



Historic Preservation Commission

Regular Meeting

<http://www.townofboone.net/>

~ Agenda ~

Jane Shook
828-268-6960

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

3:00 PM Planning and Inspections Conference Room

The public may attend the meeting in person at the Planning & Inspections Conference Room at 680 West King Street, Suite C, or online via WebEx (a video conferencing software).

To participate using WebEx, either online or by phone, please email Planning & Inspections at planning@townofboone.net or call 828-268-6960, and you will be provided with an email invitation to the meeting. All requests for an invitation must be submitted no later than one hour before the meeting is scheduled to begin.

I. Call to Order

II. Adoption of Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes

September 3, 2024, HPC Advisory Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2024, CLG Training Session Minutes

IV. Public Comment

V. Stoneman's Raid Interpretative Panel - Update

Previous Draft Sketch Map for Reference

Revised Draft Sketch Map for HPC Review

Discussion of Suggestions from Preliminary Review by Civil War Trails Staff

Consideration of Quote by Stoneman's Raid Participant or Observer (Excerpts of Previously Discussed Research)

VI. Staff Updates

Update on Recent Town Projects - Town Hall Public Restrooms

Photos of Town Hall Public Restrooms

Statement of Conformity Report:

No new SoC issued within the last two months (60 days) as of October 24, 2024

VII. HPC Member Updates

VIII. Other Discussion

IX. Adjournment

TOWN OF BOONE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
September 3, 2024, 3:00 p.m.
Planning & Inspections Department & WebEx Video Conferencing

Historic Preservation Commission Members in Attendance: Vardell Smyth-Chair, Bettie Bond-Vice-Chair, and Ayden Basinger-Student Member

Council Liaison: Virginia Roseman (via WebEx)

Town Staff in Attendance: Jessica Mitchell-Advanced Planning Specialist, Amy Snider-Customer Service Specialist, and Michael James-Senior Planner

Others in Attendance: J.C. Feimster (via WebEx)

Call to Order

Chair Smyth called the Boone Historic Preservation Commission meeting held in the Planning & Inspections Conference Room at 680 West King Street and via WebEx to order at 3:00 p.m. Ms. Mitchell offered a formal welcome to new commission member, Ayden Basinger.

Adoption of Agenda

Commission Member Basinger made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Bond, to adopt the agenda as presented.

Vote: Aye – All
Nay – None

The motion passed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commission Member Basinger made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Bond, to approve the August 6, 2024, HPC meeting minutes.

Vote: Aye – All
Nay – None

The motion passed.

Staff Updates

Ms. Mitchell provided updates from relative items presented at the August 14, 2024 Town Council meeting. First, the student member application submitted by Ayden Basinger for the HPC was approved. Second, the submission of Chair and Vice-Chair applications were approved. She reminded members that those positions will remain in effect until next July. Lastly, the Stoneman's Raid Interpretative Panel draft text was approved following revisions from Town Council's suggestions. Ms. Mitchell noted that Town Attorney Meade would review the final text before sending to the Civil War Trails marker program. Since the Town Council meeting, Ms. Mitchell explained that she and Ms. Meade have completed a final review. Ms. Mitchell explained that currently, the document is pending signatures from the Town Manager and once signed, she will submit the application to the program. Council Liaison Roseman inquired about receipt of an email from Dr. Plaag regarding some minor text suggestions, and she would forward to Ms. Mitchell to be sure the text suggestions were incorporated. Ms. Mitchell reminded members of the review and edit process with the marker program

and clarified the recent Town Council approval included working with the marker program and the latest draft text.

Ms. Mitchell informed members that Director Shook will have information regarding board compensation following Town Council approval in July. She stated that the approved HPC stipends would be for quasi-judicial meetings. Director Shook is discussing the process of payment with the Finance department, and she will be in touch with the commission members with final details. No follow up questions from the Commission on the updates.

Statement of Conformity Report

Ms. Mitchell noted that on the last page of the packet there has been one application for a Statement of Conformity for the law offices at 756 W King St. concerning repair and maintenance to the building. They have also applied for a Certificate of Appropriateness on the remainder of their project that will be for review in November. Discussion included the location of the law office building and that it is a non-historic building, but still must fall in compliance. Senior Planner Michael James has reviewed the SOC portion and the COA case will be in November. No questions from the Commission on the report.

