

We Made

History

YOUR FAMILY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GREAT STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

Your accounts of making North Carolina history are truly inspiring. Monumental or momentary, our citizens' contributions to our communities, our state and our country are powerful and plentiful. Thank you to everyone who proudly shared their stories. You can see more at our Web site. Next month we'll publish your explanations of "Why I'm a Gardener." (Deadline was Jan. 15.) See more themes and rules of our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series on page 24.



THE HOLLERING CHAMPION

My dad, Paul Thomas Kendall, was a historical figure in North Carolina. He was born in 1911 in Stedman. By the time he was only 11 years old he was providing a living for his widowed mother and his sister with his own cows, chickens, garden and bee yard. He ran a newspaper route in the mornings and swept stores in the evenings. In his spare time he climbed church steeples in Fayetteville, catching pigeons to sell.

When I was a kid in the 1960s in Whiteville, Dad had a thousand hives of bees, a Perma-Stone construction business, and he was already famous for his backhoe operating skills in the bays and swamps of Bladen and Columbus counties. Yet, he still had time to start a 100-acre blueberry farm for a hobby!

Dad's greatest achievement came in 1983 when he won the World's Hollering Contest. On Nov. 11, he appeared on the "Tonight Show" with Johnny Carson. In front of 6 million viewers he performed the best of Carolina hog calling, dove

calls, barnyard critter imitations, gospel melody hollering and just plain old hollering, too.

The impact he made on North Carolina was to serve as one of the best examples of the kind of rugged individualism that put this great state together.

Michael Kendall, Kelly | Four County EMC

THE EAST SURRY LITTLE LEAGUE GIRLS

During the summer of 2003, 12 girls from the East Surry Little League ventured on a quest to win the World Series. My daughter, Rachael Brooks, was on the team as centerfielder. The journey was nearing its end in Jeffersontown, Ky. East Surry Little League represented the South. Through grueling heat and dirt, the team won their way to the final game. They were up against a tough team from Jeffersontown but they conquered and won. The final score was 8-4.

The girls replaced the previous winner's flag waving in centerfield with a North Carolina flag. What a proud



moment. The East Surry Little League team put Pilot Mountain on the map by becoming the first girl's Senior League team from North Carolina to win the World Series. This is a mark in North Carolina history that I will never forget.

Karla Thompson, Ararat | Surry-Yadkin EMC

UNC-CHAPEL HILL'S FIRST DONOR

Someone in my family who made history was Edmond Jones (ca. 1750-1854). He was born in Granville County, which later became part of Orange County and at his death was Chatham County.

He served in the Revolutionary Army and was married to Rachel Alston. He and nine other men gave land so that the nation's first state university could be established. Back in 1784, he deeded 200 acres of land (plus some lumber) to establish the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill which was organized in 1789.

Through my great-great-great-great-grandfather's gift, thousands of Carolina students, including myself, have benefited from an education in "Carolina Country." My son Grayson and my daughter Arden, who is posing at the Old Well at springtime (above), hopefully will carry on the family tradition.

Janelle Lambert Tally, Goldston / Randolph EMC



THE TRUE MEDIC

At the beginning of the Korean conflict, my mama's cousin felt it was his duty to join the Army to help. His biggest problem was that he couldn't see himself hurting another human being. He explained this to a recruiter who convinced him to go in as a medic. He followed the advice, joined the Army and entered Korea as part of a unit based out of Fort Bragg.

On March 12, 1952, near Sokso-Ri, Korea, he was the only medic assigned to a night combat unit which came under enemy fire. He was injured himself but refused help and instead kept helping other injured soldiers—even after another injury took his right arm. After collapsing from loss of blood, he kept giving aid to other soldiers by telling others what to do. He died soon after.

He was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. They dedicated the hospital at Fort Bragg to him then later named the replacement hospital for him also. His name was Bryant Homer Womack from Mill Springs. We have had several other family members serve in the military, but I suppose that Bryant was our most famous.

Noel B. Sisk, Rutherfordton / Rutherford EMC

THE MARBLES CHAMPION

My dad, Don Moore, made North Carolina history when he became the marbles champion of Hillcrest School in Burlington. The school went through the eighth grade, and he seems to remember being around 12 or 14 years old. Dad can't remember the final outcome of the city tournament, but he does remember going on to a state tournament in Raleigh. He also remembers how his dad reacted (my grandfather) after they played a "fun" game and his dad beat him. He said he never let him forget it.

Donna Hill, Elon / Piedmont EMC

THE MOUNTAIN CLIMBER

Climb every mountain ... or at least 50 of them. With the love and support of my family, I set out to reach the highest geographical point in each of the 50 United States. At first it was easy. North Carolina's Mt. Mitchell has a road to the top. So does Tennessee's Clingman's Dome. Florida's highest "mountain," the nation's lowest summit (345 feet) is a sandy knoll topped with picnic tables and restrooms. Delaware's highest point is found at a suburban intersection.

West of the Mississippi, however, it gets harder. Texas' Guadalupe Peak soars to 8,749 feet and requires a 9-mile hike. Colorado's Mt. Elbert tops out above 14,000 feet and is reached by a long steep trail. Some climbs require roping together with others for safety, walking across ice using metal prongs (crampons) strapped to boots for traction, scrambling up rocky cliffs or sleeping atop frozen glaciers.

In 2003, I attempted Mt.

McKinley, Alaska's—and our nation's—loftiest peak. The expedition took three weeks, but on June 12 I reached the 20,320-foot-high mountaintop, completing my quest to reach each state summit and becoming the first, and thus far only, North Carolinian to accomplish this feat.

