his house honoring Wake County Confederate veterans.

The monument was unveiled on Oct. 25, 1923, during an impressive ceremony attended by dignitaries from across the state.

Alford encouraged the recognition of veterans in editorials in his newspaper. In announcing the upcoming July 4<sup>th</sup> “white people’s picnic in the Baptist church grove” in 1990, he wrote, “We cordially invite all old veterans to be present. We want to have a kind of reunion that day and we assure you that you shall have our special attention.”

The following week he reported the names of 55 veterans who registered at the picnic and wrote: “At 2:30 Mr. A. B. Stronach delivered a very feeling address to them which led to organizing the O. R. Rand camp united C-V with 30 charter members. The following were elected officers of said camp headquarters at Holly Springs: G.B. Alford, commander; Col. J . T. Adams, 1<sup>st</sup> lieut.; W. H. Utley, 2<sup>nd</sup> lieut.; Dr. B. S. Utley, adjutant.

“While the camp was being organized, touching talks were made by comrades F. H. Busbee and J. C. Birdson,” Alford wrote.

## Chapter 7

# *Rebuilding Schools*

During the years of the Civil War and those immediately following, the schools of which the community had been so proud became defunct. Children were taught in private homes or at small private schools. One of the principal teachers remembered from that period was J. D. Marcom. At one point Mrs. Julius Allison rented a room in the Lodge for a school, but it failed. In 1866 Lydia Lyndsay tried the same thing, but her school also had to close. Several attempts were made to revive the old Academy, but they were not successful. Finally, the school building was sold in 1868 to the local Methodist congregation. (Sanders)

But, by 1876, under the leadership of Alford and Dr. B. S. Utley, the Holly Springs Academy was re-established in the Masonic Lodge as the Holly Springs Institute, a coeducational boarding school. W.A. Whitted, a Wake Forest graduate, was its first principal. One year later he was succeeded by the Rev. J. M. White, also of Wake Forest. In 1888 the dynamic and courtly educator Capt. C. F. Siler took on leadership of the school. He was a graduate of Trinity College (now Duke University). He was assisted by J.D. Marcom. At this time the school was attended by more than 125 students. (Sanders)

[Note: Names of other teachers and principals are available in Historical Raleigh.]

Sanders writes: "In these days students came to the Institute from many towns and cities which were then rather far from Holly Springs. Commencement exercises each year drew well over a thousand friends, relatives and well-wishers to the town.

"At one commencement, Josephus Daniels, then a young politician and Raleigh newspaperman, was the principal speaker. He was introduced as 'a young statesman who is known on two hemispheres..., or will be.' Daniels eventually served in the Cabinet and was an ambassador."

Throughout the history of education in Holly Springs, there was always the presence of solid support from the Masons of the community. They had been stalwarts of the Academy in 1854, and they were leaders in the move to reorganize the school as the Institute in 1883. The Lodge building even doubled as a schoolhouse.

In the summer of 1892, the Masons assumed complete control of the school, including the appointment of faculty members. The following resolution from the minutes of the Lodge bears this out:

"Whereas, we, the members of the Holly Springs Lodge, having seen the good effects and influences growing out of the school at this place and being desirous of seeing the school permanently established and wishing to place ourselves in a position to be more useful to the community and country at large, and especially to our brethren and their indigent children; and

"Whereas we, feeling that under present circumstances, the permanent continuation of this school is not certain -- (we resolve) that the Holly Springs Lodge assume the responsibility of conducting a school at this place intended for the preparation of students for college, teaching and the active business pursuits of life, and that we use every honest effort to make it second to no academy and a blessing to the community and our brethren of the Masonic fraternity especially."

Thus, in 1893, the school became the Holly Springs Masonic Institute.

Seven years later, in October of 1900, Alford writes in *The Cape Fear Enterprise* of

the Holly Springs Academy (or Institute):

“Rev. C. V. Brooks is conducting one of the best schools we have ever had, not flattering Brother Brooks, but must say his school is not to be surpassed anywhere. Brother Brooks has no public school in with his. He has upward of 60 students, among whom are twenty boarders. There are 5 employed as teachers in the school now, and all branches are taught here that a young man or a young lady wishes to study outside of college. Brother Brooks teaches higher mathematics and languages while Mrs. S. W. Oldham has charge of the primary department. Mr. Q. I. Hudson of Apex who has the honor of preparing many of the best telegraph operators in the United States has a good class of telegraphic students.

“Miss Cora Holt has charge of the music department while Miss Mattie Alford teachers art, shorthand and typewriting.

“A young man or young woman cannot go to a better place than Holly Springs to get an education. Board is cheap here and arrangements can be made here as low as any place in the state to go to school. Parents or guardians wanting to put their children forward in one of the best schools in the state would do well to correspond with Rev. C. V. Brooks.”

An advertisement for the Holly Springs Academy run in *The Cape Fear Enterprise* reports that “tuition is \$1 to \$3 a month, music and art \$2.50 each, incidental fee 50 cents per term and board and room \$6 a month.”

The history of the Holly Springs Masonic Lodge indicates that its operation of the school ended in 1902, but it does not state the reason. The town’s first public school, known as the Holly Springs High School -- although it had grades 1 through 11 -- opened in 1908.

A newspaper story which appeared in the April 27, 1972 edition of *The Fuquay-Varina Independent*, (its author not identified) gives the following account of the community effort to get a county high school for Holly Springs:

“In 1906-07, an effort to improve the school facilities was made. Under the leadership of Raymond A. Burt, J. Rang Carter and the Woman’s Betterment Association, ten acres of land was purchased near the springs. An old house and barn and ninety wagon loads of rubbish was removed from the school site. Four acres of land was planted in cotton which was cultivated and harvested by the ladies of the Holly Springs Woman’s Betterment Association of which Miss Clyde Holt was president at that time. ‘Box’ parties, entertainments, fees and contributions all went into the effort which won for them first prize from the county association.

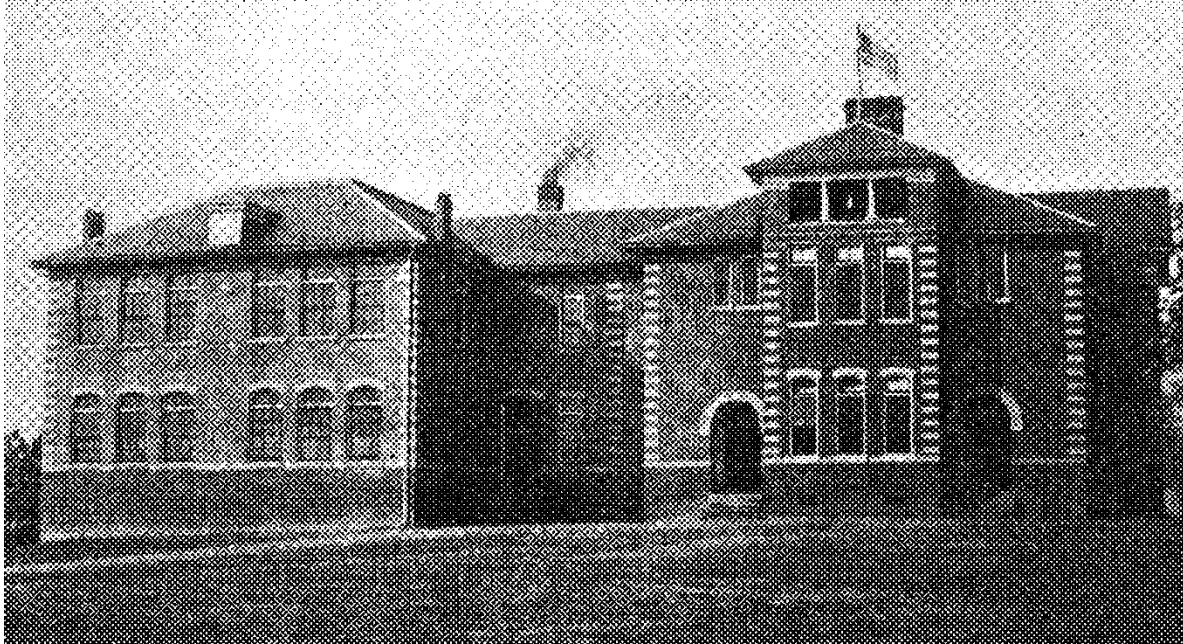
“The association sent out committees to canvas that section of the county in an effort to secure one of the county high schools for Holly Springs. Their effort was highly successful; the high school was secured; a local tax issue was passed; the new well-equipped school was erected and the first classes were held there in 1908. It served white boys and girls, grades one through eleven. By 1914 an enlargement was made and boarding students still came to the school and were accommodated in private homes.

“Holly Springs High School was ranked among the very best.”



### **Holly Springs High School, 1915**

The photo and text below are copied from the 1915-1916 "Catalogue of Holly Springs Public High School." Schools – or the absence thereof – have always played a part in the Town's vitality through the years.



### **HOLLY SPRINGS PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

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#### **HISTORY**

The progressive educational spirit now extant in the village of Holly Springs and the surrounding community doubtless stands as a memorial to the names and memories of such educational and community leaders as Professors Siler, Davisson, Oldham, Burt, and many others. Cooperating with these leaders were a band of citizens—men and women whose untiring sacrifice greatly aided in engendering the healthy educational spirit that in 1907 found expression in a well equipped Public High School building. This building served adequately the purposes of the school through the days of Professors McIntyre and Wright. But in 1913-1914 the school, under the guidance of Prof. J. E. Pearson, experienced the need of more room in order to render its best service. At once the community, stimulated into action, voted bonds, and in the summer of 1914 erected a ten-thousand-dollar addition to the old building. At present Holly Springs High School is housed in a handsome and splendidly equipped building.