HPC Member Updates

Vice-Chair Bond reported on upcoming community events including Wednesday, September 4, at 5:30 pm Randall Jones will be speaking at the Library; September 15 from 3:00-5:00 pm the Lovill House will be hosting a Votes for Women Party, tickets are on sale now; and the Friends of the Library will have their 50th Anniversary Party on September 21 from 11:00-4:00 pm in the Library parking lot. Vice-Chair Bond shared her excitement to be here on the board and excited to have Commission Member Basinger joining.

Ms. Mitchell provided context for Commission Member Basinger of the meeting and agenda format.

HPC Training

Per training requirements for the Certified Local Government (CLG) designation, Members viewed *Best Practices, A Practitioner's Guide to an Effective Local Preservation Commission*, Webinar by Monica Callahan and Ken Kocher – from the Webinar Series presented by National Alliance of Preservation Commissions. The webinar video was followed by a general discussion from the members on takeaways from the training.

Other Discussion

Ms. Mitchell provided a brief update on Dana Folk Way that Town Attorney Meade and Town Manager Davis are involved and no unveiling ceremony has been requested.

Vice-Chair Bond expressed interest in getting information on the planning and development for the Howard Street project. Discussion included how that project relates to the HPC, and how important it would be to involve connections like the HPC and the Watauga Historical Society in the decisions being made. Ms. Mitchell advised that Public Works is leading the project, and they have recently released a request for proposals.

Vice-Chair Bond discussed notifying and working with realtors in the area to spread awareness and training as to the Local Historic District. Ms. Mitchell discussed the work that Staff have been doing to educate the residents within the Neighborhood Conservation District, currently with neighborhood walks and delivering program information. In connection to realtor notifications, she mentioned that with NCDs there is an annual letter with discussion of including realtors and property managers. She added that something similar could be developed for the historic district.

Chair Smyth discussed getting copies of relevant HPC documents to Commission Member Basinger and making sure he had access to what he needed. Vice-Chair Bond mentioned that the Watauga County Historical Society had partnered with ASU in regards to receiving a copy of *The Architectural History of Watauga County, NC* with student membership.

Ms. Mitchell added recent efforts to educate the public for owners within the Municipal Service District and Historic District. She stated the Downtown Boone Development Association’s Façade Improvement Grant application was recently revised to include information for projects in the Local Historic District.

Ms. Mitchell clarified the next meeting dates will be October 1st and October 8th.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Bond made a motion, seconded by Commission Member Basinger, to adjourn the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

Vote: Aye – All
Nay – None

The motion passed.

Vardell Smyth, Chair

Amy Snider, Board Clerk

DRAFT

TOWN OF BOONE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
TRAINING SESSION MINUTES
September 20, 2024, 2:00 p.m.
Planning & Inspections Department & WebEx Video Conferencing

Historic Preservation Commission Members in Attendance: Vardell Smyth-Chair, Bettie Bond-Vice-Chair, and Ayden Basinger-Student Member

Council Liaison: Virginia Roseman (via WebEx)

Town Staff in Attendance: Jessica Mitchell-Advanced Planning Specialist, Amy Snider-Customer Service Specialist, and Justin Stines-Deputy Director Public Works

Others in Attendance: Jodie Feimster (via WebEx)

Call to Order

Chair Smyth called the Boone Historic Preservation Commission meeting held in the Planning & Inspections Conference Room at 680 West King Street and via WebEx to order at 2:01 p.m.

HPC Training

Per training requirements for the Certified Local Government (CLG) designation, Members viewed *Reading the Design: Interpreting Architectural Plan and Elevation Drawings*, Webinar by Chris Wand – from the Webinar Series presented by National Alliance of Preservation Commissions. General discussion on the webinar video occurred by the members during the training.

Council Liaison Roseman discussed potential training for commission members, such as Planning & Inspection Staff reviewing and teaching how to read elevations and site plans, and training either by Staff or a video of how to make a motion referencing the standards, emphasizing how motions can be used to clarify conditions of approval. Ms. Mitchell mentioned that this motion training could be done by Staff or Town Attorney Meade.

Other Discussion

Public Works Deputy Director Justin Stines provided a brief update on the Howard Street project. In 2015, Town Council approved the design phase, which allowed moving forward to obtain financing. There was an addendum in 2018 that allowed pursuit of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds to help finance the project, and there was funding secured from that effort. From 2019 into early 2020, there was 100% completion of the plans. From 2019 through June 2023, all easements along Howard Street were obtained, which allowed for moving forward to obtain bids. Currently, the bidding process is still open with the next closing date for bids being October 10, 2024.

