

Duplin County Sheriff History 1750-2002

L. Glenn Jernigan

Sheriff of Duplin County (1999-2002)

Lewis Glenn Jernigan was born on March 5, 1939 in the Faison Township of Duplin County. He was the son of Audie Jerome Jernigan (1908-1961) and Lillie Mae Register Jernigan (1914-2001). He has been a life-long resident of Duplin County and is a graduate of North Duplin High School.

Glenn married Evelyn Ray Miller who was also a native of Duplin County. The couple were married in the Warsaw Township of Duplin County on May 29, 1959. Glenn and Evelyn would have two children: Anthony Glenn Jernigan and Kimberly Ray Jernigan.

Glenn was appointed as a Deputy Sheriff by then Sheriff T. Elwood Revelle on January 19, 1963. He proved to be a real asset to the department and steadily moved up through the ranks. In 1970, he became the first full-time investigator in the history of the department and in 1976 was appointed Chief-Deputy. He held the position of Chief-Deputy until 1999 when he was appointed as Sheriff due to the untimely death of Sheriff George Elwood Garner. He retired as Sheriff of Duplin County in 2002 after having served in the sheriff's department for just shy of 40 years.

In addition to his service with the Sheriff's Department, Glenn also dedicated his life and talents to the fire service. He joined the Faison Fire Department in 1959. During his over five decades of service he has served in many capacities with the department including firefighter, Emergency Medical Technician, officer, chief, and board member. He retired as Chief of the department in 2006 after holding the position for 36 years, and continues to serve as Safety Officer. Glenn is a member and past president of several local and state fire service organizations, including past president of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association (NCSFA).

He is active in many community organizations, including coaching Little League, serving on several boards of local non-profits, and member and past president of the Duplin Rotary Club and Faison Jaycees, among other groups. He and his family worship at the Faison Baptist Church where Glenn has served as a deacon, past chairman of the deacon board and Sunday school superintendent. Among his numerous awards, Glenn is a recipient of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award, the highest honour presented by the Governor of North Carolina, and in 1985 was named fireman of the year by the North Carolina State Firemen's Association.

Glenn Jernigan resides in the Faison community of northwestern Duplin County.

George Elwood Garner

Sheriff of Duplin County (1986-99)

George Elwood Garner, Jr. was born on May 23, 1950 and was raised in the Warsaw Township of Duplin County. He was the son of George Elwood Garner, Sr. (1918-1980) and Helen Marie Hudson Garner (1920-1965).

George married Denise Faye Dail who had been born in Anne Arundel, Maryland but grew up in Kenansville, North Carolina. The couple met when they attended James Kenan High School together. George and Denise would have two sons: George Elwood Garner, III. and John Dail Garner.

He attended Campbell University in Buies Creek, North Carolina where earned a bachelors degree in Political Science. He would also go on to earn both basic and intermediate certifications in law enforcement from the State of North Carolina. In about 1970, he embarked on a career path in law enforcement when he began work as a police officer with the City of Raleigh where he worked for seven years. He took a position as a criminal justice instructor at James Sprunt Technical College in about 1977.

In 1986, he was elected Sheriff of Duplin County. He would go on to win the next three subsequent elections for Sheriff in 1990, 1994 and 1998.

In addition to his public service, George was also a very civic minded individual. He was a member of the Warsaw-Kenansville Rotary Club and was a Mason and member of St. John's No.13 AF&AM in Kenansville, N.C. He and his family were members and worshiped at Grove Presbyterian Church in Kenansville.

George Elwood Garner, Jr. passed away on September 8, 1999 at the age of 49. He is interred at the Devotional Gardens Cemetery which is located on N.C. 24/50 Hwy. between Kenansville and Warsaw in front of James Kenan High School.

Thomas Elwood Revelle

Sheriff of Duplin County (1962-86)

Thomas Elwood Revelle has the distinction of being the longest serving Sheriff in the history of Duplin County. He is also one of only two individuals to hold both the office of Sheriff and County Commissioner.

Elwood, as he was known, was born in Duplin County on August 21, 1923. He was one of nine children born to Calvin Thomas Revelle (1875-1950) and Carrie Smith Revelle (1885- 1981). Calvin was a native of Wilson County, N.C. who had moved to the Albertson area of Duplin County sometime between 1880 and 1900. He met Carrie who had been born in Lenoir County, N.C., and the couple married in about 1904.

Elwood married Ada Lucille Houston (1930-) who had been born in the Wolfsrape Township of Duplin County, N.C. The couple had three daughters: Gayle Revelle, Connie Revelle, and Judy Revelle.

Elwood lived his entire life in Duplin County except for the period of time he served in the U.S. Merchant Marines during World War II. He was a farmer until he was appointed as a Deputy Sheriff on May 27, 1954 by Sheriff Ralph Miller. He proved to be very adept at dealing with the public and quickly rose through the ranks to become Chief Deputy under Sheriff Miller.

In 1962, Sheriff Miller decided not to seek reelection due to his age and declining health. Revelle decided to run and easily won the Democratic nomination. On September 1, 1962, Sheriff Miller suffered a cerebral hemorrhage and passed away four days later at Lenoir Memorial Hospital. Duplin County Coroner Hector B. McNeill immediately assumed the Sheriff's post per N.C. law and swore in all of Sheriff Miller's deputies, including Elwood, as Coroner's deputies. The Duplin County Board of Commissioners met on September 7, 1964 and appointed Revelle as Sheriff to complete the remaining four months of Sheriff Miller's term. In November, he won a full four year term as Sheriff and was sworn in on December 3, 1962.

He would go on to win the next five consecutive races for Sheriff and would only have opposition in the 1982 election which he won handily. While serving as Sheriff, Elwood was a very well respected and admired leader among his peers. This is evidenced by the fact that in 1977-78 he served as President of the North Carolina Sheriff's Association.

Although he retired as Sheriff he did not retire from public life as in 1988 he ran for and was elected to a seat on the Duplin County Board of Commissioners. He would serve as a County Commissioner until he declined to seek reelection in 2000.

In addition to his public service Elwood was a devoted member of the Masonic fraternity. He was a Past Master of Warsaw Lodge No. 677 and a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason. He was also longtime member of the Duplin County Shrine Club of which he served as club president from 1973-84.

He and his family worshiped at the Warsaw Baptist Church where he was a devoted member of the Men's Fellowship Sunday School.

Thomas Elwood Revelle passed away on June 19, 2003 at the age of 79 in Kenansville, N.C. He is buried in the Pinecrest Cemetery which is located on Pinecrest Drive in Warsaw, N.C.

Ralph Miller

Sheriff of Duplin County (1852-62)

Ralph Miller was born on October 24, 1904 in the Limestone Township of Duplin County. His parents were John Lawton Miller (1881-1940) and Nancy Jane "Tink" Miller (1879-1940). Like most of the citizens of the day, Ralph's father was a farmer and his mother a homemaker.

Ralph married Lucille Mercer (1908-81) on January 13, 1927 in Duplin County. The couple settled in the Limestone Township just west of Beulaville. Ralph was a tobacco farmer and also worked as a county forest ranger beginning in about 1935.

Mr. Miller was appointed Sheriff of Duplin County on May 15, 1952 by the Duplin County Board of Commissioners to replace Sheriff Ralph J. Jones who had died on May 8th. Coroner Gurman Powell had assumed the duties of Sheriff in accordance with N.C. law in the period between Sheriff Jones' death and Sheriff Miller's appointment.

Sheriff Miller ran in 1954, and was elected to a full four year term. He was re-elected again in 1958 for another four year term. He did not seek another term in the 1962 election due to declining health.

Sheriff Miller suffered a cerebral hemorrhage on September 1, 1962 and passed away four days later at Lenoir Memorial Hospital. Duplin County Coroner Hector B. McNeill immediately assumed the Sheriff's post per N.C. law and swore in all of Sheriff Miller's deputies as Coroner's deputies. The Duplin County Board of Commissioners met on September 7, 1964 and appointed Chief Deputy Thomas Elwood Revelle as Sheriff to complete the remaining four months of Sheriff Miller's term. Revelle who ran for Sheriff when Sheriff Miller decided not to seek re-election was already the Democratic nominee for the post.

Ralph Miller passed away on September 4, 1962 at the age of 57. He is buried at the Devotional Gardens Cemetery which is located on N.C. 24 & 50 Hwy. between Kenansville and Warsaw in front of James Kenan High School.

Ralph J. Jones

Sheriff of Duplin County (1946-52)

Ralph James Jones was born on September 12, 1897. He was born the son of Samuel James Jones (1874-1923) and Millie Anne Phillips Jones (1872-1939).

Mr. Jones served as a Private 1st Class in the 119th Infantry of the United States Army during World War I. He was a farmer prior to enlisting at Goldsboro, N.C. on May 21, 1917. He spent the next year training and left the U.S. for France on May 11, 1918. He served on the front lines in France and was wounded and gased at Bellecourt, France on September 29, 1918. After recuperating from the effects of his injuries, Mr. Jones returned to the U.S. on April 2, 1919.

After returning from the war, Ralph married Bessie Blanche Cooper (1902-88) who had been born in Richlands, Onslow County, North Carolina. The couple had at least seven children including: Percie Elizabeth; Samuel Ralph; Martha Ann; Francis M.; Mary Lee; Charles Adrian; and Gerald Cooper Jones.