## *Memories of Edwin Mims*

*(Editor's Note: Edwin (Ed) Mims was in his early 80s when he passed away last year. Prior to his passing, Mr. Mims visited in 1999 with the author of this history compilation, who was able to capture a bit of his memories.)*

Mr. Mims, a descendant of some of the earliest settlers of Holly Springs, (his mother was Delcie Collins Mims) was born just off Avent's Ferry Road about two miles south of the present town limits. His birthplace was actually in the community settled prior to Holly Springs proper. But he remembered moving with his family into town to the Leslie/Alford house when he was about six years old and ready for school.

Mims' grandmother, Texanna Collins Alford, was George Benton Alford's second wife. She was living in the big Leslie/Alford house at the time of Alford's death, but she did not inherit the house, according to Mims; instead, his family purchased the house from the Alford estate.

Mims' father, Marcus Mims, ran a general store at the corner of Avent's Ferry Road and Ballentine Street (site of Holly Springs Auto Parts today).

Mims remembered that Holly Springs had one of the first consolidated schools -- grammar grades and high school -- in Wake County.

"Men and women worked hard to get that school," he said.

## *Schools for Black Children*

Also in the early 1900s a school was organized for black children. According to Sanders' history, it reportedly met first in the Good Samaritan (black) Lodge located on the west side of Highway 55 across from the Christian Church cemetery. (No documentation could be located to further identify the Good Samaritan Lodge. The first black Masonic Lodge in Holly Springs, the Eli Lodge, was started sometime after 1950.)

A schoolhouse was built for black students on land purchased from the Earp family on the east side of what was then the old Fuquay Road. (from Centennial Commission history)

Usually public funds provided half the cost of such schools and local residents and the Rosenwald Fund split the other half.

Thomas W. Hanchett, writing about Rosenwald Schools for the *N.C. Historical Review*, (1988, Vol. 65) listed a four-teacher school in Holly Springs as having received funds in the 1923-24 year, but did not specify the amount. Other histories of Holly Springs state that classes for black children were held in First Baptist Church and the Christian Church while the new building was under construction. An auditorium was eventually added to the building. Mrs. Cora Lassiter, 80, who lives on Grigsby Avenue in Holly Springs, attended that school, known in the community as "the old plank school," and remembers a picture of Julius Rosenwald which hung on the wall.

In interviews in 1998, Parrish Womble, a lifelong resident of Holly Springs, and Charles V. Holleman, who left to become an optometrist in Raleigh, both recalled their school days in the plank building, which had four classrooms and an auditorium that served as classrooms for sixth and seventh graders. Coal burning heaters in each room provided heat. Students were sent to the woods to get light wood to start fires and were charged with filling coal scuttles to keep the fires burning. By the time Womble and Holleman attended the school, it was part of the Wake County Schools system.

Both lauded the work of W. E. Hunt, who served as a teacher at the school in 1943 and 1944 and as principal from 1945 until his death in 1959. He was known as a strict disciplinarian, but also as a kind man ever-interested in his school, his students and the community. Although Hunt's family lived in Raleigh, he rented a room in Holly Springs and spent week nights in town, planning activities for young people and teaching and counseling black adults.

The old plank school was replaced with a new brick building in 1951.

In 1959, black high school students were bussed to Berry O'Kelly School, which also was a Rosenwald School, in Method.

## *More Churches*

During its flourishing days in the early 1900s, the community saw several other churches come into its midst. Douglas Chapel Church was organized in 1903 by Frank Douglas. According to the church's own history, its first service was held in a brush harbor in Buckhorn township. For seven years, services were held at a Buckhorn location. In 1910, Douglas Chapel began holding services in the old Champion School west of Holly Springs with Rev. J. Z. Siler as pastor.

In 1925, the present church structure was purchased from the Holly Springs Methodist Church and moved to its present location on Douglas Street. The church's history has recorded that "... Some members can remember this because as children they were allowed to ride in the building as it was being towed by horses."

It was also during the early 1900s that Episcopal and Catholic churches were formed in Holly Springs. Sanders in "Metamorphosis" reported that an Episcopal congregation began meeting in the Masonic Lodge in 1910 but never became a strong denomination in the area.

Edwin Mims remembered the Episcopal congregation. He said it was the wife of a Mr. Templeton who ran a furniture store, a staunch Episcopalian, who got the church started. He thought the church at one time had a small building behind the Masonic lodge on land which belonged to the Templetons.

The Catholic Church -- St. Mary's -- was larger and more active for a longer time. It was served by Father Thomas Price, the first native North Carolinian to be ordained a priest. (from Catholic publication). Sabastian Scholl and his family were among the most active members. In a 1987 interview, Mrs. Myrtle Scholl Hopson, a daughter of Sabastian Scholl and long-time resident and teacher in Fuquay-Varina, had fond memories of the days her family lived next door to the small church -- a frame building with heart-of-pine paneling and hanging kerosene lanterns. Her family maintained the church, painting it each time their home was painted. She also remembered helping to keep the brass lanterns and candlesticks polished. Mrs. Hopson was Myrtle Scholl when she attended Holly Springs Public High School in 1916, receiving the "Best Seventh Grade Graduate" award at commencement.

Another family, the Coudons, saw to it that fresh flowers and greenery adorned the sanctuary each Sunday, Mrs. Hopson said. Mass was held once a month. "It was a happy occasion to see Father George Woods come driving into town in a horse and buggy from Nazareth (the Catholic orphanage he served)," Mrs. Hopson said. "The children were always eager to show their knowledge of the catechism."

With the advent of World War I, many families, including many who had been members of the Catholic church, moved away. Eventually membership declined to such extent that the church was disbanded and the building sold.

Meanwhile the Baptist Church was growing. By 1921 the roll topped 200 and a larger building was needed. So the congregation relocated to its present site on Raleigh Street. Land was donated by Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Seagraves. Services were first held in the new church in 1928. According to Mrs. Mary Lee Johnson, the old Baptist building was sold to a Free Will Baptist congregation which used it for worship for a short time in Holly Springs, then moved it to Durham.

### Earliest Minutes of Town Board

No doubt minutes were taken during every meeting of the Holly Springs Town Board of Commissioners since that very first board meeting in 1877; however, the earliest records on file at Town Hall date back to only May 1927. One thin minute book was used for all town board meetings between May 1927 and June 1945. Former Fuquay-Varina Mayor Alfred Johnson (now deceased) said he seemed to remember that his father was in possession of one Holly Springs town record book, which he believed contained the minutes from 1877 through 1927. The book has not been located. At right is a copy of the oldest set of minutes known.

1927

Holly Springs, N.C.

May 13<sup>th</sup> 1927.

The Town Commissioners Met in regular Session Commissioners all present. Mayor Baker. Called the Meeting to order. The Minutes of the last regular Meeting was then read and approved. This being the last Meeting of the retiring board for the year, it was then moved and seconded that this Meeting adjourned until for the inauguration of the newly Elected Mayor and other town officers which was Elected on May 3, 1927 for a term of 2 years. W. J. Shaw. The newly Elected Mayor came forward and was sworn in by the retiring Mayor D. A. Baker, after which M. H. Collins, M. E. Wimer, L. H. Furr, W. L. Price, and F. L. Adams. The newly Elected Town Commissioners came forward and was sworn in by Mayor Shaw. Also Mayor Shaw swore in the Town Marshal W. A. Jones, after some discussion as to the future welfare of the town and feeling somewhat jubilant over their victory in the recent election and urging a closer cooperation of the board and citizens of the town for the better improvement of same. It was then moved and seconded to adjourn this Meeting to meet again Monday night at 8 o'clock P. M. May 16.

W. J. Shaw Mayor

J. B. Holt clerk

## Chapter 9

# *Holly Springs Flourishes in Early 1900s*

When Ed Mims looked back to his childhood in Holly Springs, he remembered a busy community with lots of horses and buggies and wagons and a few “copperhead Fords,” a car he described with copper trim. The streets were dirt in those days, and what is now Grigsby Avenue was the main road from Fuquay Springs to Apex. In those days, almost anyone in town, if he looked back far enough, would find he was related to everyone else, Mims said. “You knew you could only go courting so far in a horse and buggy,” he offered as explanation.

He also remembered several doctors -- Dr. B. W. Burt, a Dr. Brown, Dr. B. S. Utley and a Dr. Bryant. Several had their own pharmacies. Dr. Burt eventually sold his pharmacy to W. C. Shaw, who later sold it to Mims’ brother, Ivan. Ed worked with Ivan in the pharmacy for some time. Ed still owned the building when he passed away. Now, his nephew, James Wright, has plans to incorporate the drug store building into a new development downtown.

Although he hadn’t sold medicines for many years, Ed still handled a few antiques in the store until just a few years ago.

In addition to a number of general stores, there was also the W. L. Price Manufacturing Company which made most anything out of wood, its wares ranging from tobacco slides to caskets, Mims recalled. Just outside of town he recalled a planer mill and a cotton gin, a brick kiln and a turpentine works.

Although Ed didn’t remember it -- this may have been before his time -- a story in *The Raleigh Times*, written in the 1950s by Heulon Dean, reports that the Ernie Brewer store, which stood at the corner of Grigsby and Raleigh Streets, was once a saloon.

“Farmers could come in and sit around the huge pot bellied stove and make conversation while partaking of beer,” the story reports.