Vice-Chair Bond inquired as to why no bids had been received previously with the first bid request Deputy Director Stines believes it is due to the complexity of the project. Chair Smyth asked if this was through a Request for Quote (RFQ) process and if the latest release was available on the website. Deputy Director Stines said it is available for view on the website. Chair Smyth asked if there was a deadline for keeping the funds from USDA, which Deputy Director Stines replied yes, and an extension can be requested if necessary, anticipating a \$9 or 10-billion cost.

General discussion included the different utility services involved and the need for better infrastructure throughout the area. Chair Smyth asked if they can now unseal when any bid is received. Deputy Director Stines advised yes, they can open with as little as one bid, advising they do anticipate on receiving bids in

October. Vice-Chair Bond inquired on a potential start date. Deputy Director replied there is a possibility for the Spring, but it would just depend on all the elements of the project coming together.

Ms. Mitchell reminded all members of the Certified Local Government (CLG) training deadline of September 30, 2024 and of the upcoming training next Friday, September 27, 2024.

Vice-Chair Bond mentioned how this training was helpful to the Howard Street project as there are ongoing and future projects, which set the pattern for what will be done in the future. General discussion included how Howard Street will be an area of growth along the project area.

Council Liaison Roseman said this training is helpful to show commission members how to read plans, especially in how to read details and determine what the plans are showing or what questions to ask.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Smyth made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Bond, to adjourn the meeting at 3:24 p.m.

Vote: Aye – All
Nay – None
The motion passed.

Vardell Smyth, Chair

Amy Snider, Board Clerk

Stoneman's
Cavalry route

Morristown, Tn
March 23

Valle Crucis
(Sampson Gap)

Courthouse

You Are Here

Boone
March 28

Deep Gap

Wilkesbor
March 29

Blowing Rock
(Watauga Gap)

Lenoir
March 30



Stoneman's
Cavalry route

Morristown, Tn
March 23

Valle Crucis

Courthouse

You Are Here

Boone
March 28

Deep Gap

Sampson Gap

Blowing Rock
(Watauga Gap)

Lenoir
March 30

Wilkesboro
March 29



EXCERPT

Credit: United States. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Published Under the Direction of the Secretary of War); Series I, Volume 49, Part 1 – Reports, Correspondence, Etc. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1880-1901. Pages 25-26

April 1.—1.30 a. m., received dispatch from Major-General Thomas, of which the following is a copy:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
March 31, 1865—4 p. m.

Major-General STANLEY,
Bull's Gap:

I wish to hear from you every day or two how you are progressing with the repairs of the railroad. Furnish Mr. Eicholtz with sufficient force to guard the construction corps, and on arriving at Carter's Station halt for further orders, sending one division to Kingsport to look after the wagon road that passes down the valley on the north side of Holston. With one division at Kingsport, your main force at Carter's Station, and Tillson in the direction of Asheville, N. C., you will effectually cover the roads leading into East Tennessee from Virginia and North Carolina. Acknowledge receipt.

GEO. H. THOMAS,
Major-General.

6 a. m., sent one regiment of First Division to Greeneville, about fifteen miles east of here, to guard the railroad at that point and to keep the guerrillas out of that part of the country. General Tillson's division (not of Fourth Corps) is some distance beyond Greeneville, and there being none of our forces in the vicinity about 100 guerrillas made their appearance in the town yesterday p. m. Tillson is supposed to be at Brabson's, five miles beyond Greeneville. 8.30 a. m., telegraphed to General Thomas, acknowledging receipt of his dispatch of 1.30 a. m. Informed him that the large trestle and bridge, about 1,800 feet long, at this place, would be completed to-day; that seven miles and a half of railroad east of this point is entirely destroyed, including long trestles, and that the road cannot be repaired to Carter's Station, on the Watauga, before the 20th of this month, and that the long Watauga trestle has been carried away by high water. Also informed him of the positions of the troops of the corps, and that the troops are rapidly getting out railroad timber, ties, &c. 1 p. m., received a letter from Brigadier-General Tillson, commanding Fourth Division, Department of the Cumberland, dated at junction of Babb's Mill road with Jones-ton and Greeneville road, March 30, in which he says:

I have just received a dispatch (letter) from Major-General Stoneman. He says: "Move your command to the north of Roane's Creek, where the road leaves the turnpike for Taylorsville. After you get located send a few men to Taylorsville, and about 1,000, with the smallest amount of transportation, to Boone, with directions to hold Deep and Watauga Gaps. This, you will perceive, covers the whole country in our rear. If General Stanley moves forward and occupies Bristol you will be in a position to cover his right flank, as no force can pass down between Roane's Creek and the Holston River. If, with your main force at the mouth of Roane's Creek, you can by detachments hold Taylorsville, Deep and Watauga Gaps, you have accomplished all I desire at present, and I shall feel that my rear is

secure. There is but little forage in this country, and we have eaten what little there was, so you will fare badly for forage here. We cut loose to-morrow from connection with you."