The 1920 federal census indicates that Ralph and Bessie were renting a home and living in Warsaw. Ralph was working as a general farmer.

It appears that sometime between 1925 and 1930 the family, which by now included Ralph and Bessie and four children, was living in Detroit, Michigan. The 1930 census lists Ralph's occupation as a machinist in an axle factory. The family apparently returned to North Carolina late in 1930 as their daughter Mary Lee Jones was born in Duplin County on October 14, 1930.

Ralph Jones ran for and was elected Coroner of Duplin County in 1938. He would win the next three consecutive elections and would serve a total of 8 years. In 1946, when then Sheriff David S. Williamson declined to seek reelection Ralph entered the race to succeed him. His campaign was successful and he began serving as Sheriff of Duplin County on December 2, 1946. He was reelected to another four year term in 1952.

An audit of the Sheriff's Office books in early March of 1952 turned up an apparent deficit of \$4,516.97 for which the accounting firm of A.M Pullen & Company said it could find no accounting. The Duplin County Commissioners turned the findings of the accounting firm over to the District Solicitor Walter Britt who announced that he would be presenting the case to the grand jury in April. Sheriff Jones shot himself after writing a note to the State Bureau of Investigations claiming that "political enemies" were trying to frame him. A coroner's jury convened by Coroner Gurman Powell ruled the death a suicide. Coroner Powell assumed the duties of Sheriff per North Carolina law until the County's Board of Commissioners could convene to select a new Sheriff.

Ralph J. Jones died on May 8, 1952. He is buried in the Pinecrest Cemetery which is located on Pinecrest Drive in Warsaw, N.C.

David Stephen Williamson

Sheriff of Duplin County (1924-46)

David Stephen Williamson was born on March 10, 1891 in the Kenansville Township of Duplin County. His parents were Robert Monroe Williamson (1856-1943) and Sarah Ann Sykes Williamson (1857-1931). David's father was a tenant farmer and according to the North Carolina Year Book and Business Directories published by the News and Observer was also a butcher and/or dealer in cattle from at least 1903 until at least 1906.

David married Mary Lou Chambers (1888-1927) on August 30, 1913 in Duplin County. The couple had two children that survived to adulthood. Their children were: Hazel and Mary Lois Williamson. The couple settled into a home located at 307 S. Main Street in Kenansville.

David was a farmer during his early life and later became a Deputy Sheriff under Sheriff Charles M. Ingram. David successfully ran for Sheriff in the year 1924. He would go on to serve for the next 22 years until his retirement in 1946.

Mary Lou Chambers Williamson passed away on December 30, 1927. Leaving the Sheriff a widower with two small girls to raise. He took a second wife named Margaret Frances Malloy (1904-1989). David and Margaret were married in Matthews in Chatham County on May 30, 1930. The couple would have two sons: Robert Franklin and Stephen Monroe Williamson.

Mr. Williamson and his family worshiped at the Kenansville United Methodist Church. He was also a member of St. John's No. 13 Masonic Lodge in Kenansville where he served as Master in 1934.

David Stephen Williamson passed away on December 29, 1954 at the age of 63 in Wilmington, North Carolina. He is buried in the Golden Grove Cemetery which is located on N. Main Street in Kenansville, N.C.

Charles M. Ingram

Sheriff of Duplin County (1920-24)

Charles McGee Ingram was born in the Bentonville area of Johnston County on March 20, 1868. His parents were John Barney Ingram (1834-1880) and Nancy L. Walston Ingram (1834-1910).

Charles' first wife was Mary Elizabeth "Bettie" Atkinson Ingram (1872-1909). The couple was married in Johnston County on December 1, 1889. There were seven children born of their union: Rosa; Sam Henry; John Thomas; Ruth; William McKinley; Mary Elizabeth "May"; and Paul Ingram. It is believed that Mary passed away in 1909 but this cannot be confirmed.

According to federal census records Mr. Ingram worked as both a superintendent and surveyor for a lumber company. Sometime between his first marriage in 1889 and 1900 the family moved from Johnston County to the Glisson Township of Duplin County.

It is believed that Mary passed away in 1909 but this cannot be confirmed. Charles married his second wife, Annie Bell Ingram (1887-1970) on Christmas Day in 1910. The couple had no children.

Mr. Ingram was living in Kenansville with his family when the 1920 federal census was taken. Apparently, he had been appointed to fulfill the term of Sheriff George Graham Best who had resigned the office. Records indicate that Mr. Ingram term as Sheriff of Duplin County began on October 6, 1919. He ran for Sheriff the very next year. Election records indicate that he ran against and defeated Stephen Vance Wilkins a 31 year old farmer from the Rose Hill area. Mr. Ingram received 3441 votes to Mr. Wilkins' 2645. He was successful in his reelection bid in 1922. During that election, he defeated Clifton J. Knowles a 28 year old farmer from the Wallace area by a margin of 2687 to 1198. It doesn't appear that Charles was a candidate for re-election in the general election of 1924.

Charles retired from public life in 1924 and lived the remainder of his life in Kenansville where he passed away on March 27, 1931. He is buried in the Golden Grove Cemetery which is located on N. Main Street in Kenansville, N.C.

George Graham Best

Sheriff of Duplin County (1908-1920)

George Graham Best was born on May 28, 1864. He was the son of George Simon Best (1832-1896) and Elizabeth H. Stevens Best (1830-1905). Graham's father was a Baptist Minister. Although, he and his family resided just north of Kenansville records indicate that he served Island Creek, Chinquapin, and Johnson's Baptist Churches.

Graham married Margianna Brown (1862-1942) in the Limestone Township of Duplin County on December 28, 1887 and settled in the Warsaw Township. Their marriage record indicates that both Graham and his bride were 24 years old at the time of the marriage. Their union would produce eight children: Annie; Sarah S.; Georgella; George Graham; Rosalie; Henry; Hattie; and Paul Best.

Duplin County election records indicate that Graham ran for Sheriff in 1908. His opponent was Charles M. Middleton who is thought to have been the brother of outgoing Sheriff Leonidas Middleton. Graham received 1646 votes to Mr. Middleton's 1169. Graham would go on to win the next five consecutive races for Sheriff and served until he resigned the office in 1919.

Although he retired as Sheriff he did not retire from public life as in 1928 he ran for and was elected to a seat on the Duplin County Board of Commissioners. Upon taking office, he was immediately elected Chairman of the Board at its organizational meeting held in December, 1928. His tenure on the Board of Commissioners would last but four months however, as he was involved in a tragic automobile auto accident on April 20, 1929 and suffered serious injuries. He lived for about six weeks following the accident but succumbed to his injuries on July 7, 1927. He is buried in the Pinecrest Cemetery which is located on Pinecrest Drive in Warsaw, N.C.

Leonidas Middleton

Sheriff of Duplin County (1898-1908)

Leonidas Middleton was born on August 26, 1856. He was the son of David John Middleton (1827-1904) and Lucy Jane Pearsall Middleton (1828-1898).

Leonidas' maternal great-grandfather, James Pearsall was a very prominent figure in the early history of Duplin County. In addition to serving as an officer in the militia during the Revolutionary War, he was the auditor for public claims for the Wilmington District in 1782; and one of three special tax commissioners for Duplin County in 1785. James served as Sheriff of Duplin County in 1784, 1788, and 1789. He was also represented Duplin County at the State Constitutional Convention held in Fayetteville, North Carolina on 21 November 1789, and as a member of the House of Commons from Duplin County in 1791 and 1793. He was a member of the Justices of Duplin County for a number of years, an inn keeper, and a coroner. In 1785, James also donated a five acre square tract of his plantation at Golden Grove to the county commissioners for the purposes of building a court house and prison. The present Duplin

County Courthouse is located on the same tract of land in the center of Kenansville, North Carolina.

Leonidas Middleton's father was a very large and prominent landowner and planter. Leonidas was one of ten children. His father had three children by his first wife, Catherine Carr Pearsall Middleton (1824-1852) and seven by his second wife, Lucy Jane Pearsall Middleton (1828-1898). Catherine and Lucy were sisters. It appears that after Catherine's death, David married her Lucy who's first husband James L. Nicholson (1814-1852) had died leaving her a widow.

Leonidas married Clarissa Bowden (1855-1884) on December 1, 1881 in the Warsaw Township of Duplin County. Clarissa and Leonidas had two known child, a son named Willard Bowden Middleton and Ralph Lee Middleton. Clarissa passed away on December 11, 1884 at the age of 29.

Following his first wife's death, Leonidas married Lucy Beveret Kennedy (1856-1934) on January 13, 1887 in the Warsaw Township of Duplin County. Leonidas had three additional children with his second wife, Beveret. The children were: Minnie Claire, Lucy, and Gordon Kennedy Middleton.

Leonidas became Sheriff of Duplin County in 1898. Election records from 1898 indicate that defeated then Sheriff Daniel Moore by a margin of 2061 to 1896. He would go on to win the next four consecutive races for Sheriff and would hold the office until late 1908.

According to census records from 1900-1920, the Middleton family lived in the Warsaw Township, and Mr. Middleton's occupation when he was not serving as Sheriff was listed as farmer.