The upstairs of the structure served as a local undertaking parlor. Dean writes:

“Carter and Sons carried a wide variety of makes and styles of caskets on display at all times and when someone in the neighborhood died, they just came over, selected a casket, took it home and buried their family themselves.

“For those who wanted and could afford the freer things in life, Carter offered the services of his stallion-drawn hearse. The hearse body was mounted on springs and would afford any person an easy last ride to the cemetery.”

Dean’s story was written at the time the Brewer store building was being torn down.

## *Businesses Flourish*

As he saw businesses and schools and services flourishing, Alford extolled his town editorially, writing at the turn of the century:

“Our town is getting a hustle on it. It has always been said there is more in the man than in the land. There is more in the hustle now-a-days in building up a community than in the special locations.

“You can get almost any article of merchandise here now as low or lower than anywhere in the country, which fact is manifesting itself daily by the quantity of goods bought and sold. We have a new dry goods and general merchandise store just opened

up a few days ago. Mr. W. L. Brewer is the proprietor. His stock is full and nice. Mr. J. R. Seagroves also carries a full line of general merchandise.

"Then comes the T. B. Holt establishment. Mr. Holt carries a line of general merchandise and furnishes a great many farmers supplies. Mr. J. R. Carter carries a full line of drugs and medicines, and Mr. J. F. Carter has a full line of groceries, and he proposes to compete with all competition; then comes the mammoth stock carded by G. B. Alford, who handles as near everything as any one merchant in the state.

"One cannot go amiss here for finding clever salesmen and something to spend your money for."

He went on to write, "Leaving the mercantile department of the town, one of the latest improvements of the town is the beautiful residence of J. F. Carter on the corner of Main and Center Streets. The Rev. S. W. Oldham is building a nice cottage here and will make it his permanent home."

Oldham was pastor of the Holly Springs Baptist Church. He also served as local editor of *The Cape Fear Enterprise*.

While he filled his newspaper with advertising from Raleigh, Apex and Sippihaw (later Fuquay Springs) as well as from Holly Springs, Alford also constantly encouraged his readers to subscribe to the paper at a cost of \$1 per year. As an incentive to subscribe, he promised to hold a drawing from receipts for subscriptions and award the lucky ticket-holder a new buggy.

By the year 1913, when the book *Historical Raleigh* was published, Holly Springs was described as "flourishing."

The writer of that publication says of the town, "It boasts one of the best high schools in the state, has a number of flourishing mercantile establishments and other industries. The Durham and Southern Railroad runs by its doors, furnishing excellent transportation facilities, connecting with the Atlantic Coast Line at Dunn, the Seaboard Airline at Apex, and the Southern Railway and Norfolk and Western at Durham.

"It's the seat of thrift and enterprise and the home of culture and refinement."

Some would have town stay small. That's the way Miss Blanche Holt remembered it in a story which appeared in *The Fuquay-Varina Independent* in 1976. Miss Holt, who was 86 at the time of the interview, said, "I can remember hearing my father say he never wanted to see any industry come into Holly Springs. The people who settled in this community wanted it to stay a little country village," she said.

Miss Holt attended the Holly Springs Academy for two or three years before the Holly Springs High School was built, then continued her education in the new county school, one of the first four high schools built in Wake County.

Her family was among those who took boarding students in their home to live while they attended the Holly Springs Schools. (Miss Holt lived in the house that currently houses the Town of Holly Springs Department of Public Safety on Main Street.)

Miss Holt's parents moved to Holly Springs from Harnett County. Her father, T. B. Holt, went into business in a general store with G. B. Alford. Several years later, the store burned and both men then went into separate businesses. Holt built a store directly across the street from his home. The building, which has undergone some modifications, still stands today and is a convenience store.

A Holly Springs history prepared by the town's Bicentennial Committee in 1976 reports that electricity came to Holly Springs in 1922, but, at first, was available only in the evenings and Thursday afternoons so that women could do their ironing. The history does not say from whence the electricity came or when it became available full time.

## *Schools Outgrown*

Sanders writes in his 1966 history:

"The high school constructed in 1908 proved inadequate for the needs of the growing area. Therefore, a \$10,000 bond issue for an addition to the school was passed by the community in 1914. The new building was completed that summer.

"At that time, there was no rural community in the state that had schools as good as Holly Springs. In fact, several families moved to the town so their children could obtain a good education.

"As of 1916, more than 200 students attended the school. Boarders still came to the school and were accommodated in private homes."

A school catalogue published in 1915-16 extols the excellent climate and water available to students from local mineral springs. It also includes the following information under the heading "Moral Influence:"

"The moral excellence of the young men and young women of Holly Springs is noteworthy. The citizens of the community and village are a hardworking, thrifty, and industrious people, who have put forth great effort and have even sacrificed to make their school one of the leading high schools in this section. A healthy spirit of unity and cooperation exists on the part of both men and women throughout the community."

Expected student conduct is also outlined in the catalogue (particularly relating to those staying in homes as boarders). Some examples:

"No form of immorality, such as drinking, cursing, playing cards, etc. will be tolerated. The first offense may be sufficient grounds for expulsion.

"Boys must not loaf on streets, in stores or at the railroad depot.

"Girls must be found always in approved places and under proper chaperonage."

## *Churches Grow*

In 1917, the local Methodists (white) sold their church building to the African-American Methodists (it became Douglas Chapel) and moved into a new church building directly across from the white Baptist Church. The land and bricks for the building were donated by Col. Alford. The move is said to have displeased many of the more ardent Baptists and it became the source of local friction for years to come, Sanders reports in "Metamorphosis."

Ed Mims, in a 1998 interview, was reluctant to talk about the Baptist / Methodist rivalry but he did recall, with a chuckle, that folks used to say the Baptists would sing "Will There Be Any Stars in My Crown?" and the Methodists would respond, "No not one; no not one."

Still another long-time resident, who didn't want to be identified, remembered that Baptists and Methodists attended each other's churches since both churches had services on alternating weekends, but neither denomination invited visitors from the other church to participate in Communion.

## Chapter 10

# *War Hurts Again*

Sanders, writing about the effects of the First World War:

"In 1917 the United States entered the First World War. Industry was called upon to supply war materials, and new jobs were subsequently created in all of the factories. The larger cities in which the industrial plants were located boomed, and the great rural to urban transition began. At some indefinite time between 1910 and 1920, the population of the United States became half urban, half rural.

"Up until that time, the majority of the people had always lived in the country, but the war and its business boom changed that. Young people of rural areas who were not in the Armed Forces left their homes and went to seek their fortunes in the city. This exodus of young talent sounded the death knell for many areas of our country, but the town of Holly Springs continued to fight.

"By the end of the war, Colonel Alford had acquired several enterprises in the town, including a long-sought hosiery mill. Plans were afoot to convince Erwin Mills to locate its main plant in Holly Springs rather than Erwin, but a personal dispute between Alford and the Erwin Mills' president developed and the proposed relocation was dropped."

Holly Springs in the 1920's was still a vibrant town, even though the war had slowed its growth.

Mrs. Cora Lassiter, a black woman who was born in 1918 in the Piney Woods community between Wilbon and Holly Springs, remembers coming into town with her great uncle, Ned Herbert Page, who with his wife, raised her. Sometimes Page drove to town to put money in the Holly Springs bank, which stood at the southwest corner of Main and Center Streets. He would let Cora hold the money -- in coins -- in her lap en route to the bank.

Mrs. Lassiter attended the school for African-American children, locally dubbed "the plank school" through the eighth grade, then went to ninth grade at the then-new Consolidated School for black children in Fuquay Springs.

Mrs. Lassiter, who moved into Holly Springs proper when she married, said there were a great many black people living in and around Holly Springs as she was growing up and in the years after she moved into town. She doesn't remember any problems between the races. She does remember some good times had when blacks and whites got together for events such as "corn-shuckin's."

At such times corn would be brought in from the fields and placed in a big pile at the home of a farmer, either black or white, and the surrounding community, black and white, would be invited for a corn shuckin'. Somewhere in the pile of corn would be hidden a jar of whisky. When someone found the jar, he would shout out, "I found it," open it and pass it around. The events ended with everyone having dinner. The farmer's corn would have been shucked and stored for the winter and a good time would have been had by all.

A number of African-American businesses flourished in Holly Springs during this period. In a history prepared by the town's bicentennial committee in 1976, a number of these businesses are listed but some without dates. Some probably date to the early 1920s. Others are more recent. Wilbert Brower is reported to have opened a grocery store in the Oddfellows Building on the west side of Highway 55 across from the Christian Church, then moved his business to a new building on Avent's Ferry Road. A branch of a Durham funeral home, Williams and Edwards, was operated in the



Oddfellows Building, the history reports. Willis Jones opened a photo shop on Fuquay Road (now Grigsby Avenue) where he developed his own pictures, Later, Green Prince opened a grocery store at the same location. (Parrish Womble remembers that Prince also delivered ice, house to house.).

Shepard Stinson was a builder specializing in carpentry and masonry until his death in 1940. The village blacksmith shop was located next to the Packhouse, a grocery store operated by Lattie Rogers until his death in 1956. His wife continued to run the store for some years thereafter, and locals still refer to the old structure as “the packhouse.”

## *New Developments*

The World War brought new developments in many things, including agriculture. New fertilizers were developed, which turned land previously thought to be poor into productive farm land. The Fuquay Springs community suddenly found itself an ideal spot for the production -- and subsequently, the marketing of -- bright leaf tobacco. Once Fuquay opened a tobacco market, it began to take in money which had previously gone to merchants in Holly Springs and Apex. (Sanders)

Alford died in 1924. According to Ed Mims, he fell and broke a leg a short time after the Confederate monument was dedicated and never recovered. In the wake of his death, lengthy legal battles ensued between the two children of his first wife -- Green Haywood Alford and Mattie Alford Utley -- and his second wife, Texanna Collins Alford, who had children of her own from a previous marriage.