General Tillson also says that his trains will be up this p. m. (March 30), and that he will start early to-morrow a. m. General Stoneman's letter was dated Boone, N. C., where he arrived March 28, 12 m. The next day he would pass out of the mountains with his cavalry on the grand raid. The work on the railroad progresses rapidly. The railroad bridge will be completed to-morrow. The track layers will commence to lay the iron to-morrow on the track.

EXCERPT

Credit: United States. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Published Under the Direction of the Secretary of War); Series I, Volume 49, Part 2 – Correspondence, Etc. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1880-1901. Page 112

BOONE, N. C., *Near Watauga Pass, March 28, 1865.*
(Received April 1.)

Major-General THOMAS:

We arrived here this a. m., the Twelfth Kentucky in the advance, captured the place, killing 9, capturing 62 home guards and 40 horses. We are getting along very well. Last night in crossing Stone Mountain one caisson and one ambulance fell over the precipice and were lost, several horses and three men disabled. I shall be compelled to alter slightly from the proposed route on account of the great scarcity of forage and subsistence for the men. Our advance is the first indication the people have had of our movements. We shall, with ordinary good luck, be out of the mountains to-morrow.

GEO. STONEMAN,
Major-General, Commanding.

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and Dr. J. G. Rivers, who was also of the surrendered garri-son, entrusted some things to Miss Williams, and these articles were afterwards faithfully delivered by these two young girls, Miss Mast afterwards becoming the wife of Captain Newton Banner. The two Farthings, Paul and his nephew, Reuben, did die at Camp Chase, just as they had predicted would be the case if surrendered.

Stoneman's Raid.—General Stoneman reached Boone in the forenoon of March 28, 1865. The day was fair. Some men in the house which stood where J. D. Councill's residence now stands, among whom was W. Waightstill Gragg, fired on the head of the column as it came down the road from Hodges Gap. This was enough: Warren Green was killed; so were Jacob M. Councill and Ephraim Norris. The following were wounded: Calvin Green, son of Alexander Green; Sheriff A. J. McBride, Thomas Holder, son of Elisha; John Brown, son of Joseph Brown, of Gap Creek, and W. Waightstill Gragg, of the First North Carolina Cavalry, who was then at home on a furlough. The house from which the shooting had been done, now J. D. Councill's, was converted into a hospital and the Federal surgeon did his best for the wounded. Calvin Green was taken to the old Jordan Councill house. He had been badly wounded, but recovered. McBride had been shot in the breast, but the ball followed a rib and lodged near his spine, from which the Federal surgeon removed it, while McBride lay on his stomach on the floor, without anaesthetics of any kind. Holder's wound was in the hip and groin. He lived on Howard's Creek, but is now dead. Brown had his ankle broken. Gragg's wound was not very severe. He lived a short distance above the house now occupied by Benjamin Brannock. After the firing from the Councill house, Stoneman's men charged, and all who were in that house or near it ran through the fields toward the foot of Howard's Knob. Hence, all were wounded in the rear, except McBride, who was hit in the breast. The house in which Jacob M. Councill was killed is called the Mark Hodge house. It still stands, in rear of Benjamin Councill's home, though untenanted now. Jacob had been ploughing and was putting his harness up when one of Stoneman's men

came to the door and shot him dead, notwithstanding his protestations. A colored woman, Phoebe by name, who had been at work with him, saw the deed.

Official Account.—Major-General George Stoneman's command, consisting of a cavalry division and a battery of artillery, left Knoxville March 21, 1865, and camped at Strawberry Plains and by the 27th forded Doe River and crossed the Smoky Mountains into North Carolina, moving out at 5:00 a. m. March 28 and reaching Boone about eleven o'clock that morning. Here the division divided, the first brigade taking the route to Yadkin River, while part of the remainder went through Deep Gap to Wilkesboro. Col. George W. Kirk, in command of the second and third North Carolina Mounted Infantry, United States Army, left Taylorsville, Tenn., on the 5th of April and came to Boone, where he was joined next day by Brigadier-General Daniel Tillson. On the morning of the 7th Major Bahney left with the second North Carolina Mounted Infantry for Deep Gap, and Major W. W. Rollins, with 200 men of the third North Carolina Infantry, went to Blowing Rock Gap, called by army officers Watauga Gap, while Colonel Kirk, with 406 men, remained at Boone. General Tillson gave instructions for building round but formidable field works and the collection of as large a supply of forage and subsistence as possible, while Kirk was instructed to barricade the Meat Camp road leading through State Gap and also a road not then on General Tillson's military map, leading through Sampson Gap, between Deep and Watauga Gaps, a few miles from the latter. On the 27th of April the second and third North Carolina Mounted Infantry were moved toward Asheville, reaching there on the 30th. (Rebellion Record, Series I, Vol. XLIX, Part 1, pp. 323 to 337.) Signal stations on mountain tops were established from Butler, Tenn., to Lenoir, N. C.