Mr. Middleton was also a Mason and a member of St. John's No. 13 Kenansville. He joined the lodge in 1901 and served in the following offices within the lodge: Tyler in 1902; Junior Warden in 1903; Junior Deacon from 1910-11; and Treasurer 1919-20.

Leonidas Middleton is died on April 11, 1924. He is buried in the David John Middleton Cemetery along with his parents and both of his wives. The cemetery is located behind the residence at 279 Johnson Church Road, Warsaw, N.C.

Daniel Moore

Sheriff of Duplin County (1894-98)

James Graham Kenan

Sheriff of Duplin County (1885-94)

James Graham Kenan was born into arguably the most prominent family in the early history of the region. He was the son of Confederate Congressman Owen Rand Kenan, grandson of U.S. Senator Thomas Kenan, and great-grandson of General James Kenan of the American Revolution.

He was born in Duplin County in the year 1839, and was the son of Owen Rand Kenan (1804-1887) and Sarah Rebecca Graham (1817-1871). James grew up in the family's ancestral home built in the heart of Kenansville known as "Liberty Hall." Owen Kenan was successful planter and miller. Owen was also very active in the civic affairs of the county. He represented Duplin in the State House of Commons from 1834-36 and was also as a member of the Confederate States of America House of Representatives from 1862-64.

James most likely attended Grove Academy in Kenansville for his early education. Then following a Kenan tradition, he attended the University of North Carolina graduating in 1861. Records pertaining to his enlistment in the Confederate Army state that he was a medical student prior to joining the army. However, it is not known where he was attending medical school.

On February 4, 1862, James joined 1st Company C 12th Regiment of North Carolina Troops (2nd Regiment of N.C. Volunteers) as a private. He was appointed 1st Lieutenant of the company on March 6, 1862. He was promoted to Captain on March 20th. The company was subsequently reorganized and assigned to the 43rd Regiment of N.C. Troops as Company A. Captain Kenan was present and accounted for until wounded in the left thigh at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on July 1, 1863. While being evacuated from the battle, he was captured in the ambulance train on July 4th and transferred to Baltimore, Maryland on August 10, 1863. Captain Kenan was then imprisoned at Johnson's Island, Ohio until he was transferred to Point Lookout, Maryland on March 14, 1865. From there he was paroled and transferred to Cox's Wharf on the James River in Virginia where he was received on March 22, 1865 for exchange. He was finally paroled at Charlotte, N.C. on May 12, 1865.

James returned to Duplin County and engaged in the family's extensive farming interests. The 1870 federal census indicates that he was living in Teachey. He was still single and living with Charles Grisham his 29 year old farm manager; Archa Feo a 21 year old farm laborer; and Mary Kenan a 50 year old African-American cook.

On December 29, 1870, James married Annie Elizabeth Howard Hill (1853-) of Wilmington, N.C. The couple had a total of five children born of their marriage. Their children were: Owen Hill, Emily Howard, Thomas Stephen, Graham, and Fannie Hill Kenan. Owen Kenan would eventually graduate from the University of North Carolina and the College of Physician and Surgeons in Baltimore, Maryland. Owen was a passenger on the British Liner *Lusitania* when it was torpedoed by a German U-boat off the coast of Ireland in 1915. Owen would survive and go on to have both a storied record of military service and a successful medical career. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1876, James was elected to serve in the North Carolina House of Representatives. He served until 1879.

The 1880 federal census states that James and his family were living in Kenansville. In February 1885, James was appointed Sheriff of Duplin County to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of William M. Hurst. James was the fifth member of the Kenan family to hold the office of Sheriff including his grandfather James Kenan and three great uncles Felix Kenan, Owen Kenan, and Daniel Love Kenan,

James won the next four consecutive elections for Sheriff. He defeated Samuel C. Albertson a grocer from Kenansville in 1886 and 1888. James was unopposed in 1890 and defeated Daniel Moore in the election of 1892.

Upon his retirement from public life, James resumed his agricultural pursuits. In 1900 he was living at Liberty Hall in Kenansville with his wife and his sister Annie D. Kenan (1843-1906). The 1910 federal census indicates that James was living alone in the Island Creek Township presumably on the family's plantation known as Locklin.

James Graham Kenan is thought to have died on January 9, 1912. He is supposedly buried in the Graham Family Cemetery which is located on D.S. Williamson Road near where it intersects with South Kenansville Bypass. However, his grave is apparently no longer marked.

William M. Hurst

Sheriff of Duplin County (1883-84)

William M. Hurst was born in about the year 1842. His parents were Charles O. Hurst (abt.1802-?) and Mary Greer Hurst (abt.1818-?).

The 1850 federal census indicates that William who was 9 years old was residing with his parents in the Northern Division of Duplin County. His father is listed as being a farmer. Also living with William and his parents were: Washington Hurst (age 13); James R. (age 11); Francis V. (age 6); and Charles O. Hurst (age 4).

It appears that in 1860 William's mother had moved to a place called Wolf Pitt in Onslow County, N.C. William was not living with his mother, but the records indicate that she was living with James R. (age 21), Frances V. (age 16), Franklin P. (age 7), Edward L. (age 5) and a 62 year old seamstress by the name of Hellen Fonvielle. It is not know what became of William's father.

At the age of 19, William enlisted in the Confederate Army on January 10, 1861. He gave his occupation as farmer on his enlistment documents. He was mustered in as a private and assigned to Company A of the 38th Regiment of North Carolina Troops. William was present and accounted for until being wounded in the shoulder at Chancellorsville, VA on May 3, 1863. He returned to duty in either July or August of 1863. He was again wounded at Riddell's Shop, Virginia on June 13, 1864. After a few months of recuperation he returned to duty sometime in either September or October. He was promoted to Corporal subsequent to October 31, 1864. He was present and accounted for until he surrendered with the Army of Northern Virginia on April 9, 1865 at Appomattox Court House, VA.

After the war William returned to Duplin County and began to farm. He settled in the Faison's Depot community. The 1870 census indicates that he was living with his mother, his brother Franklin P. Hurst (age 17) and a 13 year old African-American house servant named Dora Hurst.

In 1880, William was still living in Faison with his mother, Mary. Also living with them was a 12 year old African-American servant named George Farrior.

William was elected Sheriff of Duplin County in 1882. He defeated Buckner L. Blackmore a 33 year old Post Master from Warsaw. Election returns indicate that William defeated Mr. Blackmore by a vote of 1522 to 1179. Bland Wallace who had been serving as Sheriff since 1868 was apparently not a candidate for reelection but did receive 214 write in votes.

William was successful in his reelection bid in 1884 as he defeated Henry R. Kornegay an attorney from Kenansville. Election returns show that William received 2108 votes to Mr. Kornegay's total of 1097.

According to the February 7, 1885 edition of the Wilmington Morning Star newspaper Sheriff Hurst resigned his office "on account of bad health." The February 18, 1885 edition of the same newspaper reported the following, "It pains us to hear of the death of Sheriff W. M. Hurst, of Duplin County, which sad event took place on Saturday last (February 14, 1885). He had been in very bad health for some time, suffering greatly from heart disease."

Bland Wallace

Sheriff of Duplin County (1868-82)

Bland Wallace was born on June 10, 1835 in the Pasture Branch area of the Island Creek Township in Duplin County. His parents were Robert Wallace (1809-93) and Margaret Chasten Wallace (1804-95). Robert and Margaret had seven children: John R. (1839-79); Mary E.; Bland (1835-1928); Robert Chasten (1839-1863); William Thomas (1843-1863); Joseph Finnell (1846-1920); and David Hugh Wallace (1848-1918).

The 1850 U.S. federal census indicates that the Wallace family was living in the South Division of Duplin County. Bland was 13 years old at the time the census was taken.

Bland married Mary Williams (1839-1902) on March 18, 1858 in Duplin County. Mary was the daughter of Jonathan Wilder Williams (1815-71) and Eliza Jane Southerland Williams (1818-56).

In 1860, Bland and Mary were living in the Southern Division of Duplin County as husband and wife. Their post office was listed as Magnolia. Living with them was Elizabeth (Eliza E.) Wallace (abt.1860-?).

The outbreak of hostilities at the beginning of the Civil War caused Bland and three of his brothers Robert Chasten Wallace, John Robeson, and William Thomas Wallace to join the Confederate Army. Bland was 26 years old when he enlisted on May 13, 1862 for the duration

of the war. He served in Company A of the 43rd Regiment of North Carolina Troops and was present and accounted for until he was wounded in the right arm at the Battle of Gettysburg on July 1, 1863. He was captured near Gettysburg, PA on or about July 5, 1863 as the confederate forces were retreating from the battle. He was hospitalized in Gettysburg and then transferred to the hospital at David's Island in New York Harbor, where he arrived on or about July 17, 1863. He was then paroled and transferred to City Point, Virginia where he was received for exchange on September 16, 1863. Bland was reported absent wounded until November 17, 1864, when he was retired to the Invalid Corps due to his injuries.

Bland served along with his older brother John Robeson Wallace in Company A of the 43rd North Carolina Infantry Regiment. John enlisted in on May 5, 1862. He was promoted to Sgt. Major on December 14, 1864 and transferred to Company S of the 38TH Infantry Reg. where he served until surrendering with the Confederate troops at Appomattox Court House, VA on April 9, 1865.