The disagreements concerned distribution of his properties, which included vast tracts of land, most of it held by the Holly Springs Land and Improvement Company in which Alford held 58 percent of the stock, and the George Benton Alford Company, in which he held 98 percent of the stock.

Final settlement of the estate did not take place until 1939. Local lore has it that much of the land eventually went to Wake County and/or the state for non-payment of taxes and was subsequently purchased by other private citizens.

Alford's death left Holly Springs without an effective voice in political circles. Alford had held an amount of political influence which had benefitted the town.

## Chapter 11

# *Alford the Man*

The publication, "Historical Raleigh with Sketches of Wake County and Its Important Towns, compiled by Moses N. Amis and published in 1913, profiles George Benton Alford. The sketch tells that his ancestors were among the earliest settlers of Wake County and that some of them were among the county's early leaders.

The following excerpts from Amis's writing tell what the man was like:

"He (Alford) was born a Democrat, but, in 1896, believing that the Democratic party, in its advocacy of free silver, had departed from its first principles, he assumed an independent attitude, voting according to his judgment and supporting the candidates of his choice."



"He has been a justice of the peace and was a county commissioner two years... He declined a second term."



"As a reader of books, Mr. Alford has shown fine discrimination. He has found delight in the study of the Bible, history and in religious books written by well-balanced authors. While holding membership in the Methodist Church at Holly Springs, Mr. Alford classes himself as a Protestant. All creeds, he declares, contain some error mixed with truth. He holds that the Protestants are those who maintain the faith and the principles upon which the American Government was founded."



"Referring to matters that should claim the attention of all good citizens, Mr. Alford says that, first of all, we should realize that the foundation on which our liberty, prosperity and happiness are based are the Bible and the plan of salvation as set forth in the New Testament of our Lord and Saviour. Without such a foundation, we cannot hope to perpetuate the great republic."



"Our government, says Mr. Alford, is based upon the individuality of its citizens. Each locality should govern through its representatives in local affairs without coercion from the outside. In this view of political affairs, State prohibition is wrong in principle. Besides, it is not temperance and is not founded on God's truth. We need better roads and more money for our schools, which we had in the county before the prohibition law went into effect. Mr. Alford believes the State prohibition law should be repealed; that the county should issue bonds for building modern highways and not keep on wasting

the taxes as is the prevailing practice.”



On advice to young men starting out in life: “Economy is the first lesson to be learned. If a young man will choose an honorable vocation and stick to it with persistent patience, he will command success. A steady, slow and sure advance on the road to fortune is more to be desired than a mushroom growth, however fascinating the latter may be.”



Alford was married twice, first to Charlotte Ann Olive, daughter of Johnson and Martha Olive, and, after her death, to Texanna O. Collins, widow of Walter Collins.

### *Years after Alford*

The failure of the town’s bank in 1924 wiped out the savings of many residents in the area. Local speculation has it that an unwise stock investment or a misappropriation of funds was the cause of the collapse, according to Sanders. The bank failure was a hard blow to the economic life of the area.

Just before the Depression, the remaining branch plant of Erwin Mills relocated in Fuquay Springs, dealing yet another blow to the town.

Then came the Great Depression. Farmers and small rural towns such as Holly Springs suffered. When the federal government began road-building projects to provide employment, locations for highways depended largely on the political importance of a town. Since the death of Alford, Holly Springs had had no strong political leadership; hence, it missed out on the big new roads while its neighbors, Fuquay Springs and Apex, benefited, Sanders writes.

Holly Springs did get some WPA funds for construction of a \$20,000 school auditorium.

## Chapter 12

# *Another War*

The town moved along peacefully, though not progressively, until 1940 when it reported a population of 491. Then came World War II.

Industrial mobilization for the war effort began and, as had happened during the first World War, new jobs were available in the cities. Rural towns without industry took another blow. At the close of the war, Holly Springs was faced with a depleted population. Conditions were such that it was decided in 1946 to drop grades nine through 12 in the local white school due to a lack of pupils.

A review of town board minutes for the 1940s shows that most meetings were taken up with the paying of the town's bills, hearing reports on the hauling of garbage and cleaning of the cemetery.

(The cemetery was deeded to the town in 1925 by Dr. B. W. Burt and his wife, Lenna W. Burt, representing the Methodist Church, when its upkeep became too burdensome for the church. Although nothing in the deed indicates that the seven-acre cemetery was for burial of white persons only, no black person was buried there until 1998. Then Mayor Gerald Holleman, elected in 1982, said he made known to the black community after his election that the cemetery knew no color boundaries, but it was about 18 years before the town received a request from a black family to purchase a grave plot. The Holly Springs Cemetery is located at the west end of Earp Street. This year, the Town is having the seven acres completely surveyed so that plot sales can resume with accuracy.)

At a town board meeting in September of 1945, Mayor I.M. Gattman was authorized to purchase a gun for the town's marshal -- its one law enforcement officer -- but not to pay more than \$35. At the board's next meeting it was reported that Judge Smith had agreed to lend the marshal a gun until one could be bought at a reasonable price.

At another meeting, the commissioners approved paying Mayor Gattman \$1.35 for five phone calls and killing one dog. The balance in the town's checking account was reported at each meeting. It usually ran a little more than \$300.

Probably the single biggest event involving the board during the 1940s was the application of a Mr. Martin to open a grocery store and to include among his merchandise beer and wine. The board denied his request for a permit.

Martin appealed.

A Superior Court upheld the commissioners' decision. Martin gave notice of appeal to the Supreme Court. In the meantime, the town managed to get passed by the General Assembly a law prohibiting the manufacture and/or sale of beer and wine within a mile and a half radius of the Holly Springs Baptist Church. (According to former Mayor Holleman, the local legislation, along with similar laws relating to other towns, was declared unconstitutional some years later.)

Not much changed in the 1950s. The town voted to purchase and install a traffic light on Main Street at Avent's Ferry Road. Eventually the State took it down.

Holly Springs didn't qualify as a one-traffic light town again until the 1990s.

In 1957, the town was notified that the State would be coming in to inspect all outdoor toilets. Holly Springs did not at the time have public water or sewer systems.

In 1958, a movement for consolidated schools began in Wake County. The

remainder of the white Holly Springs school, then grades one through eight, closed. Elementary children began to attend Fuquay Springs and Apex Schools. In 1978, the building which had housed the once-prestigious Holly Springs High School was torn down, prompting Reba B. Mason to write nostalgically in an article in *The Western Wake Herald*, an Apex newspaper, "The imposing two-story brick school building no longer stands in Holly Springs. It was lost to school consolidation and changing times. It must have been one of the last small neighborhood schools in this area. The school bell once tolled loudly and strong for generations of Holly Springs families."

*"We can convince any capitalist who will visit our town with a view to locating any manufacturing enterprise in our state that there is no place in the state to surpass Holly Springs as to health and pure spring water. "*

-- Col. George Benton Alford, editorial, *The Cape Fear Enterprise*, 1899

## Chapter 13 *Progress, At Last*

By 1960, Holly Springs had grown to a population of 581. I. M. Gattman, a transplanted Yankee who had married a Holly Springs girl and served as mayor of Holly Springs from 1945 to 1949, once again became mayor in 1961. This time, he made a real push to get some things moving in Holly Springs. For the first time in the history of the town, all taxes due were collected. It was about this time a survey was authorized to determine the feasibility of establishing a public water system. And in 1960 the town's first zoning commission was established.

In 1964 fluorescent lights were installed on every street and at every public place in town. This action, plus a general town cleanup and improvement prompted the seven-county Capital Area Development Association to award Holly Springs first place in the village division (towns of 1,000 or less).

In 1965 the main street of town (Highway 55) was widened and resurfaced. Other streets were improved and beautified with shrubbery. These improvements brought Holly Springs first place in the Wake County Community Development Association's competition. The improvements were done without an increase in taxes, which in 1965-66 stood at 65 cents per \$100 valuation. At that time the town had no public debt.

While the town struggled in the early 1960s to improve itself and to interest business and industry in its location, the lack of utilities -- water and sewer service - -was a major obstacle to any growth and development. In 1967, the town board was finally ready to build a water system. An acre and a half of land was purchased for \$1,000. An FHA loan for \$145,000 was obtained to pay for drilling wells and constructing a storage tank and maintenance building. (The town was unable to make its first interest payment on the FHA loan in June of 1969 but managed to get an extension till July when tax refund money was due from the State.)

By 1968, a public water supply was available to citizens. It was a big step forward for the village. It was 1985 before the first wastewater treatment plant was completed.

Town Board minutes from the 1970s indicate more activity in the town. Mayor Gattman reported that someone had talked to him about a low-cost housing project for the town.

A health clinic was held regularly by Wake County in the town hall. Agreement was reached to supply water to Feltonville, and the Rural Fire Department contracted with the town to provide fire protection for 10 cents for each \$100 of property valuation.

George Underwood, a local businessman, appeared before the board to say he thought the town needed a bank. That was in 1972. Several years later, when Jim Hancock was mayor, the town's need for a bank came up again before the town board,

and Commissioner Parrish Womble suggested the town have a large sign created to place on property adjacent to Town Hall announcing "Bank Wanted."