Obeded Orders.—Boone court house was pierced with holes to fire through, while a barricade was made around it of timber taken from an unfinished building which then stood where the Blair hotel now stands, and from another half finished hotel then standing near Blackburn's present hotel. Deep Gap and

Blowing Rock also were fortified, traces of both fortifications being still visible. William P. Welch, now living at Deep Gap, recalls the fort and many incidents connected with the fortification of that place. It was a palisaded fort enclosing about one acre and ditched around. The J. D. Councill house stands now on the site of his father's residence, destroyed by fire in the fall of 1878, which was used as a hospital for the wounded soldiers who fell in that skirmish.

Other Details.—From the same source (p. 330) it is learned that when camped ten miles west of Jonesboro, Tenn., the train came up and “the First and Second Brigades drew all the rations the men could carry conveniently. On the 26th of March the command moved, cutting loose from all incumbrances in the way of trains. One wagon, ten ambulances and four guns with their caissons were the only wheeled vehicles that accompanied the expedition . . . On the 27th a portion of the command moved up the Watauga River, and after halting for a short time at the mouth of Roan Creek to feed, marched until 12:00 p. m., when we bivouacked on the eastern slope of the Iron Mountain until daylight, when the march was resumed. About 10:00 a. m. on the 28th, when approaching the town of Boone, it was learned that there was a meeting of the home guard in that town to take place on that day. Major Keogh, aide-de-camp to Major-General Stoneman, went forward with a detachment of the Twelfth Kentucky Volunteer Cavalry and surprised and routed the rebels, killing nine^a and capturing sixty-eight. . . . At Boone the command separated, General Stoneman, with Palmer's Brigade (First), going by way of Deep Gap to Wilkesborough, whilst I, with Brown's Brigade (Second) and the artillery, moved toward the place by the Flat Gap road. . . . At 9:00 p. m. Brown's Brigade arrived at Patterson's factory, at the foot of the Blue Ridge, and found an ample supply of corn and bacon. I remained in rear to give my personal attention to the artillery, which did not arrive at the factory until 7:00 a. m. on the 29th. After feeding and resting, the march was resumed at 11:00 a. m., a guard having been left in charge of the forage and subsistence

^a Only three men were killed, and five wounded.

until the arrival of Colonel Miller, who had orders, after supplying his command, to destroy the remainder and burn the factory. The order was executed . . .”⁹ According to General Stoneman’s report (p. 324), his command was detained at the Yadkin River three days by a freshet, but the titling depot along the route traversed by their various parties furnished them with supplies in the greatest abundance. “The number of horses and mules captured and *taken* along the road, I have no means of estimating. I can say, however, that we are much better mounted than when we left Knoxville. Have a surplus of 100 animals and sufficient besides to haul off all of our captured mount a portion of the prisoners and about a thousand contrabands [negroes], and this after crossing Stone Mountain once and the Blue Ridge three times and a march made by heavy quarters since the 20th of March of 500 miles and much more by portions of the command. The rapidity of our movement has in almost every instance caused our advanced guard to herald our approach and made the surprise complete.”

A Real Home Guard.—The men who met in Boone on the day Stoneman arrived were Confederate soldiers at home because of wounds or illness or on parole. They had met to form a real home guard, not against the Federals, but against the robbers and marauders of both sides. Soon after the close of hostilities the Federal authorities at Salisbury authorized some of the Confederate soldiers who had been officers in the army to organize a home guard for Watauga County. Col. Joseph W. Todd, who then resided in this county, was made captain, and he soon restored order in and about Boone. He moved to Jefferson, where he became a practicing attorney. He was born September 18, 1834, at Jefferson, and died there January 28, 1909. He married Miss Sallie Waugh, of Shouns. For his ancestry, see sketch of Jos. W. Todd, his cousin.