Both Bland and John Robeson Wallace survived the War but their brothers Robert and William tragically did not. Robert Chasten Wallace and William Thomas Wallace both enlisted in the army on April 28, 1861 and were assigned to Company E of the 30th North Carolina Infantry Regiment. Robert died of pneumonia at Hamilton's Crossing, VA on or about March 11, 1863, and William was killed in battle at Chancellorsville, VA on or about May 3, 1863.

After his military service Bland Wallace returned to Duplin County and was elected Sheriff in 1868.

In 1870, Sheriff Wallace and his family were living in Kenansville. According to the federal census taken in that year Bland and Mary had added four children to their family. The children were: William J. Wallace (age 8); Nancy J. Wallace (age 5); Margaret C. Wallace (age 3); and Robert Wilder Wallace (age 1). Also living with the family was Annie J. Register a 23 year old white female who was listed as the family's cook.

The 1880 and 1900 federal census indicates that Bland and Mary had had another son named Hugh O. Wallace and another daughter named Mary B. Wallace.

Duplin County election records from 1882 indicate that Bland Wallace was not a candidate for reelection although he did receive 214 write in votes. By this time, he had served as Sheriff for 15 years which at the time was the longest tenure of any Sheriff in the history of Duplin County. Bland's brother, David Hugh Wallace, would also serve as an elected official in Duplin County as he was Clerk of Superior Court from 1903-18.

In addition to his service as Sheriff, he briefly held the position of Duplin County Treasurer from July thru December of 1884. He also served as United States Postmaster for Kenansville from July 5, 1894 until January 26, 1899 and was a member of the Board of Alderman for the Town of Kenansville from 1904 until at least 1907.

After his retirement as Sheriff, Bland established a general merchandise store in Kenansville. According to the 1903-06 North Carolina Year Book and Business Directories published by the News & Observer his general merchandise business in Kenansville was called Wallace & Gavin. Since, Bland and his son-in-law former Clerk of Court John A. Gavin were living together it is believed that they were partners in the business. In 1910, the business directory indicates that Bland was still a merchant in Kenansville but by this time it appears that Mr. Gavin was no

longer a partner in the business. Various sources indicate that he continued to operate his business until at least 1913.

The home in which Sheriff Wallace and his family resided in Kenansville was built by Sheriff John D. Abernethy in 1845. The Wallace family retained ownership of the property until the 1980's. Today, it is known as the Abernathy-Wallace House (ca.1845) and is one of the finest examples of antebellum architecture in Kenansville. The home is located at 149 Limestone Road in Kenansville.

He was a faithful and devoted member of Kenansville Baptist Church. In Luther Addison Beasley's 1937 history of the Kenansville Baptist church he wrote that Bland Wallace "who at the age of over ninety was present at most of the services of the church, an example of sobriety, worthy of all imitation."

Mary Williams Wallace and Bland had been married for over 44 years when she passed away on June 11, 1902.

On May 3, 1905, Bland took a second wife named Mary Julia McGowen (1868-1945). The couple would have one son together, Joseph "Joe" Bland Wallace (1906-1981). Joe Wallace served as a Deputy Sheriff, as Veterans Officer for Duplin County from 1946-52 and again from 1953-?, and also as County Tax Supervisor 1968-73.

Bland Wallace lived out the remainder of his life with his second wife Mary Julia in Kenansville. He passed away on March 17, 1928 at the age of 92. Mr. Wallace is buried in the Wallace Family Cemetery which is located between Kenansville and Chinquapin on the Pasture Branch Road just down from where Pasture Branch Rd. and N.C. Hwy. 50 intersect.

John W. Hinson

Sheriff of Duplin County (1863-68)

John William Hinson has been reported to have been born on March 11, 1833 in Wayne County, N.C.

The first record of Mr. Hinson that can be located shows that he was appointed the Postmaster for the Battlehill Post Office in Duplin County on February 13, 1857. Battlehill is thought to have been in the Beutancus area of northern Duplin County. He held the post until April 21, 1858.

The 1860 federal census indicates that Mr. Hinson was a 27 year old merchant living in the North Division of Duplin County. He was living with the Dickson Mallard family. Mr. Mallard was a farmer and teacher.

John enlisted in the Confederate Army on April 15, 1861. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant of 1st Company C 12th Regiment N.C. Troops. After six months service with that regiment, his company was mustered out on November 18, 1861. The men then returned to Duplin County where the company was reorganized and again tendered its service. The company was assigned to Company A of the 43rd Regiment of N.C. Troops, and John was

appointed a 2nd Lieutenant on or about March 6, 1862. A little over four months later, he was appointed Assistant Quartermaster (Captain) and transferred to the Field and Staff of the regiment.

In 1862, he was elected to serve as Sheriff of Duplin County and immediately resigned his commission and returned home. Sheriff Hinson served until 1868.

John married Nancy Farris (1838-1917) daughter of John Farris (1786-1850) and the former Elizabeth Williams (1810-1900). The couple built a house on the "Main Road" in Kenansville in 1850 that still stands today. It is known as the Hinson House and is located at 622 S. Main Street.

The 1870 federal census indicates that the Hinson family had relocated to Wilmington in New Hanover County, N.C. Mr. Hinson's occupation is listed as a merchant. The census also indicates that the couple had three children living with them. The children were: John F. age 6, Julia P. age 3, and Lula M. Hinson who was one year old. Also living with the family were three domestic servants: Catherine Lanier a 48 year old white female, Irvin Hinson a 13 year old black male; and Mahala Lucas a 16 year old white female. There was also a 25 year old white male by the name of Gaston C. McIntyre living in the household and is listed as being a clerk in a store.

The family moved to Brooklyn in Kings County, New York sometime around the year 1877. The 1880 census lists Mr. Hinson as being employed in the naval stores industry. Living with he and Nancy were there seven children: John F. (age 16), Julia P. (age 13), Lula M. (age 11), Estelle E. (age 10), Henry Lee (age 6), Rachael I. (age 3), and Clara V. Hinson (age 1). The census states that all of the family had been born in North Carolina except for Rachael and Clara who were born in New York. Also living with the family were Florance E. Southerland the 21 year old niece of Mr. and Mrs. Hinson and two Irish servants, 35 year old Nora Keogh and 21 year old Anne McDermott.

It is also believed that the Hinson's had one more daughter named Bessie Williams Hinson who was born in 1882.

John William Hinson is believed to have died on August 18, 1894. He is buried in the Golden Grove/Farris Cemetery which is located on N. Main Street in Kenansville, N.C.

Thomas J. Carr

Sheriff of Duplin County (1858-62)

Thomas Jefferson Carr, Sr. was born on February 22, 1825 in the Island Creek Township of Duplin County. His parents are thought to have been either David Carr (1790-1875) and Elizabeth Greer Carr (1797-1867) or William Carr (1796-1845) and Linda Carr (1804-?).

Thomas married Helen Catherine Carr (1839-1901). The couple is thought to have had six children. Their children's names were: Anna H., Stephen M., Thomas Jefferson, Jr., Jacob D., and Lizzie Carr.

In 1858, Thomas was selected to serve as Sheriff of Duplin County by the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions. He served until 1862.

The 1860 federal census indicates that he was living in Kenansville, N.C. in the home of James Rhodes. In addition to Mr. Rhodes and his wife Catherine and their two sons, Thomas was also living with Edward Southerland a 24 year old merchant and Mary Ann Carr. Mary Ann was 25 years old and thought to be either Thomas' sister or cousin.

By 1870, Thomas is married to Helen and the family is living in the Island Creek Township. The family included two children Eliza age 3 and Stephen age 10 months. Also living with the family was Ellen Joyner a 40 year old African-American cook and her two children John and Henrietta ages 2 months and 3 years respectively.

The 1880 federal census indicates that the couple was still living in Island Creek and Thomas was a farmer. The family included four more children: Thomas J. age 7, Ida V. age 6, Jacob D. age 5, and Lizzie age 5 months. The family also had three servants living with them: Jas. Summerlin a 17 year old white male, Henrietta McIven a 14 year old African-American female and John Joyner a 6 year old African-American male.

Thomas Jefferson Carr, Sr. passed away on September 3, 1890. He is buried in what is known as the Carr-Brown Cemetery which is located on the Hawes Farm Road approx. ¼ mile from the Doc Brown Road in the Stocking Head/Registers Crossroads area of Duplin County.

John D. Abernethy

Sheriff of Duplin County (1853-57)

John D. Abernethy was born about the year 1824.

John married Mary C. Stanley on March 2, 1849 in Duplin County, N.C. The couple had one child named Martha Hammond Abernathy in 1850. It is also thought that they had another daughter named Julia D, but this cannot be confirmed.

According to the 1850 federal census John was serving as a Deputy Sheriff under Sheriff Edward E. Hussey in 1850. In 1853 at the age of 29 Abernathy was chosen to serve as Sheriff of Duplin County. He served through the year 1857.

Mr. Abernethy and his family reportedly built a home in Kenansville in 1845. The house which is located at 149 Limestone Road still stands today and is known as the Abernathy-Wallace House (ca.1845). In 1876, the house and lot were purchased by then Sheriff Bland Wallace (1835-1928) whose family owned the house until 1981.

