

July 2019

## Undated (13)

Mamie Jones

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.gardner-webb.edu/fay-webb-gardner-cleveland-county-early-days-column>

---

### Recommended Citation

Jones, M. (n.d.). Cleveland County Early Days - Undated (13), The Daily Star. Fay Webb Gardner Collection, Gardner-Webb University Archives, John R. Dover Memorial Library, Boiling Springs, NC.

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Series 1 - Personal Papers, Diaries, Scrapbooks at Digital Commons @ Gardner-Webb University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Cleveland County Early Days Column by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Gardner-Webb University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@gardner-webb.edu).

# LIFE

From Page 1, Second Section

the first settlers reached Lincoln county about 1745. The county seat at Lincolnton was established about 1785. The county seat at Rutherfordton was established about 1787. (The records of old Tryon county were left in Lincoln county.) The interlying present Cleveland county area was settled somewhat later.

## GOD-FEARING IMMIGRANTS

The Scotch-Irish were not Irish, but Scots whose Presbyterian ancestors had been sent into Northern Ireland to check the rise of Catholicism. In 1702, when Queen Anne ascended the English throne harsh laws affecting their religion were enacted, and soon thereafter 500,000 Scotch-Irish came to America, many of them settling in North Carolina.

Both Scots and Germans were thrifty, hard-working, God-fearing people; and wherever they went their ordained ministers went with them. Since the ministers were usually also teachers, they soon had schools and churches.

They were seeking peace and freedom. Freedom to work and enjoy the fruits of their toil. Freedom to worship God as they pleased.

## WORSHIP GOD THEY MUST!

The following religious requirement is quoted from Ashe's History of North Carolina, Vol. I:

"In regard to religion, while freedom of conscience was allowed, yet it was enacted that no man should become a free-man of Carolina 'or have any estate or habitation within it, that doth not acknowledge a God; and that God must be publicly and solemnly worshipped.'

"And while no person of the age of 17 years or over could have any protection of the law unless a member of the church, yet any seven persons agreeing in any religion could constitute a church or profession on which they could bestow some name to distinguish it from others."

## CUT OFF HIS EARS

Sometimes the kind of religion they had was very cruel. The following sentence imposed by a judge in Rutherford Superior Court sounds like some of the things that came out of Germany and Japan not long since. At the time of this incident in 1814, half of the present Cleveland county, including what is now the city of Shelby, was part of Rutherford county.

The following story is quoted from History of Old Tryon, by Griffin:

"As an example of the barbarity of justice, and cruelty imposed upon offenders against the law in the early days, the following judgment of the Rutherford Superior Court is given. This sentence was passed Friday, April 14, 1814, against Arthur Clarke, who had been indicted for perjury. Clark had earlier represented Rutherford county in the General Assembly and had been, for many years, a justice of the peace and a man of means.

"It is ordered and adjudged that the said Arthur Clarke do pay to the State a fine of 250 pounds; and that he stand in pillory one hour, at the expiration of which time both ears of the said Arthur Clarke shall be cut off and entirely severed from his head; and that the ears so cut off shall be nailed to the pillory by the sheriff, and shall remain there until the setting of the sun.

"That the sheriff of Rutherford county do carry this sentence into execution . . . on Tuesday, the 12th of July next."

Correction: Last week in writing about liquor, I quoted Judge E. Y. Webb as saying that although there were legal liquor stores in and around Shelby from 1893 to 1899 that many persons were indicted for moonshining and bootlegging.

I wrote: "So, it would appear that legal liquor stores DID NOT prevent bootlegging."

But somebody—maybe type gremlins, maybe an assistant editor, maybe a printer, or maybe a proof reader—left out the word NOT. It was my intention to show that legal liquor stores DIDN'T prevent bootleg likker.