Robbing Mrs. Jonathan Horton.—While Kirk’s men were stationed in Boone, about the first part of April, 1865, John

⁹ Clem Osborne, of North Fork, was at the factory for the purpose of buying thread. He was chased to the top of the factory, and when about to be killed gave a Masonic sign, which saved his life. Some time afterwards when apparently “tipsy” he was urged to tell what sign he had given and what word he had used. He gave a sign, and mumbled certain words indistinctly, which turned out to be “Calf rope.” He wasn’t nearly so drunk as he pretended to be.

Ford, William Thomas Benson and John Roland were said to have been concerned in the robbery of Mrs. Jonathan Horton, on Shearer's Hill, near Three Forks Church, and taking from her clothing a purse containing some jewelry. She was made to dismount and give up her horse, but as she got down she gave the horse a lick with her riding switch and he ran away home, thus escaping capture. Later on Ford and some of his companions stopped at the home of Ransom Hayes, at what is now known as the Green Brick House, and one of Hayes' daughters, now Mrs. W. L. Bryan, noticed that he was wearing on the lapel of his coat a gold brooch, containing a miniature of Mrs. Horton's husband, Col. Jonathan Horton. She asked him what he was doing with it, and he said he had no use for it, and gave it to her and requested that she return it to Mrs. Horton, which was done. In the "Worth Correspondence" (Vol. II, p. 267), Colonel Carr, of the commission to investigate oppressions of Union people, claims that Benson, who, with two others, was indicted for highway robbery from the person of Mrs. Horton, was of the Union army and had been ordered to impress horses, to which Solicitor Bynum replied that the evidence before him showed that if Benson "ever had belonged to the Union army he had deserted, and the robbery was under no authority, but for his own private gain and done under circumstances of wanton outrage and cruelty." It cannot be determined from the court records what the facts were as to the indictment, but several old men yet living were at the trial of John Ford at least, and remember that Judge Buxton, who presided, held that the evidence showed that the robbery had been committed before Lee's surrender and was not indictable under Andrew Johnson's proclamation of amnesty. It is not at all certain that John Roland was even charged with that offense, and it is well established now, from the general opinion of his neighbors near Cook's Gap, that Benson had nothing to do with the robbery, even if he was indicted for it. The facts about Benson are said to be about as follows: William Thomas Floyd Benson was a member of a regiment in the Confederate army and lived near Wilmington, N. C. He, with several others, deserted and got to Buck's Ridge,

near where Jordan Hampton's residence now stands. Here they camped and rested a week, buying a heifer of William Cook and paying for other rations they consumed while there. They then went to Carter County, Tennessee, where Benson enlisted Stoneman's command as William Thomas Floyd, enlisting Jonesboro. He now draws a pension in that name. When some of his relatives some years ago came from Wilmington to Blowing Rock and enquired for Thomas Benson, they were directed to go to Cook's Gap, where they identified him as their kinsman. He is said also to have drawn his share of his father's estate some years ago. His character is good.

"Peace, Peace, When There Was No Peace."—The great Civil War was over at last, and the harassed and impoverished people of Watauga County hoped for a cessation of hostilities and the burial of all animosities, feuds and misunderstandings. Most men and women "took heart of hope" and began all over again. Ploughshare and reaping-hook took the place of sword and rifle. But others were completely discouraged and inclined to move away and seek homes elsewhere. Among these was Jordan Councill, the second, who had been the foremost and one of the leading merchant in this section from about 1820 till Boone was formed into the county seat. He decided to sell out before the United States government confiscated all he had. Squire Daniel Dougherty, however, took a more hopeful view of the future. Councill offered to sell out to Dougherty for half the value of his land, and Dougherty, who is said to have had little or no money, agreed to buy. Accordingly, on the first day of August, 1865, Jordan Councill gave D. B. Dougherty his bond for title to all his land and property in and around Boone when Dougherty should pay him \$3,000.00 cash. (Deed Book M, p. 248.) Councill moved away, but returned and recovered all the property Dougherty had not sold, the proceeds of that which had been sold having been applied on the bond. But that had not been all. In the May and June following Appomattox, a sort of guerilla warfare had been going on "below the Ridge," and the returned Confederate soldiers at the request of the Federal authorities formed themselves into a Home Guard for the protection of

such little personal property as had escaped the robbers during the war, for the country was for months infested with all sorts of roving characters, returning soldiers, adventurers and desperadoes of all kinds. Henry Henly, who lived just below Blowing Rock, was killed at the capture of Fort Hamby, and anarchy seemed to have "come down on us like night."