According to the records and archives of the Kenansville Baptist Church, Mr. Abernethy was a member there and also served on the Board of Deacons.

It is speculated but not confirmed that Mr. Abernethy may have been a member of the Masonic fraternity. The records of Warren Lodge No. 101 in Kenansville, N.C. report that on May 7, 1859, a motion was made and passed that Martha Hammond Abernathy be sent to school at the expense of the Lodge for one session. One could take this to mean that the brothers of the Lodge were supporting an orphan of one of their members.

John D. Abernethy died sometime before 1858.

Edward E. Hussey

Sheriff of Duplin County (1845-52)

It is thought that Edward E. Hussey was born in about the year 1812. His parents were Colonel John Edward Hussey (1778-1852) and his mother was Jane Thomas (1789-bef.1830). Edwards's father, John, had been a very prominent figure in Duplin County's civic and military affairs for most of the first half of the 19th century. John E. Hussey served in the War of 1812, as Sheriff and also as a member of both the N.C. House of Commons and Senate.

Edward married Susan A. (abt.1827-?). The couple is known to have had three daughters whose names were: Eugenia, Mary J., and Elizabeth.

Edward E. Hussey succeeded his father as Duplin County's Sheriff in 1845. He served until the year 1852.

John E. Hussey

Sheriff of Duplin County (1822-25 & 1839-44)

John Edward Hussey was born about 1778. He was the son of Edward Hussey (1736-1781) and Mary.

John's first wife was Jane Thomas (1789-bef.1830). The couple was married on April 22, 1806 in Duplin County, N.C. There were three known children born of their marriage: John Bryan; Susan Jane; and Edward E. Hussey.

After his first wife Jane's death, John married Malmsey Bishop (1810-?) in 1830. It was reported in a Raleigh newspaper that the couple was married in near Limestone in Duplin County on February 28, 1830. John and Malsey or Molsey had one know child named Lafayette Hussey. Lafayette would become a prominent merchant and physician in Warsaw. Lafayette would also serve as Duplin County's Clerk Superior of Law and Equity from 1856-57.

John Edward Hussey volunteered for service during the War of 1812 and was elected Captain of the Duplin Company. He would go on to serve in the North Carolina militia until he resigned

on December 13, 1834 as Colonel Commandant of the 31st North Carolina Regiment's 3rd Brigade.

Mr. Hussey served as Sheriff of Duplin County from 1822-25 and again from 1839-44. He also served in the North Carolina General Assembly both as a member of the House of Commons from 1815-18 and also as a State Senator in 1825 and again from 1832-36.

It is also know that Hussey was a Mason and member of Warren Lodge No. 101 in Kenansville, N.C. In addition to being active in his local lodge records of the North Carolina Grand Lodge indicate that he was also active there as well. According to the records of the N.C. Grand Lodge, he served as Grand Marshal in 1834, as Grand Sentinel in 1835, and as Grand Sword Bearer in 1836.

John Edward Hussey died on April 17, 1852. According to his obituary from the Friday, April 30, 1852 issue of the Wilmington Journal, "He retired from public life in 1844; and has since been living in tranquil enjoyment of domestic and social endeavors dispensing charities and kindness upon all around him."

Thomas J. Kenneair

Sheriff of Duplin County (1834-38)

Thomas James Kenneair, III was born on September 15, 1800 in Duplin County, N.C. He was the son of Thomas James Kenneair, II. (1750-aft.1806) and Susannah Kenan Kenneair (abt.1769-aft.1806). He was the grandson of General James Kenan (1740-1810) who was a revolutionary war leader, member of the Provincial Congresses, a Brigadier General in the Militia and one of the founding trustees of the University of North Carolina.

He married Adeline Elizabeth Middleton (1810-1855) in Duplin County in November 5, 1829. Adeline was the daughter of William Robert Middleton (1783-1839) and Alice "Ally" James (1786-1819). Like her husband, Adeline was also the grandchild of a hero of the American Revolution namely Captain James Middleton (1736-1805). Eight children were born to Thomas and Adeline during their marriage: Thomas Hinton, Mary Alice, Anne E., Susan Kenan, Temperance, Jememia, Cornelia A., and Robert J. Kenneair.

Mr. Kenneair has the distinction of being the only person to serve as both Duplin County Sheriff and Register of Deeds. In 1834, he was chosen by the Duplin County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions to serve as Sheriff and did so until 1838. In 1855, he again offered himself for public service when he was selected to serve as the county's Register of Deeds. He held that position for a total of eight years ending his service in 1863.

Thomas was a Mason and was originally a member of St. John's No. 13 in what was then Golden Grove but would later become Kenansville, N.C. When that lodge ceased to exist he became a member of Warren Lodge No. 101 also in Kenansville, N.C. when it was instituted on December 21, 1831. From all indications, he was a very active member. We know that he was appointed to a committee to make alterations to Brother Hogan Hunter's house to make it suitable for a lodge on June 24, 1831.

Thomas J. Kenneair, III died on December 18, 1881 at the age of 81. He is buried in what is known as the Capt. James Middleton Cemetery which is located on a farm near the back of a cultivated field at the address of 1420 NC Highway 24 & 50; Warsaw, N.C.

James Kenan Hill

Sheriff of Duplin County (1826-33)

James Kenan Hill was born in the year 1792 in Duplin County, N.C. He was the son of John Hill (1750-abt.1807) and Jane Kenan (1755-before 1819). John Hill was a large land owner and planter who took an active part in public affairs. He was one of the original commissioners of the town of Sarecta, Duplin County's first established town. Jane Kenan was the daughter of Felix Kenan (?-1785) and Catharine Norris Love (1722-1808). Jane's father Felix Kenan represented Duplin Co. in the Colonial Assembly during the years 1762, 1764, 1766 and 1769; and served as Sheriff in 1760-61 and again from 1769 to 1776.

James married Sarah Ann Hurst (1803-?) in Duplin County on February 11, 1823. Sarah was the daughter of Andrew Hurst who had served as Sheriff of Duplin County from 1817-21, and also represented Duplin County as a member of the North Carolina House of Commons in 1821 and as a Senator in 1827. James and Sarah had three children born of their union. Their children were: Catherine J., John William, and Sarah Oliver Hill.

During the War of 1812, James was a member of the militia. Upon his return to Duplin County after his military service it is said that he was engaged in business. James was also very interested in civic affairs and like his grandfather before him served as Sheriff of Duplin County from 1826-33. In addition, he also served as Chairman of the County Court and as representative in the North Carolina House of Commons in 1834-35 and in the North Carolina Senate from 1838-1841 and again from 1844-47.

James was also a devoted member and leader within the Masonic fraternity. He served as the first Master of Warren Lodge 101 in Kenansville and later as Master of Belmont Lodge No. 108 near Bowden, N.C.

James Kenan Hill died on August 18, 1848.

John E. Hussey

Sheriff of Duplin County (1822-25 & 1839-44)

John Edward Hussey was born about 1778. He was the son of Edward Hussey (1736-1781) and Mary.

John's first wife was Jane Thomas (1789-bef.1830). The couple was married on April 22, 1806 in Duplin County, N.C. There were three known children born of their marriage: John Bryan; Susan Jane; and Edward E. Hussey.

After his first wife Jane's death, John married Malmsey Bishop (1810-?) in 1830. It was reported in a Raleigh newspaper that the couple was married in near Limestone in Duplin County on February 28, 1830. John and Malsey or Molsey had one know child named Lafayette Hussey. Lafayette would become a prominent merchant and physician in Warsaw. Lafayette would also serve as Duplin County's Clerk Superior of Law and Equity from 1856-57.

John Edward Hussey volunteered for service during the War of 1812 and was elected Captain of the Duplin Company. He would go on to serve in the North Carolina militia until he resigned on December 13, 1834 as Colonel Commandant of the 31st North Carolina Regiment's 3rd Brigade.

Mr. Hussey served as Sheriff of Duplin County from 1822-25 and again from 1839-44. He also served in the North Carolina General Assembly both as a member of the House of Commons from 1815-18 and also as a State Senator in 1825 and again from 1832-36.

It is also know that Hussey was a Mason and member of Warren Lodge No. 101 in Kenansville, N.C. In addition to being active in his local lodge records of the North Carolina Grand Lodge indicate that he was also active there as well. According to the records of the N.C. Grand Lodge, he served as Grand Marshal in 1834, as Grand Sentinel in 1835, and as Grand Sword Bearer in 1836.

John Edward Hussey died on April 17, 1852. According to his obituary from the Friday, April 30, 1852 issue of the Wilmington Journal, "He retired from public life in 1844; and has since been living in tranquil enjoyment of domestic and social endeavors dispensing charities and kindness upon all around him."

Andrew Hurst

Sheriff of Duplin County (1817-21)

Andrew Hurst was born in about the year 1777 most likely in Duplin County, North Carolina. His parents are thought to be William Hurst and Susan or Sarah Oliver Hurst.

A Duplin County marriage bond dated April 10, 1802 indicates that Andrew married Catharine Hunter (1785-1876). The couple had at least four children including: John Isaac, Andrew Jackson, James Robert, and Narcissa Susan Hurst.

Andrew served as Sheriff of Duplin County from 1817-21. He also represented Duplin County as a member of the North Carolina House of Commons in 1821 and as a Senator in 1827.