Douglas Butler, Crumpler / Blue Ridge EMC



THE DEVOTED COLONEL

My great grandfather, Col. John H. Alley, participated in several events in the 19th Century that helped shape the history of North Carolina. In 1836, as colonel of the 113th Regiment of the N.C. Militia, he was assigned to the command of Gen. Winfield Scott during the removal of the Cherokee Indians from western North Carolina to the plains of Oklahoma, a duty he took no pride in. He served with Gen. Scott again in our war with Mexico in 1846. After recruiting and training a company of troops from Rutherford County, he led them on horseback to Texas, where he was commissioned colonel in the U.S. Army at the famous battle of Chapultepec.

In 1861, at the age of 47, he served one year in the War Between the States. Upon sustaining a severe wound to his leg, he was declared unfit for further action and was discharged from the Confederate Army. Gov. Zebulon Vance then appointed him head of the new office of Home Guard for Jackson County, where he served throughout the remainder of the war.

Along with his other accomplishments he fathered 10 children, one of whom later became Superior Court judge of Haywood County.

Howard E. Alley, Jackson County / Haywood EMC



THE VIETNAM WAR HERO

This is a very difficult story for me to tell because it is about my dad. His name is Daniel Lee Dawes Sr. He was from Sharpsbury, and he is a part of North Carolina history.

I only remember a few things about my dad because he was always gone. When I was 7 years old, I saw two sol-

diers on the front porch and I thought maybe one of them was my dad. But the soldiers said that my dad had died in combat in Vietnam on July 9, 1968.

My dad is a hero to me, my son and my grandson. When I show my 5-year-old grandson the few pictures and medals I have of my dad he says to me, "I miss your daddy." Yes, you can miss someone that you never really knew.

Cynthia Marie Dawes, Roanoke Rapids | Roanoke EMC

THE NEW RIVER ADMIRAL

In the early 1960s, Appalachian Power Company, a subsidiary of American Electric Power Company, proposed to construct two hydroelectric dams in order to meet demand.

These dams would impound water that would cover 40,000 acres, but the power produced would not add to total electrical production. It would be a pumped-storage type to be used during peak-use times or emergencies. Producing three kilowatts would require four kilowatts to pump the water upstream.

Many of us made speeches, wrote letters and lobbied the U.S. Congress. And one of the nation's largest producers of electric power was defeated by a small group of vociferous citizens.

A member of this group, I was invited to the White House by President Ford for the signing of the bill that saved the world's second oldest river. Gov. Holshouser promoted me to "admiral" in the New River Navy.

Later, President Clinton visited Ashe County to proclaim the New River an American Heritage River.

Betty Thomas Plummer, Grassy Creek | Blue Ridge Electric

THE PENDER COUNTY TWINS



Lorena



Melvena

Lorena and Melvena Jordan were the first twins born in Pender Memorial Hospital in Burgaw on Feb. 29, 1952. The daughters of Molissa B.

Jordan of Burgaw, and the late Hertsel L. Jordan, their uncle, the late William Jordan, named them for twins in his class. As adults, Lorena and Melvena met their uncle's classmates and their namesakes, who lived in the Atkinson area of Pender County and were known as Big Sis and Little Sis.

Melvena and Lorena have two older siblings, James and Alice. Currently, the twins live and teach in Atlanta, Ga.

Alice J. Smith, Burgaw | Four County EMC


THE MASTER OF HARLOWE

My father, George W. Ball, was born in the Merrimon community of Carteret County on July 4, 1891. His parents were Robert Bernie and Mary Elizabeth Ball. He made his first trip to Harlowe in 1908. In 1917, he moved to the area.

Mr. Ball and his brother Raymond built one of the most successful farming operations in eastern North Carolina. He was awarded the Master Farmer certificate in 1936, and he was also a Master Mason.

Mr. Ball was one of the original incorporators of Carteret-Craven Electric Membership Corporation. He served as an officer and director from the beginning. In 1953, Mr. Ball was elected president of the corporation—a position he held until his death.

In the 1940s, the Harlowe community undertook a project of remodeling the church. He supervised the construction during the four-year period and presented the additions for dedication.

George Ball passed away on June 1, 1969. He will be remembered as a true friend and a diligent supporter of the Harlowe community and church. 

William Ball, Morehead City | Carteret-Craven EC

Send us your best Earn \$50

Here are the themes in our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series. Send us your stories and pictures about these themes. If yours is chosen for publication, we'll send you \$50. You don't have to be the best writer. Just tell it from your heart.

April 2006

A Perfect Site for a Picnic

Send us your pictures and stories about the best picnic place in North Carolina.

Deadline: Feb. 15

May 2006

The Ugliest Lamp I Ever Saw

Send us the pictures.

Deadline: March 15

June 2006

The Best Summer I Ever Had

By kids age 16 and younger.

Deadline: April 15

July 2006

"I'll Never Eat That Again"

A bad experience with food.

Deadline: May 15

The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less.
2. One entry per household per month.
3. Photos are welcome. Digital photos must be 300 dpi and actual size.
4. E-mailed or typed, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
5. Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and phone number.
6. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)
7. We pay \$50 for each submission published. We retain reprint rights.
8. We will post on our Web site more entries than we publish, but can't pay for those submissions. (Let us know if you don't agree to this.)
9. Send to: Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616
Or by e-mail: finer@carolinacountry.com
Or through the Web: www.carolinacountry.com