Fort Hamby.—Even after the surrender the trouble continued. "Several worthless characters deserted Stoneman's command along this march and formed with native bushwhackers bands under the leadership of two desperate men, Wade and Simmons. Wade's party located in a log house on a high hill half a mile north of Holman's Ford of the Yadkin River, in Wilkes County. Being heavily armed with army rifles and pistols, they made daily raids into the surrounding country, robbing, plundering and terrorizing the citizens, taking everything they could find to eat, as well as horses, etc. Their practice was to ride up to a house, dismount and enter, pointing loaded guns at any persons occupying the house, threatening to shoot if they opened their mouths, while others were searching closets, trunks, drawers, etc., taking what suited them. The people for miles and miles in the country surrounding lived in constant dread of them, as they seemed filled with a spirit of hatred and revenge, treating all persons not in sympathy with them with the greatest cruelty. The house they used was finely located for offensive as well as defensive operations. On a high hill, facing the Yadkin River on the south and front, and Lewis' Fork on the west, their guns could sweep the country for a half a mile each way up and down the river. The house was two stories, with portholes cut in the upper story. It was formerly occupied by a family named Hamby, and after being fortified was known as Fort Hamby. The robbers, numbering probably twenty-five or thirty, made several raids into Caldwell and Alexander Counties . . . insulting in the grossest manner the women and children . . . Major Harvey Bingham, with a small home guard, followed the raiders out of Caldwell County on May 6th (1865) . . . surprising the defenders in the fort at night. . . . The men begged for their lives, and no arms being in sight, Major Bing-

ham gave them time to dress. The prisoners . . . rushed for their guns and fired on the attacking party, killing two Robert Clark, son of General Clark, and Henry Henly . . . the others . . . made their escape, leaving the dead bodies on the ground. The next week they raided the home of Reuben J. R. Green in Alexander County. But his son was home from the army and fired on the robbers, driving them off. Colonel Washington Sharp, of Iredell County, gathered about twenty men and pursued . . . and rushed up to within a few yards of the fort, when Wade's men opened fire and killed two, Mr. James Linney, brother of Hon. R. Z. Linney, and Mr. Jones Brown. . . . the others made a hasty retreat, leaving the two dead bodies. Colonel Sharp then collected a squad of about twenty returned soldiers, and sent a message to Caldwell County for help . . . Among those who went were A. S. Kent, T. Norwood, Jas. W. Norwood, George H. Dula, Robert B. Dula, and S. F. Harper. They collected others along the way . . . and waited at Holman's Ford for the Alexander company about May 18th. The robbers had killed a woman at the ford the day before. The fort was surrounded, and at nightfall a kitchen near the fort was set on fire and from it the fort itself caught. Sharp was in command. The besieged asked what would be done with them if they surrendered, and were told that they would be killed. They came out, with Wade in front holding up his hands as though he intended to surrender, but kept running and escaped. His comrades, four men, then surrendered and were tied to stakes and shot, after the Rev. W. R. Gwaltney had prayed for them. This ended the marauding and robbing in this section. Henry Hamby was from Watauga County. The above was condensed from "The Capture of Fort Hamby," by S. Finley Harper (p. 45); "Reminiscences of Caldwell County, North Carolina, in the Great War of 1861-65," by G. W. F. Harper.

Blalock's Threat.—When Keith Blalock was told that John B. Boyd had arrested Austin Coffey and that Coffey was dead, he swore he would kill Boyd if it took forty years after the war to do so. It did not take nearly so long, for on the evening of February 8, 1866, when Boyd and William T. Blair were going

from a house on which they had been at work they met Blalock and Thomas Wright in a narrow path at the head of the Globe. Blalock asked, "Is that you, Boyd?" and Boyd answered, "Yes," at the same time striking Blalock with a cane, the blow being aimed at his head. Blalock caught the blow on his left wrist, ran backwards a few steps and shot Boyd dead with a seven-shooting Sharp's rifle. Keith made Blair turn Boyd's body over, and finding that all life was extinct, turned and left the scene, stopping at Noah White's house to tell him what had been done. Blalock was examined before the Provost Marshal at Morganton, and he sent the case to Judge Mitchell at Statesville, but Governor Holden pardoned him before trial.¹⁰

Post Bellum Echoes.—From "Correspondence of Jonathan Worth," published by Edwards & Broughton Printing Co., Raleigh, 1909 (Vol. II, p. 725, etc.), we learn that Major Frank Walcott, one of the military commissioners sent to investigate alleged persecutions of Union men in Watauga County, wrote that "Union men were pursued with malicious persecutions;" that Austin Coffey was murdered by the Home Guard and that no steps were taken to prosecute his slayers, and that "a clearer case of self defense than Blalock's killing of John Boyd could not be made out." To these charges W. P. Bynum answered that Blalock had killed Boyd since the war, but not in the discharge of any military duty or order, and that the grand jury found true bills against all implicated in the killing of Austin Coffey, and that the case would be tried at the fall term of the Superior Court of Watauga County. The destruction of the records by fire in March, 1873, precludes any record evidence from that source, but tradition says that the solicitor failed to make out a case and the men were acquitted.