It has been reported by numerous sources that Andrew Hurst died in 1832, but this cannot be confirmed.

Daniel Glisson

Sheriff of Duplin County (1790-93 & 1812-16)

Daniel Glisson was born in 1754. He was the son of Henry Glisson (1728-1810) and Charity O'Quinn (1730-?).

It is known that Daniel married Sarah Ann Herring as evidenced by a marriage bond dated August 6, 1783. There were five children known to have been born of their union. The children's names were: Daniel, Jr., Henry, Margaret, Patrick and Hinton Glisson.

Daniel Glisson was truly a man who dedicated his life to public service. He began his public service as a private in the Revolutionary War. In the year 1790, he was selected to serve as Sheriff of Duplin County and did so until 1793. In 1794, he began a long and storied tenure in the legislative branch of North Carolina's state government. He served in the North Carolina House of Commons as a representative from Duplin County in 1794, 1796, 1797, 1799, 1800, 1802, 1803, 1805, 1806, 1807, 1807, 1809, 1810, 1810, 1811 and 1827. In 1812 after serving 15 years in the House of Commons, Glisson was again selected to serve as Sheriff in 1812. Records indicate that he served through 1816. It was also in 1816 that he returned to the N.C. Legislature, this time as the Senator representing Duplin County. He would go on to serve in the Senate in the years 1816, 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, and 1822. He also served over three decades as a member of the Duplin County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions.

In 1826 the N.C. legislature passed a bill in which they appointed Mr. Glisson as a commissioner to run and mark the dividing line between the counties of Wayne and Duplin.

The records of St. John's No. 13 AF&AM, Kenansville, N.C. prove that Daniel was a Mason.

Present day Glisson Township in Duplin County is named in his honor.

Daniel Glisson died at his residence in Duplin County on January 29, 1828 at the age of 74. The article reporting his death from the Raleigh Register dated March 1, 1828 stated that " he had attended court during the week in perfect health, went home on Friday evening, supped and enjoyed himself with great glee as was his custom, with his family and some of his neighbors, went to bed and before day was a corpse."

Daniel Love Kenan

Sheriff of Duplin County (1808-11)

Daniel Love Kenan was born on December 18, 1780 in Duplin County, N.C. Daniel was born into arguably the most prominent family in the early history of the region. He was the son of James Kenan (1740-1810) and Sarah Love (1747-1819).

Daniel's father, James, was Sheriff of Duplin County from 1762 to 1766 and again from 1785 to 1786. His father was also a leader in the struggle for independence from Great Britain. He led a group of volunteers from Duplin to Wilmington in vocal opposition of the British Stamp Act and was elected to the colonial assembly in 1773 and served in the provincial congress from 1774 through 1776. James also served as an officer in the militia and eventually rose to the rank of Brigadier General for the Wilmington District. After the war, Daniel's father returned to the North Carolina Senate where he served over ten terms between 1777 and 1793. He also acted as a member of the State Constitutional Conventions of 1788 and 1789. Kenan continued in public service for most of his life. He would serve as a councilor of the state under Caswell's governorship and was a member of the original board of trustees for the University of North Carolina.

Daniel Love Kenan was most likely educated at Grove Academy which was located in present day Kenansville, North Carolina. The academy had been established in 1785 with Daniel's father, James, serving as one of the original trustees.

Daniel's first marriage was to Mary James (1788-1811). The couple was married on March 13, 1809. There were two children born to Daniel and Mary: Thomas James Kenan and Sarah Elizabeth Kenan. Mary died in 1811 at the age of 23.

On June 17, 1812, Daniel married his first wife Mary's sister, Elizabeth James (1796-1831). According to the records of the Duplin County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Daniel had been appointed as guardian of Elizabeth and her two sisters, Grizelle and Temperance when he and Mary had married. Daniel and Elizabeth would have six children born of their union. Their children were: William Owen, Mary James, Temperance Jane, Michael Molten, Susan Catharine, and Daniel Lafayette Kenan.

Daniel Love Kenan was selected to serve as Duplin County's Sheriff in 1808. He served until 1811. Daniel continued a long tradition of members of the Kenan family serving as Sheriff as his father, James Kenan, had served from 1762-66 and 1785-86. In addition, his uncle Owen also served as Sheriff from 1767-68 and his great uncle Felix Kenan also served from 1760-61 and again from 1769-76.

In addition to his service as Sheriff, Daniel also held several other important positions in Duplin County. The records from the county's court of pleas and quarter sessions indicate that he was acting deputy coroner in 1807 and also a justice of the county court in both 1812 and 1815. The 1810 federal census of Duplin County was taken by Daniel Love Kenan as assistant Marshall. Daniel also represented Duplin County in the House of Commons in 1820 and in the Senate in 1821.

Daniel and Elizabeth sold their land holdings in Duplin County and moved to the settlement of Quincy in Gadsden County, Florida in the year 1831, where Daniel became one of the largest planters of tobacco and cotton in Gadsden County. The family attended the First Presbyterian Church where Daniel was elected an elder in 1838. He also became very active in the civic affairs of the county serving as a justice of the peace and regularly attending court.

Throughout his life Daniel was always a very faithful member of the Masonic fraternity. Records indicate that he was a member and served a secretary of Pine Lodge No. 89 when he was living in Duplin County. On August 6, 1831, he joined Washington Lodge No. 2 in Quincy, Florida and was elected Master of the lodge on December 1, 1832 and served one year. He rose through

the ranks of the Grand Lodge of Florida and served as Senior Grand Warden during the year 1840. Daniel was scheduled to serve as a delegate at the Grand Lodge in 1840 and would have perhaps been elected Grand Master of Masons in Florida, but he passed away abruptly.

Daniel Love Kenan died on October 13, 1840. He is said to have been buried in the Western Cemetery in Quincy, Gadsden County, Florida. However, his grave is apparently unmarked.

James Hall

Sheriff of Duplin County (1804-07)

Hugh McCanne

Sheriff of Duplin County (1799-1803)

Hugh McCanne is thought to have been born around the year 1750. His parents are thought to have been the son of William Mcanne and Nancy Sloan.

Hugh is listed as having served in the Revolutionary War as a private in the 10th Continental Line.

He served as Sheriff of Duplin County for four years from 1799 through 1803.

He is listed as having in the 1790 federal census of Duplin County as being the head of a household which consisted of 9 individuals including: 3 white males less than 16 years of age; 1 white male over 16 years of age and 5 white females.

The 1810 federal census states that he was living in Duplin County in a household that included 14 members including: 1 white male under 10 years of age; 2 white males between the ages of 16 and 25; 1 white male over the age of 45; 1 white female between the ages of 16 and 25; 1 white female over the age of 45 and 8 slaves.

The Duplin County federal census from 1820 proves that Mr. McCanne was living in with 4 foreigners not naturalized, and the 1830 census indicates that he was living with 4 slaves.

Hugh McCanne is believed to have died around the year 1837 but this cannot be determined with any certainty.

Thomas Wright

Sheriff of Duplin County (1794-98)

Thomas Wright was born on December 3, 1761 in New Hanover County, N.C. He was the son of John Wright (1719-1799) and Rebeckah Ann Wells Wright (1732-1811).

Thomas married Elizabeth Beck (1778-1849) and the couple had eight children including: Susan C.; John; Mary Ann; Thomas; Sarah Eliza; Council R.; Rachel Rebecca; and William B. Wright.

Thomas served as Sheriff of Duplin County from 1794 through the year 1798. His brother, David Wright (1765-1827), represented Duplin County in the North Carolina House of Commons from 1809-1815.

The records of St. John's No. 13 AF&AM, Kenansville, N.C. prove that Thomas Wright was a Mason. He succeeded General James Kenan in 1801 as Master of the lodge and also served as Senior Warden of St. John's No. 1, Wilmington, N.C. in 1789, and also as a Past master of St. John's No.1.

Thomas Wright died on August 27, 1846 at the age of 84 years 10 months and 24 days. He is buried in the Thomas Wright Cemetery which is located on the Bradshaw Crow Road approx. 1 tenth of a mile from the Sampson County line.

Daniel Glisson

Sheriff of Duplin County (1790-93 & 1812-16)

Daniel Glisson was born in 1754. He was the son of Henry Glisson (1728-1810) and Charity O'Quinn (1730-?).

It is known that Daniel married Sarah Ann Herring as evidenced by a marriage bond dated August 6, 1783. There were five children known to have been born of their union. The children's names were: Daniel, Jr., Henry, Margaret, Patrick and Hinton Glisson.

Daniel Glisson was truly a man who dedicated his life to public service. He began his public service as a private in the Revolutionary War. In the year 1790, he was selected to serve as Sheriff of Duplin County and did so until 1793. In 1794, he began a long and storied tenure in the legislative branch of North Carolina's state government. He served in the North Carolina House of Commons as a representative from Duplin County in 1794, 1796, 1797, 1799, 1800, 1802, 1803, 1805, 1806, 1807, 1809, 1810, 1810, 1811 and 1827. In 1812 after serving 15 years in the House of Commons, Glisson was again selected to serve as Sheriff in 1812. Records indicate that he served through 1816. It was also in 1816 that he returned to the N.C. Legislature, this time as the Senator representing Duplin County. He would go on to serve in the Senate in the years 1816, 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, and 1822. He also served over three decades as a member of the Duplin County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions.