Such a sign was erected. It got attention, was photographed by area newspapers and the photograph distributed across the country via news wire services. Holly Springs got a flurry of phone calls from banks, some from other states, but it was Fuquay-Varina-based The Fidelity Bank which followed through and, in 1978, opened a branch in Holly Springs.

Also in the 1970's many state and federal grants began to be available, and Holly Springs, poor and suffering from lack of basic services, applied for many and won several, including monies to hire a police officer, enhance the town park, improve housing and hire a part-time administrator to work at town hall.

But while the Holly Springs town board was beginning to deal with more and bigger projects, the town board found itself still having to handle small-town disputes. At one meeting in 1976 a resident complained that his dog had been shot and that it wouldn't have happened if the town had been enforcing its ordinance prohibiting the keeping of livestock (hogs in this particular case) on less than an acre of land in town.

The complainant said if the hog pen he had in mind wasn't cleaned up, he would put one hog pen beside his house and another next to his store on Main Street.

Jim Hancock, mayor at the time, told him to go right ahead if he thought he could stand the odor. But the board did instruct its police officer to check to see if ordinances were being violated.

The town's budget for the 1979-80 fiscal year was \$73,000. Holly Springs was still a tiny town, still struggling to get going.

## *Still Struggling Into the 1980s*

As late as 1984, a team of graduate students from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, conducting a survey of Holly Springs which included 79 percent of the households in town, found a median household income of \$10,400 compared to a median of \$18,643 countywide. The students reported that the 1980 census had shown 39 percent of the town's population living in poverty. Even more striking, the census data also showed that one family out of four inside the town limits was still using outdoor bathroom facilities.

It was not until 1985 that a sewage treatment system was finally in place and several years thereafter before the town was free of all outdoor privies.

Also in 1985 the town won a \$745,000 Community Development Block Grant to improve housing in some of the needier areas.

At the mid-point of the decade, Holly Springs retained its one-square-mile shape -- with one small alteration.

But within the next few years both Easton Acres to the north and a section called West Holly Springs were annexed. About the same, time town officials began to look for an additional water source, considering additional wells or tying into the South Wake water line, going to Harnett County or creating the town's own surface water source. The South Wake water line ultimately proved to be the best source for the time.

That was 1988 when the population remained just under 800. Town commissioners foresaw needing an additional 250,000 gallons of water within the following two years.

It was also in the late 1980's that Martin Marietta and Nello Teer both sought to locate rock quarries in south west Wake County. Teer would be closest to Holly

Springs. Although many area residents objected, fearing heavy truck traffic and decreased land values around the quarry, the company won approval and was annexed to Holly Springs.

The town looked favorably in the later 1980s on one big project, estimated to involve a \$20 million investment, which looked promising for a time but then fizzled. A group of Raleigh businessmen wanted to locate near Holly Springs a “reliever” airport, a facility for smaller planes, so they wouldn’t have to use Raleigh-Durham International. Residential and industrial development area was to go around it, and the Town of Holly Springs prepared to expand its boundaries and growth areas to the south and west. Everything appeared to be on go until the 11<sup>th</sup> hour (literally, a day before the official announcement was to be made to the press and public that Wake Southwest Airport was to break ground) when the Nuclear Regulatory Agency reversed its earlier approval and ruled against the airport because of the site’s proximity to the Harris plant.

Today, we call the site Holly Glen Subdivision!

## *Turning Point*

Throughout the 1980s Holly Springs was showing signs of moving from sleepy village to real-live-town status. As 1990 approached, Holleman, who had been elected mayor in 1982, was elated over the decision of Warp Technologies, a new company which would manufacture polyester thread, to build a plant in Holly Springs.

Within one year, from 1989 to 1990, the town’s tax base leaped from \$8 million to \$16 million.

Holleman was quoted in *The Independent* of Fuquay-Varina as saying the arrival of Warp Technologies represents “... the single most influential growth Holly Springs has experienced since the Civil War.”

Commenting on the town’s beginning growth, he credited “a modern sewer system and a major attitude adjustment. It began when people in this town started believing it was time to want the town to grow. We got tired of being left out, and we figured out it was up to us to do something about it.”

A short time after Warp Technologies’ arrival, Holly Springs got another big boost with announcement that the multi-million-dollar Sunset Ridge golf course and residential community would locate near town and would seek annexation.

Holleman continued to talk up the need for a grocery store, drug store and other commercial development (and, yes, the town erected another sign on Hwy. 55. This time, the sign read, “We Want a Grocery Store”). He also urged the community to clean up, to get rid of junk cars, to clean up littered yards, to make the town look as if those living there were proud of it.

About 1987 the town had changed its form of government to create the position of town manager. Current Angier Town Manager Tom Taylor held that post for three years. Then the town board decided the position -- at \$40,000 annually -- was too expensive. So the charter was amended once more, and Holleman, who was mayor, became town administrator at a salary of about \$24,000. Money saved with the change went into the town’s general fund. (North Carolina State law provides for the hiring of town elected officials under the Small Town Exception General Statutes.)

Holleman continued to serve as mayor and town administrator throughout the 1990s as Holly Springs leapt into growth mode, receiving overflow residential development from Cary and Apex. The town population increased from about 900 in 1990 to 7,000 in 1999 and 9,192 in 2000. But residential growth far outpaced commercial and industrial growth. Holleman and the town commissioners found



themselves planning hard to keep up with the new demands brought on by burgeoning population and, at the same time, seeking the commercial and industrial growth needed to establish a more balanced tax base.

## *Momentum Continues*

As the Town observes its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary year in 2002, a new mayor and a new town board are working to keep up the momentum of progress that touched Holly Springs in the 1990s, much as it did in the 1890s.

Mayor Dick Sears, who has lived in Holly Springs since the early 1990s, is enthusiastic about the town's future. His goals are very much like those of Col. Alford nearly a century ago – make sure the town has to offer what new industry will need; promote the local schools and work to make sure Holly Springs children can receive the best education possible; and then spread the message that Holly Springs is the best place in the country to do business, to live, to work, to go to school and to play.

And, so it seems history is repeating itself in Holly Springs.

May this latest wave of prosperity for the town and her citizens continue uninterrupted.

*"Those were some lonely people because didn't nobody want to be around them with that smallpox, you know,"*

– Ms. Norris of a smallpox outbreak in Holly Springs in the 1920s

## Chapter 14 *Living History*

Back in 1992, some graduate students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill visited Holly Springs to assess community strengths, assets and needs. Among the needs identified by the students – which came at no surprise – was the need for a community school in Holly Springs.

Through the efforts of citizens, the Holly Springs General Federation Woman's Club and town officials, Holly Springs Elementary School was opened in 1996.

During the assessment process, the UNC students conducted audio-taped interviews with some longtime or lifelong members of the community: town historian Mrs. Mary Lee Johnson; former teacher, retired school principal, former Holly Springs town clerk (1945-1947) and former Mayor Mrs. Sylvian Brooks (1981-1983); Leslie-Alford-Mims house owner resident Mr. Edwin Mims; and several residents enrolled in the local Meals on Wheels program, including Mr. Johnny Lunsford and a Ms. Norris.

Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Brooks and Mr. Mims are quoted throughout earlier pages in this history.

An interesting account from Mr. Lunsford is below.

Mr. Lunsford remembers the farming community of Holly Springs. He recalls how tobacco and corn were major crops, but not the corn of today.

"Corn today is a hybrid," Mr. Lunsford explained. "It grows thicker. We used to plant corn about 18 to 22 inches apart. That hybrid corn yields about 300 or 400 bushels to the acre, where we used to get about 25 or 30."

Recalling when she moved to Holly Springs in about 1921 as a little girl, a Ms. Norris recalled that some folks in town had smallpox.

"Those were some lonely people because didn't nobody want to be around them with that smallpox, you know," she said. She also recalled the days – with an almost nostalgic tone in her voice – of hard work in the tobacco fields. She described how a farmer with a one- or two-mule plow would ready the field for planting and then how the chopping season followed when the tobacco plants were maturing. Then there was the hot summer days of harvest by hand when the little children would be assigned to pulling leaves, while the older children bundled them up on sticks.

"They'd grade the tobacco, putting up the best leaves," she said. "We'd let the trash leaves fall to the floor and worry about them later," she added.

Ms. Norris explained to the interviewers that her parents didn't own the farm. She said, "No, they didn't own the farm... they farmed on what-you-called 'on halves' on the tobacco and the corn."

Another resident added in the background, "I don't know what it was 'halves' about... I don't remember that part, but that's what they called it."

The group gathered remembered that all members of the family helped out in the farming -- children, women and men.

Mr. Lunsford said the men mostly did the heavy work, like plowing.

But Ms. Norris said, “I had to plow. I remember my Mama said she had to plow, and I thought I had to do what she did, so I learned to plow. My daddy was glad I learned,” she added, laughing at the memory.

The residents recalled that in the early 1900s, a lot of the area farms were owned by black families with names like Utley, Norris, Judd and Beckwith.

When asked what happened, Mr. Lunsford replied with a bit of sadness in his voice, “Things got tight. Couldn’t pay the bills.”

Lots of folks – black and white – faced economic hardships, especially during the Depression. But, Mr. Lunsford pointed out, people didn’t know times were hard, because everyone was in the same shape.

Commenting on what it was like growing up in Holly Springs, Ms. Norris said, “It was fun. I liked it. We would play baseball, have picnics on holidays, everybody in town would enjoy getting together.”

Mr. Lunsford remembered his boyhood excitement about the trains coming through town.