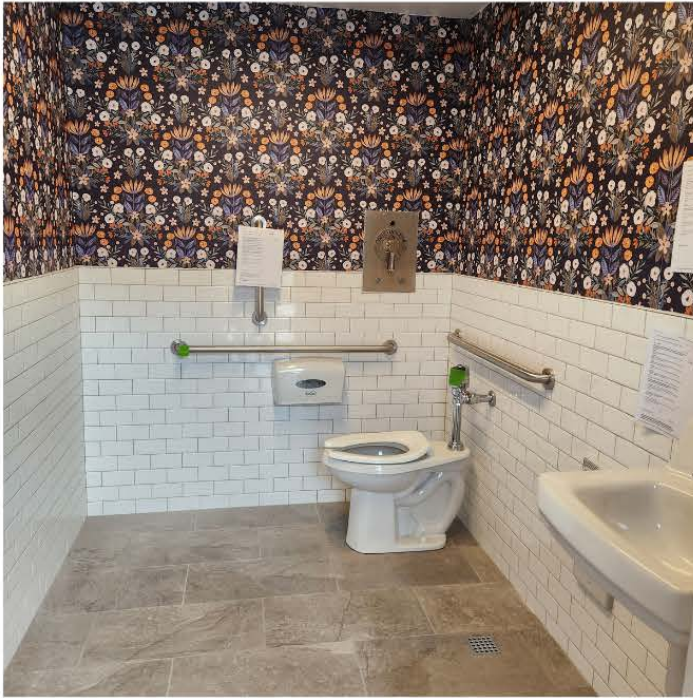
¹⁰ John Boyd was born in Caldwell County. Blalock was born June 21, 1836, and died near Montezuma, N. C., August 11, 1913, the result of an accident on a hand-car.

A History of Watauga County

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The Norris Family.—John Norris came to North Carolina from Pennsylvania before the Revolutionary War and was probably a loyalist. His son, John, was born in Wilkes County, and his wife was Nancy Brown, of the same county. They moved to Ashe, now Watauga, and settled on Meat Camp and there their son, Ephriam, was born, July 12, 1819. This son was killed March 28, 1865, at Boone by Stoneman's men. He had married Margaret Greene in 1842. Captain Elijah J. Norris was born at the same place as Ephriam September 4, 1843, and married Mary E. Norris, whose father was first cousin to Ephriam, his name having been John. Their children were: Emma B., born November 20, 1869, and married W. R. Greene; Jackson Ephriam, who was born April 25, 1877, and married, first, Zenna Brown in 1904, and, second, Maggy Hardy in 1913; Mollie A., born March 30, 1887, not married. Captain E. J. Norris joined Col. J. B. Palmer's regiment at Johnson City, Tenn., July 12, 1862. He was wounded five times, the last time desperately through the hips, September 4, 1864. He was in Boone when Stoneman passed through in March, 1865, and told his father to run when he became sure the men were regular troops and not Jim Hartley's crowd, whom the Home Guard expected to attack them that day. These were native Union men who claimed to be in the service of the Union. The Home Guard had met that morning in Boone and elected Jordan Cook captain and himself (E. J. Norris) a lieutenant, to keep order and prevent depredations by marauders. Stoneman got to Boone about 11 a. m. and burned the jail that night. In 1910 E. J. Norris was elected commander of the Nimrod Triplett Camp U. C. V. No. 1273.

John Norris, a son of William, Sr., married Rachel Sands, a sister of David, and reared a family of seven children: Sallie, who never married; Anna, who married Joseph Hayes; Lucinda, who married George Brown; Susan, who married John H. Brown; Mary, who married E. J. Norris; Joel S., who married Sarah Hopkins; William D., who married, first, Bartlett Brown's daughter, and, second, Miss Parlier. They lived three miles east of Boone on the Jefferson road, and used to operate a carding machine for carding wool into rolls. Joel Norris, son of



Public Restrooms Update