In 1826 the N.C. legislature passed a bill in which they appointed Mr. Glisson as a commissioner to run and mark the dividing line between the counties of Wayne and Duplin.

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James Pearsall

Sheriff of Duplin County (1784 & 1787-89)

James Pearsall, Sr. was born in 1750 in New Hanover County on the banks of Lewis' Creek a western tributary of the Northeast Cape Fear River near present day Watha. His father, Edward Pearsall died in 1762. The widow Catharine James Pearsall married Col. Thomas Rutledge and the family moved to Golden Grove, which would later become known as Kenansville.

James served in the North Carolina Militia, Wilmington District, during the Revolutionary War. He was with his step-father, Col Thomas Rutledge in the "Battle of Moore's Creek," and saw duty as a Lieutenant at the "Big Bridge" in New Hanover County on the northwest side of the NE Cape Fear River in 1781. Other historical accounts reflect that he was a Captain in the Militia.

James was a very prominent figure in the early history of Duplin County. In addition to his military service, he was the auditor for public claims for the Wilmington District in 1782; and one of three special tax commissioners for Duplin County in 1785. James served as Sheriff of Duplin County in 1784, 1788, and 1789. He was also represented Duplin County at the State Constitutional Convention held in Fayetteville, North Carolina on 21 November 1789, and as a member of the House of Commons from Duplin County in 1791 and 1793. He was a member of the Justices of Duplin County for a number of years, an inn keeper, and a coroner.

In 1785, James donated a five acre square tract of his plantation at Golden Grove to the county commissioners for the purposes of building a court house and prison. The present Duplin County Courthouse is located on the same tract of land in the center of Kenansville, North Carolina.

James Pearsall was first married to Zilphia Uzzell of Lenior County, daughter of Thomas Uzzell. There were four children were born of his first marriage: Elizabeth, Mary, Edward, and James Pearsall, Jr. His second marriage was to Feraby Whitfield (1755-?), daughter of Constantine Whitfield and Barbara Williams. There were no children born of his second marriage. Lastly, he married Anna Dickson (1777-1837), daughter of Joseph Dickson (1750-1811) and Jane Moulton

(1755-1814). Seven children were born of this marriage: Feraby, Lucy Jane, Anne, Jeremiah, Joseph Dickson, Hugh, Lucy Jane, and William Dickson Pearsall.

James Pearsall, Sr.'s son James Pearsall, Jr. served as Duplin County's Clerk of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions from 1820-1832 and his son Jeremiah served as Duplin County's Clerk Superior of Law and Equity from 1827-1840; his son Joseph Dickson Pearsall served as Duplin Clerk and Master in Equity 1826-28; and his son William Dickson Pearsall served as Duplin Clerk and Master in Equity 1833-58. His step-father Col. Thomas Routledge served as Sheriff of Duplin County 1779-80.

James Pearsall died on November 12, 1812 in Duplin County. He is buried in the Routledge Cemetery which is located on Routledge Road in Kenansville, NC.

James Kenan

Sheriff of Duplin County (1762-66 & 1785-86)

James Kenan was born the eldest son of Thomas Kenan (abt.1700-abt. 1765) and Elizabeth Johnston Kenan (?-1790) in the part of New Hanover County that would become Duplin County a decade later. His parents had sailed from Port O'Terry, Ireland to the American Colony and landed in Wilmington, N.C. in the year 1730. The couple settled in the Grove settlement in northern New Hanover County. Thomas soon acquired large tracts of land on Turkey Branch, which is near the present Duplin-Sampson County line near the Baltic crossroads and moved his family there from Grove.

Thomas Kenan was a man of considerable means and prominence. He took a very active interest in public affairs. He was a member of Colonel John Sampson's company of militia during the Spanish Alarm, at Wilmington in September 1748, and served as Quartermaster in Captain Frederick Gregg's company of Duplin militia during the years 1745-55. He was also a member of the Colonial Court.

James was born on the family's plantation on Turkey Branch on September 23, 1740. He spent his adolescence being schooled by tutors on his parent's plantation.

James Kenan was elected sheriff of Duplin County when he was 22. He served in the position from 1762 to 1766 and held the title again from 1785 to 1786. James' brother Owen also served as Duplin County Sheriff from 1767-68 and his uncle Felix Kenan also served from 1760-61 and again from 1769-76.

Kenan displayed strong leadership early when he led a group of volunteers from Duplin to Wilmington in vocal opposition of the British Stamp Act. Kenan was elected to the colonial assembly in 1773 and the provincial congress from 1774 through 1776.

At the start of the Revolutionary War, Kenan was a member of the militia in Duplin. He was appointed to the rank of captain among the patriots and he helped lead a group of volunteers against Scottish loyalists at the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge in 1776. Kenan spent much of

the war as a colonel under the command of Major General Richard Caswell in South Carolina. Shortly after the war ended, Kenan was appointed brigadier general for the Wilmington District.

Following the war, Kenan returned to the North Carolina Senate where he served over ten terms between 1777 and 1793. He also acted as a member of the State Constitutional Conventions of 1788 and 1789. Kenan continued in public service for most of his life. He would serve as a councilor of the state under Caswell's governorship and was a member of the original board of trustees for the University of North Carolina. Kenan was present for the laying of the first corner stone what became known as Old East in Chapel Hill on October 12, 1793. Several buildings on the campus, including the football stadium and the business school, are named in honor of members of the Kenan family. He was the first Master of the original Masonic lodge in Duplin County, St. John's Lodge No. 13.

Kenan married Sarah Love in 1770. The couple had eight children: Thomas; Catharine; Elizabeth; Owen; Susannah; Daniel Love; Sarah; and Jane. Their oldest son, Thomas Kenan, would go on to serve in the North Carolina legislature, as well as three terms in the United States Congress. Another son, Daniel Love Kenan, would represent Duplin County in the N.C. House of Commons in 1820 and in the N.C. Senate in 1821. Daniel Love Kenan would also follow in his father's footsteps and serve as Sheriff of Duplin County from 1808-11.

James Kenan died on May 23, 1810. Originally buried at his plantation in Turkey, North Carolina, his remains were later moved to Liberty Hall in Kenansville.

James Pearsall

Sheriff of Duplin County (1784 & 1787-89)

James Pearsall, Sr. was born in 1750 in New Hanover County on the banks of Lewis' Creek a western tributary of the Northeast Cape Fear River near present day Watha. His father, Edward Pearsall died in 1762. The widow Catharine James Pearsall married Col. Thomas Rutledge and the family moved to Golden Grove, which would later become known as Kenansville.

James served in the North Carolina Militia, Wilmington District, during the Revolutionary War. He was with his step-father, Col Thomas Rutledge in the "Battle of Moore's Creek," and saw duty as a Lieutenant at the "Big Bridge" in New Hanover County on the northwest side of the NE Cape Fear River in 1781. Other historical accounts reflect that he was a Captain in the Militia.

James was a very prominent figure in the early history of Duplin County. In addition to his military service, he was the auditor for public claims for the Wilmington District in 1782; and one of three special tax commissioners for Duplin County in 1785. James served as Sheriff of Duplin County in 1784, 1788, and 1789. He was also represented Duplin County at the State Constitutional Convention held in Fayetteville, North Carolina on 21 November 1789, and as a member of the House of Commons from Duplin County in 1791 and 1793. He was a member of the Justices of Duplin County for a number of years, an inn keeper, and a coroner.

In 1785, James donated a five acre square tract of his plantation at Golden Grove to the county commissioners for the purposes of building a court house and prison. The present Duplin County Courthouse is located on the same tract of land in the center of Kenansville, North Carolina.

James Pearsall was first married to Zilphia Uzzell of Lenior County, daughter of Thomas Uzzell. There were four children were born of his first marriage: Elizabeth, Mary, Edward, and James Pearsall, Jr. His second marriage was to Feraby Whitfield (1755-?), daughter of Constantine Whitfield and Barbara Williams. There were no children born of his second marriage. Lastly, he married Anna Dickson (1777-1837), daughter of Joseph Dickson (1750-1811) and Jane Moulton (1755-1814). Seven children were born of this marriage: Feraby, Lucy Jane, Anne, Jeremiah, Joseph Dickson, Hugh, Lucy Jane, and William Dickson Pearsall.

James Pearsall, Sr.'s son James Pearsall, Jr. served as Duplin County's Clerk of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions from 1820-1832 and his son Jeremiah served as Duplin County's Clerk Superior of Law and Equity from 1827-1840; his son Joseph Dickson Pearsall served as Duplin Clerk and Master in Equity 1826-28; and his son William Dickson Pearsall served as Duplin Clerk and Master in Equity 1833-58. His step-father Col. Thomas Routledge served as Sheriff of Duplin County 1779-80.

James Pearsall died on November 12, 1812 in Duplin County. He is buried in the Routledge Cemetery which is located on Routledge Road in Kenansville, NC.