The audio-tape interviews were being conducted in one of the rooms of the W.E. Hunt Community Center on Stinson Street, which is now owned by the Town. Coincidentally, it also was the original site of the four-room school the residents attended some 30 years before the current building was constructed.

“We’d have reading, writing, math, devotions and spelling,” Ms. Norris said. “The first words I learned to write were ‘cat, rat and dog.’”

During daily devotions, the students would read Bible scriptures and have quiet prayer time and sing hymns.

“Down through the years, they cut that out,” Mr. Lunsford said. “They don’t have devotions like they used to,” he said, quietly.

During the school year, students would enjoy many special programs, like a Valentines Day event and a pageant at Easter. But the end of school commencement was the most exciting. Students would come to school dressed in costumes that represented something special, Ms. Norris said.

What were your teachers like?” the interviewer asked.

“She was a living star,” Ms. Norris said. “She was a teacher. I always thought of a teacher as ‘Miss Perfect.’ She could no wrong.”

Teachers back then, Mr. Lunsford added, “had a lot more respect from the children than there is now.”

The residents said they liked going to the community center every day for lunch (the program has since moved to the Pine Acres Community Center in Fuquay-Varina) because their daily trips were constant reminders of a simpler, happier time when they attended school on the same grounds.

Except, Mr. Lunsford pointed out, he enjoys the drive over. “I had to walk four or five miles every day to go to school,” he explained.

Of the recent growth spurt in the Town, Ms. Norris said, “Holly Springs has grown more in the last two years that it has in the past 50. It think it’s wonderful, but I don’t know a lot of folks.”

## History of Holly Springs Dedication

We hope you have enjoyed reading this capsulized version of the History of Holly Springs. This booklet was compiled from a variety of published materials and personal interviews conducted by Shirley Hayes of Fuquay-Varina, a local journalist, with additional research by Town Clerk Joni Powell. Mrs. Mary Lee Johnson, the Town's Historian, provided invaluable assistance.

For history's sake, we hope that the information is accurate; however, we rely on the writings and memories of others. Please forgive any errors you may note and let us know of any inaccuracies so that we can verify and correct the record, if needed, for future generations.

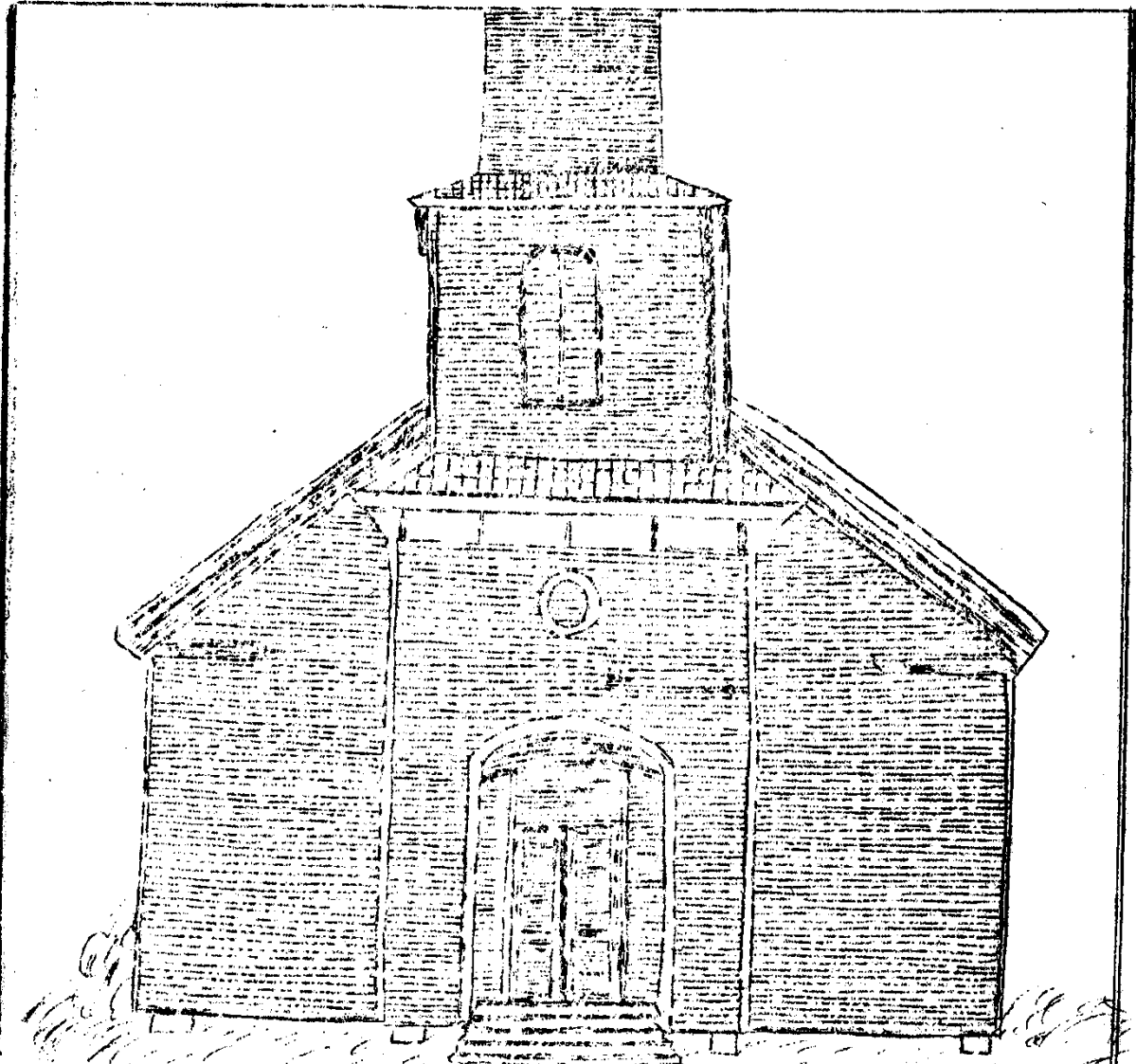
If you have any historical documents, photographs or information that you believe would contribute to a more complete historical archive for the town, we invite you to share your materials with your community. We would welcome the opportunity to copy materials for town files and safely return them to their owners. Please contact the Town Clerk at the address, email or phone numbers below.

This booklet is dedicated to those citizens of yesterday who recognized the importance of a historical record of this community and who took the time to write or talk about Holly Springs. We are grateful for the time and effort you took to preserve our history so that we can share it with citizens of today.

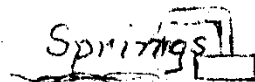
The following pages are copies of the Town's first history booklet, published by school children in 1937 as the Town observed its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We thought you would find "The Holly Springs School Chatterbox April 1937" interesting.

A History of Holly Springs  
By Shirley Hayes, 1999  
With Assistance from Mrs. Mary Lee Johnson  
With Contributions by Town Clerk Joni Powell, 2002  
Published by the Town of Holly Springs  
Town Clerk's Office  
P.O. Box 8  
Holly Springs, NC 27540  
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January 2002

# HOLLY SPRINGS SCHOOL CHATTER BOX



Old Baptist Church



#### HOW OUR TOWN GOT ITS NAME

The town of Holly Springs is located on an elevation. It had a large grove of holly trees located around several springs.

Within one hundred yards of the town limit is located the Johnson Mineral Springs with an analysis of 53% iron given it by a state chemist.

The town is almost surrounded by streams of running water. On the south is Frazil Creek. On the west is White Oak Creek. It took its name from the many springs and trees near the town limit.

Margaret Creech, 7

#### HISTORY OF HOLLY SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

The Baptist Church is located in Holly Springs, Wake County, N. C., fifteen miles southwest of Raleigh, on the Durham and Southern Railway, and was organized Sept. 23, 1828.

Isaac Hughes was the pastor and David Holland the clerk. The church started off well, but why did it die? Because some of them were drinkers and others had sinful habits. The church died, but the principles did not: therefore the people who were faithful reorganized the church. R. T. Daniels, who had left in 1803 came back in 1821 and held a meeting, preaching sermons of the greatest power. In 1822 Watson Clements gave the title of four acres for a better church to be built.

Although the church is over a hundred years old, it has had but two pastors, several of whom have served for a long period of years.

(cont.)

#### THE HISTORY OF HOLLY SPRINGS

In 1800 what is now known as Holly Springs was first started. There was a little school house where the present one stands, with one teacher for four months. After its day, the Masonic Hall was used for a school house until part of our present building was erected. Then we had one of the best high schools in the state with boarding pupils from all over the country.

The first church was out from Holly Springs about a mile and a half. It was moved across the hill from the school house. Between the two hills are several springs around which large holly bushes once grew, thus giving it its name, Holly Springs.

In 1850 the Methodist church was built on the hill near the cemetery. They were both moved in recent years.

Mr. G. P. Alford had some of the springs improved, with the intention of developing a summer resort. There was a monument also erected near his house.

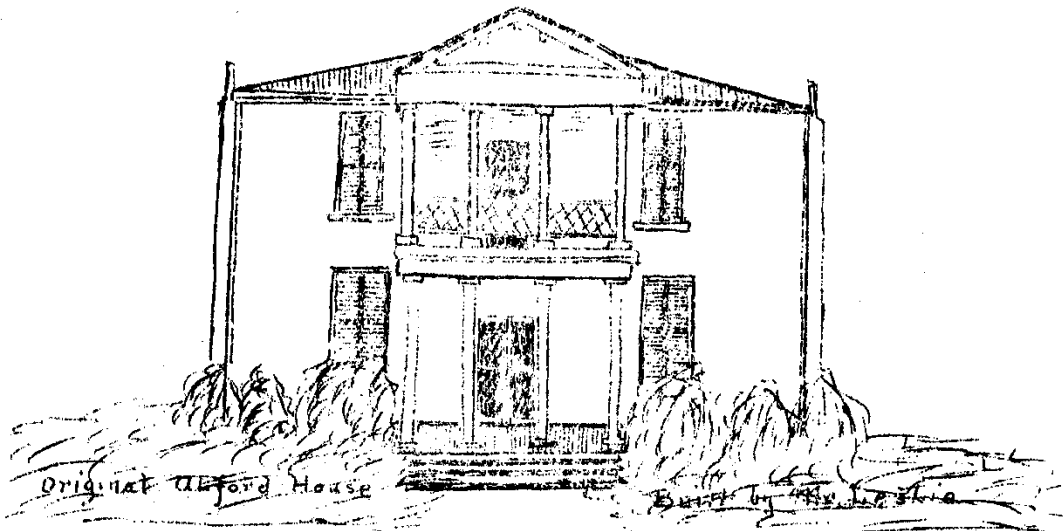
Several years ago a knitting mill was operated on a lot near the depot, which gave many people employment. This was moved to Varina a few years ago.

Graham Wood, 7th.

#### THE FIRST AUTOMOBILE

Martin Collins, who was raised here, but was working in Carpenter at that time, drove the first automobile that entered this town.

Rev. C. H. Norris, a Baptist minister, was the first resident to own an automobile.



#### HISTORY OF THE ALFORD HOUSE

The Alford house is one of the oldest houses in Holly Springs. The original house was built by Mr. Leslie. It contained five rooms and a dining room and kitchen. The porch connecting the rooms with the kitchen part, which was an extension at the back, was latticed. In one of the front rooms over the fireplace is a design inclosing the initials A.L. and in the other room over the fireplace is a like design inclosing the initials L.L. These initials, those of Mr. Leslie and his wife, and the design are laid on with plaster.

The house was bought by Mr. G.R. Alford and was added to and remodeled. It was for a time used as a dormitory for boarding students of the Holly Springs Academy.

The house, three stories high has about forty rooms in it, a roof garden, and several porches, two of which have columns which add to its old-fashioned appearance. The lower story has a dining room, kitchen, a lobby, and the family quarters. The rooms next to the railroad

which were added for Mr. Alford's first wife's mother, Mrs. Johnson Olive to live in, are now rented for light housekeeping.

The second story has many apartments for housekeeping and rooms for boarders.

The third floor contains four rooms which are used as storerooms for keepsakes and antiques.

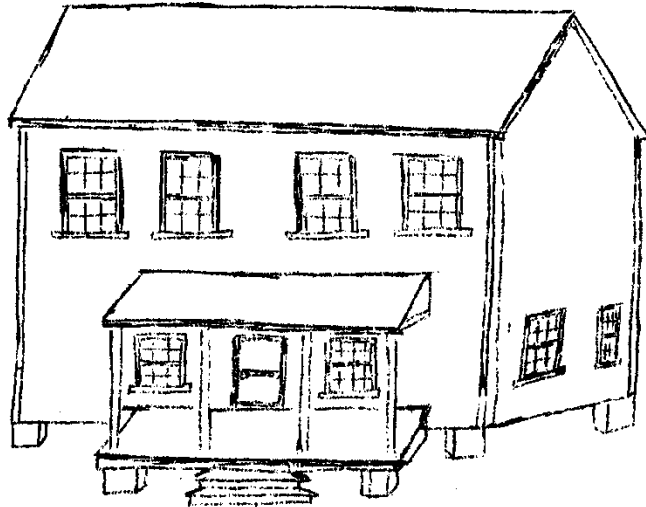
The house is situated in a pretty place near the Methodist Church and across the railroad from Mr. Lashley's store.

Helen Royal.

Mrs. Mary Markham says she just can remember coming to the Alford house years ago when Mr. Leslie, who was a tailor, lived there. In one of the front rooms he had a big table and she saw him sitting flat on the table with his legs crossed sewing.

During the Civil War soldiers were camped on the hillside near the Alford house. Their tents could be seen extending down to and around the springs.

The first radio in Holly Springs is said to have been owned by F.E. Cross, Miss Mabel Duke, or Mr. Haywood Alford.



#### HISTORY OF THE MASONIC LODGE

The Masonic Lodge was built sometime about the seventies. by the Masons. Our first high school was in the Masonic Lodge. When used for school purposes, there was an addition of two rooms on the northern side of the present building, which have since been torn down.

The Episcopal held church services in the lower part of the Masonic Lodge building for several years.

When the Episcopal services were stopped, the lower story was cut up into living rooms and was so used by different families until recently.

Since then the Masons have taken the petitions out and it is now being used as a meeting place for different purposes.

Recently the Masons, with the cooperation of the people of the community, had the main room of the lower floor wall papered and have furnished it. This room is now being used as a community center.

#### History of the Baptist Church (cont.)

The church always tried to get the best pastors and has never changed until they resigned.

Frank Holt & Billy Barbour

#### THE EVOLUTION OF SCHOOL

The first school, the Holly Springs Academy, was established in 1854 with Minton W. Chappell as principal. A large boarding house was built that later burned down. This school closed at the beginning of the Civil War.

Between 1865 and 1876 there were several small private schools. From 1876 to 1883 a school was taught under the encouragement of G.B. Alford and Dr. B. S. Utley.

After 1883 under a reorganization of the board of trustees, a new school, the Holly Springs Academy, flourished. Boarding students from the surrounding country side came here. The Alford house was added to that the students, many of whom did light housekeeping, might be accommodated. The old hotel run by Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Seagraves boarded many, and others stayed at private homes.

The old academy building has been added to from time to time until we have now many well equipped classrooms, a modern library, a new gymnasium, and a recently completed auditorium. A new heating system was installed in 1935.

Archie Leslie, Young and Paschal Boker were the first storekeepers of Holly Springs.



THE DOCTOR UTLEY HOUSE

The Doctor Utley house, one of the oldest in Holly Springs, is located between Mr. W. F. Holt's and Mr. Frank Cross'. It was built by two men hired by Dr. Utley. It is said that he built it for his home but did not live in it very long. This house contained two stories and a basement. The basement was built for a kitchen and dining room. The first floor was used for living rooms and other purposes, and the bedrooms were on the second floor.

It is said that Dr. Utley's wife was very fat with very little feet. She cooked in the kitchen, and then had to go to first floor to the living room, and to the second to reach the bedrooms. She had such a hard time climbing so many stairs with such a big body and so little feet that Dr. Utley moved.

Jessie Farp, 7

See
E. G. BREWER
for
Groceries Feeds
Meats Oysters Fish
Standard, V.C.,
and
Farmer's Cotton Oil Co.
Fertilizers,
Soda and Fertilizer Material

The house, now occupied by Mrs. Holloway, is so old that no one remembers when it was built., though it is said to have been built by a Mr. Brown. The back room, now used as a kitchen, was once used as a postoffice. Mrs. Jennie Nichols acted as postmistress.

OUR TOWN DURING THE WAR

Many years ago, during the Civil War, there were many horrible things done in the south. A northern army under General Sherman destroyed much property here. They left Raleigh, marched through Holly Springs, and camped a few miles southwest of here on a big plantation. No one could leave the house without the Yankees' permission.

One of the young men of the plantation, Mr. Cross, was home on a furlough. When the Yankees arrived, he was going to slip back to the southern army so he wouldn't become a prisoner. When one of the girls went to get some meat which was at the smokehouse, she saw the northern army coming. The boy was caught and taken a prisoner.

It was while they were on this plantation that Johnston surrendered. The northerners built a bonfire. They even burned a shuck house. They were very happy but not much happier than the southerners.

Vera Johnson, 7

THE OLDEST HOUSE IN NEEDMORE

The oldest house in our community is setting off the Sunset Lake Road. It is built of logs. In between the logs they have dobbed it with cement. They did not have nails in that time because it was built about a hundred years ago. They used pegs of wood instead of nails.

When you go in you see a big fireplace large enough to stand in. The mantelpiece is up higher than your head. The doors are large, high, and homemade. The windows have shutters made from wood. There was one big room, but now there are additions. It is owned by a Mr. Jones, who now lives in a newly constructed bungalow near the same site.

# Editorial

HOLLY SPRINGS SCHOOL CHATTERBOX  
Published monthly by 7th Grade  
April 1937

Editor.....Vera Johnson  
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Art Editor....Ozelle Holleran  
Business Mgr...Mildred Thomas  
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Class Editor...Jessie Farp  
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Billy Barbour  
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Jokes.....Wayne Honeycutt  
Reporters.....Myrtle Goodwin  
Frank Holt  
Wray Barker  
John Drake  
Teacher.....Thelma Dail  
Principal.....O.T. Townsend  
....

Our town was founded about 1823 with the building of the Baptist Church and the Alford house. A few houses were built and later private schools and boarding schools were started. There are many old historic buildings in the town.

We now have modern conveniences, a good school, and churches.

Once there was a negro woman working for a white lady. She kept getting grapefruit peeling out of the garbage can, so one day the lady asked her what she did with them. She said she got the peelings to make her garbage can look stylish.

Wray E. Brewer is opening a store in the old bank building on the highway. He will appreciate all patronage.

The house in which Coy Baker now lives is another of the oldest houses in our town. It was formerly known as the Sully Mitchell home.

W. J. B A L L E N T I N E

Phones 14J, 14R, 14 W.

Fuquay Springs, N.C.

Join

STATE BURIAL ASSOCIATION

FAITHFUL SERVICE FOR 35 YEARS

The Bennet house is another of the old homes of Holly Springs. Marshall Bennet had four children who went to school in the old academy at the Masonic Lodge Building. This house is back of the Brooks home and is where Miss Jennie Bennett, who married Marcus Nichols and ran the postoffice, was raised. She is now married to Dolph Nichols and lives in Fuquay.

The house in which Mr. Lonnie Adams was born is still being used though by colored people. It is located about a mile out of town on the Apex road.

The house in which the Olinas live is another old house of our town. So is the store house near by.

# Honors

## HONOR ROLL

Second Grade  
Jewell Byrd Adams  
Carolyn Hall  
Jean Hare  
Martha Holt Hare

### PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Second Grade: Alfred Ray, Jean Hare, Carolyn Hall, Martha Holt Hare, Glen Farp, Norman Goodwin, Billy Womble, Frances, Spence, Walter Lee Wood, Tom Wood, Elbert Baker.  
Third Grade B.: William Wilson, Grover Honeycutt.  
Seventh Grade: Graham Wood, Calvin Holt, Beatrice Avent, Margaret Creech, Jessie Farp, Vera Johnson, Helen Royall, Billy Barbour, Homer Cotten, Wayne Honeycutt.

When asked to make a sentence, Graham said, "The girl's wife did not interrupt the boy's words."  
School closes May 11th.

## SEVENTH GRADE SUPERLATIVES

Prettiest....Vera Johnson  
Most Handsome..Homer Cotten  
Best All Around..Vera Johnson  
Best All Around..Calvin Holt  
Most Popular..Helen Royall  
Most Popular..Frank Holt  
Best Sport....Jessie Farp  
Best Sport....Graham Wood  
Neatest Girl..Myrtle Goodwin  
Neatest Boy...Homer Cotten  
Most Courteous..Jessie Farp  
Most Courteous..Wayne Honeycutt  
Most Intelligent..Vera Johnson  
Most Intelligent..Calvin Holt  
Jolliest Girl..Helen Royall  
Jolliest Boy...Graham Wood  
Most Athletic..Margaret Creech  
Most Athletic..Wray Barker  
Wittiest Girl..Mildred Thomas  
Wittiest Boy...Billy Barbour  
Quietest Girl..Vera Johnson  
Quietest Boy...Frank Holt

Mr. Fred Johnson was buried here Friday April 9th. The funeral was conducted by Rev. Craven at the Methodist Church.

## COMPLIMENTS

of

your

## A & P STORES

## TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF COMMENCEMENT ACTIVITIES

APRIL 29 .....ELEMENTARY EXERCISES.....8:00

APRIL 30....RECITATION & DECLAMATION CONTEST.....8:00

MAY 3 . . . . . BACCALAULFATE SERMON . . . . . 3:00

by  
REV. CARL M. TOWNSEND

MAY 7 .....CLASS DAY EXERCISES,.....8:00

SEVENTH GRADE

May 10.....CLASS DAY EXERCISES.....8:00

## SENIOR CLASS

MAY 11.....GRADUATION EXERCISES.....8:00

## SENIOR CLASS

SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS

Valedictorian...Laura Holt  
Salutarian.....Doris Baker  
Historian.....Frances Shaw  
Testorian.....Burnie Holland  
Giftorian.....Carl Johnson  
Prophet.....Margaret Lea  
Poet.....Jaymie Norris  
Mascot.....Chellyn Hatly  
Grandmother.....Mrs. Fred Lea  
Flower.....Pansy  
Class Colors....Red and White  
Motto..No Victory Without Labor  
\* \* \* \* \*

President.....Maybelle Cooke  
Vice.Pres.....Jaymie Norris  
Secretary.....Eunice Johnson  
Treasurer.....Doris Baker

J. M. STEPHENSON  
SERVICE STATION

Heavy and fancy Groceries  
Gas and Oil

# U.S. TIRES and TUBES

Fuquay-Holly Springs Road

We are very sorry that Miss Dail's father is ill. We hope he is improving.

### SENIOR CLASS SUPERLATIVES

Most Popular Girl..Grace Holt  
Most Popular Boy..Burnie Holland  
Prettiest Girl.....Grace Holt  
Most Handsome....Burnie Holland  
Wittiest.....Philip Olive  
Neatest.....Maybelle Cooke  
Most Athletic...Margaret Lea  
Most Athletic...Carl Johnson  
Best All Around..Doris Baker  
Best All Around..Jaymie Norris  
Silliest.....Margaret Lea  
Biggest Flirt...Margaret Lea  
Most dignified...Frances Shaw  
Cutest.....Mary Walton  
Most Studious...Laura Holt  
Most Courteous..Maybelle Cooke  
Most Courteous..Burnie Holland  
Biggest Bluff...Philip Olive  
Sissiest Boy...Philip Olive  
Most Original...Burnie Holland  
Most Winsome...Eunice Johnson

ACME CLEANING COMPANY

We have long had an unparalleled reputation we daily guard by upholding the finest standards of the cleaning industry. You will appreciate the extra care we give the garments you send us. It costs no more. Why not give us a trial ?

C.E. BAREFOOT, Mgr.  
Fuquay Springs  
Phone 15

# Our school and Community Holly Springs

## PLAY GIVEN BY COMMUNITY

The people of Holly Springs cooperated and got up a play called Jayville Junction. Some of the leading characters were the Goodbye Girls, Mrs. White and Mrs. Shaw; The Giggling Girls, Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Beaver; the College Girls, who were always talking at one time, Savannah Holland, Rubelle Norris, Thelma Johnson, Agnes Holloway, and Misses Ragan and Oldham; and the mother and her little boy, Mrs. Marcus Holt and Mr. Dave Ashworth. Mr. Ashworth had a bottle of milk that he would suck occasionally and a stick of candy to eat. Mr. Roy Keith was a detective. These are a few of the characters. Everyone enjoyed the play very much.

B U Y

your

C H E V R O L E T

from

MITCHELL CHEVROLET COMPANY

We appreciate your business.

Fuquay Springs, N.C.

Miss Mabel Duke, owner at one time of the Beaver house, was the first person in Holly Springs to have a permanent.

Summer vacation is near.

## BASEBALL GAME PLAYED

In the game with Rolesville our team played well. In the sixth inning our pitcher gave out. One of their boys knocked a home run. The final score was 6-0 in favor of Rolesville. Wray Barker, 7th

## MUSIC RECITAL GIVEN

The music recital was given April 2. Mrs. Bobbit was the director. Four choruses were sung, and everyone taking music played a piece. Dorothy Marie Gallagher said "A Little Prayer" and she did very well. The children taking music in the grammar grades sang two songs. Everyone enjoyed it very much. Helen Royal, 7th.

## SENIOR PLAY GIVEN

The Senior play, "He Had A Past" was given March 26. It was about a tangled love affair caused by the negro maid forgetting to give the family a telegram from the girl they were expecting. Another girl, an actress, came. Everything came out right when a Frenchman came and took the actress away with him. The characters were

Uncle Homer.....	Philip Olive
Mrs. Dodge.....	Eunice Johnson
Phil.....	Jaymie Norris
Ken.....	Burnie Holland
Hazel.....	Grace Holt
Violet.....	Frances Shaw
Bella.....	Mary Walton
Max.....	Carl Johnson
Orchid.....	Maybelle Cooke
Miss Foote.....	Doris Baker

Australia's chief mineral now is coal, although much of it was settled for gold.

MAN TOOK PICTURES

A man came to our school one day and took pictures of all the grades. The students were standing on the front steps of the school building. The children then could buy a picture.

KELVINATORS  
and  
GENERAL ELECTRIC  
REFRIGERATORS

Easy terms!

PROCTOR-FARBOUR CO.

Phone 16

Mrs. Farbour, our grandmother, has a new refrigerator. Her home was recently remodelled.

For  
SWIFT'S AND STEER

See

JOE W. STEPHENSON  
Varina, N.C.

SEVENTH GRADE CLASS HONORS

Valedictorian....Vera Johnson  
Salutatorian.....Calvin Holt

The seventh grade class day exercises will be given on May 7 at 8:00. They will be in two acts. The name will be The Pirate's Treasure.

PURCELLS BEAUTY SHOP

Permanents.....\$3 to \$5  
Shampoo and Finger Wave...\$.50  
Personality Haircut.....\$.35  
Manicures.....\$.50

All patronage will be appreciated very much.

Fuquay Springs

Phone 104

Standard Tests for all elementary grades were given April 20.

Stephen A Douglas was once engaged to Abe Lincoln's wife. He later married a North Carolinian.

THE OLD BAPTIST CHURCH

There was once a log church near where Mr. Bell lives now. That was many years ago. After so long a time they decided to move it to Holly Springs. It was then near the Alford house. For a while my grandfather was the pastor of the church. Two years ago it was dismantled and moved to Durham.

Homer Cotten, 7



### **Official Town Seal, Town of Holly Springs, North Carolina**

The official town seal of the Town of Holly Springs is not that old. It was commissioned by the Town Board in 1987 and was created for the Town by a sign maker in Apex. The seal features a ring of holly leaves encircling a silhouette of the Leslie-Alford-Mims house, one of the most notable landmarks in the Town. The date on the seal commemorates the founding of the Town in 1876 when Col. George Benton Alford submitted papers of incorporation to the North Carolina General Assembly. The General Assembly ratified the Town's Charter a few weeks later on Jan. 26, 1877, which gives the Town its official and formal birthday.