Theophilus Williams

Sheriff of Duplin County (1781-83)

Theophilus Williams was born in about the year 1753 most likely in Duplin County, N.C. He was the son of Captain Joseph Williams (1720-1790) and Mary Hicks Williams (1727-1790). Theophilus' father, Captain Williams, moved to Duplin County about the year 1749. He purchased a tract of land from Henry McCulloch on Turkey Branch near the present Duplin-Sampson line. He was a Justice of the County Court and a Vestryman of St. Gabriel's Parish. He also represented Duplin County as a member of the Colonial Assembly and was an officer in the Colonial Militia. Additionally, Joseph served for a period of about five years as Duplin County Sheriff. After the county seat was moved from the McRee place on Goshen to Captain Williams' place on Turkey Branch he gave a deed to the County for one acre "whereon the courthouse now stands." He was a large property owner, merchant, tavern keeper, miller, and planter.

It is known through a Duplin County marriage bond dated June 26, 1779 that Theophilus married Charity Barfield (1762-1800). There were at least four children born of their marriage: John, Charity, Rachel, and Frances Williams.

Like his father, Theophilus served as Sheriff of Duplin County from 1781-83. He also served as a Captain of a company of volunteers from Duplin County during the Revolutionary War. Theophilus' brother, Daniel Williams, also served as an officer during the Revolutionary War.

Theophilus died in the year 1793 in Duplin County, N.C.

Thomas Routledge

Sheriff of Duplin County (1779-80)

Thomas Routledge was born in Craven County, N.C. about 1723. The names of his parents are not known. Thomas moved to the Golden Grove area of Duplin County and became a very successful planter.

It is believed that Thomas' first wife was Ann Dudley but she apparently passed away as Thomas married Catherine James Pearsall (1726-1800) in 1763. Catherine was the widow of James Pearsall of New Hanover County. There were two children born of their union: Thomas and Sarah Routledge. In addition, Thomas also had two step-sons James and Edward Pearsall who had been born to Catherine during her first marriage to James Pearsall.

Thomas Routledge was an ardent Patriot and supporter of the cause of American independence from Great Britain's rule. He signed the oath of Allegiance and Abjuration passed by the Assembly at New Bern on Nov 15, 1777, renouncing the authority of the King of Great Britain over the people of North Carolina. He was a Colonel in the Army appointed by the Provincial Congress at Halifax, NC on Apr 4, 1776.

Thomas served as Sheriff of Duplin County 1779-80. Both his son, Thomas Routledge, Jr., and his grandson, Nicholas Routledge, served as Register of Deeds in Duplin County. In addition, his step-son James Pearsall, Sr., would donate the land on which the Duplin County Courthouse was erected. Mr. Pearsall also served as Duplin County Sheriff, Duplin County Coroner, and also represented Duplin County as a member of the N.C. House of Commons.

Thomas was also a Mason and member of St. John's No. 13, Kenansville, N.C. The records of the lodge indicate that he served as Treasurer of the lodge when it was instituted on June 25, 1788.

Thomas Routledge, Sr. died on September 22, 1801 in Duplin County, N.C.

John Molton

Sheriff of Duplin County (1777-78)

John Molton or Molten was said to have been born in Duplin County about the year 1757. He was born the son of Abraham Molton (1720-1790) and Sarah Norris Molton (1730-1811).

It is believed that John married Elizabeth James but this cannot be confirmed. It is known however that he had five children due to the fact that the Duplin County Court minutes from April 15, 1793 report that guardians were appointed the orphaned children of John Molten. The children's names were: Mary; Sarah; Elizabeth; Katherine; and Thomas Molten.

Mr. Molton served as Sheriff of Duplin County from 1777-78. He also served in the Revolutionary War and some accounts list him as serving at the Battle of Rockfish as a Major.

It is known that John Molten died sometime before 1793, but the exact date cannot be ascertained.

Felix Kenan

Sheriff of Duplin County (1760-61 & 1769-76)

Felix Kenan is believed to have been born in either Scotland or Ireland and is believed to have been the brother of Thomas and William Kenan but this cannot be proven with any certainty through records or documentation.

The information on Felix as contained in the book *The Kenan Family* as compiled by Alvareta Kenan Register and Marie D. DeLamar, reads as follows, "Kenan family tradition dictates that Thomas, Felix, and William all came to this country in the 1730's and settled in the northern part of New Hanover County, N.C., which later became Duplin County. After a few years in the Grove Settlement (now Kenansville), some of the family settled around Turkey, N.C., which is near the present Duplin, Sampson County line.

Felix Kenan quickly became a man of affairs. He was a member of Capt. Gregg's Company of militia in 1754; a vestryman of St. Gabriel Parish and a member of the County Court. He represented Duplin Co. in the Colonial Assembly during the years 1762, 1764, 1766 and 1769; and served as Sheriff in 1760-61 and again from 1769 to 1776. He was a land agent and an attorney for Henry McCulloh who owned large tracts of land in that section. The "Virginia Gazette," issue of 14 Jan. 1773, carried an advertisement, dateline N.C. 1 Jan. 1773, from Henry McCulloch advising prospective buyers of his land to see Felix Kenan, Esquire of Duplin Co."

It is interesting to note that Felix's nephew James Kenan served as Sheriff from 1762-66 and again 1785-86, and another nephew Owen Kenan served as Sheriff from 1767-68.

Felix married Catharine Norris Love (1722-1808) who was the daughter of George and Sarah Norris and the widow of Daniel Love. The couple married about 1754. There were four children born of the marriage: William; Nancy; Jane and Rose Kenan. Catharine also had two children by her previous marriage: James and Sarah Love.

Mr. Kenan was an active Patriot in the American Revolution; he was a member of "Sons of Liberty of N.C."

Felix Kenan died sometime between April and July of 1785 as the Duplin County Court minutes report that he was present in court on April 9th but then on July 18th William Kenan came before the Court and prayed for Administration of the estate of Felix Kenan, deceased.

Owen Kenan

Sheriff of Duplin County (1767-68)

Owen Kenan was born the second son of Thomas Kenan (abt. 1700-abt. 1765) and Elizabeth Johnston Kenan (?-1790) in the part of New Hanover County that would later become Duplin County. His parents had sailed from Port O'Terry, Ireland to the American Colony and landed in Wilmington, N.C. in the year 1730. The couple settled in the Grove settlement in northern New Hanover County. Thomas soon acquired large tracts of land on Turkey Branch, which is near the present Duplin-Sampson County line near the Baltic crossroads and moved his family there from Grove.

Thomas Kenan was a man of considerable means and prominence. He took a very active interest in public affairs. He was a member of Colonel John Sampson's company of militia during the Spanish Alarm, at Wilmington in September 1748, and served as Quartermaster in Captain Frederick Gregg's company of Duplin militia during the years 1745-55. He was also a member of the Colonial Court.

Owen was born on the family's plantation on Turkey Branch in 1743. He spent his adolescence being schooled by tutors on his parent's plantation.

Owen married Nellie Eleanor Routledge (1755-1797) who was the daughter of Col. Thomas Routledge and Catherine James Pearsall Routledge. The couple had four children: Susannah; Catharine; Owen and William or Wiley.

Owen served as Sheriff of Duplin County in 1767 and 1768. Owen's brother, James, also served as Sheriff from 1762-66 and again from 1785-86. Additionally, Owen's uncle Felix Kenan also served as Sheriff from 1760-61 and again from 1769-76.

It appears from land records that Owen purchased land from James and Edward Pearsall, stepsons of his father-in-law Col. Thomas Routledge, in New Hanover County on June 11, 1778. He subsequently moved to New Hanover County as records indicate that he was serving as deputy sheriff on April 9, 1779. On October 5, 1780, he is shown as treasurer of New Hanover County.

It has been reported that Owen Kenan served as a Colonel in the Militia during the Revolutionary War, and was killed in a skirmish with the Tories in Coharie Swamp in present day Sampson County in the year 1781.

James Kenan

Sheriff of Duplin County (1762-66 & 1785-86)

James Kenan was born the eldest son of Thomas Kenan (abt. 1700-abt. 1765) and Elizabeth Johnston Kenan (?-1790) in the part of New Hanover County that would become Duplin County a decade later. His parents had sailed from Port O'Terry, Ireland to the American Colony and landed in Wilmington, N.C. in the year 1730. The couple settled in the Grove settlement in

northern New Hanover County. Thomas soon acquired large tracts of land on Turkey Branch, which is near the present Duplin-Sampson County line in what is today known as Baltic and moved his family there from Grove.

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Following the war, Kenan returned to the North Carolina Senate where he served over ten terms between 1777 and 1793. He also acted as a member of the State Constitutional Conventions of 1788 and 1789. Kenan continued in public service for most of his life. He would serve as a councilor of the state under Caswell's governorship and was a member of the original board of trustees for the University of North Carolina. Kenan was present for the laying of the first corner stone what became known as Old East in Chapel Hill on October 12, 1793. Several buildings on the campus, including the football stadium and the business school, are named in honor of members of the Kenan family. He was the first Master of the original Masonic lodge in Duplin County, St. John's Lodge No. 13.

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James Kenan died on May 23, 1810. Originally buried at his plantation in Turkey, North Carolina, his remains were later moved to Liberty Hall in Kenansville.

Sources: Register, Alvaretta Kenan and DeLamar, Marie D. The Kenan Family. Macon, Georgia: Mercer University Press, 2000.

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Mr. Kenan was an active Patriot in the American Revolution; he was a member of "Sons of Liberty of N.C."

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Sources: Register, Alvareta Kenan and DeLamar, Marie D. [The Kenan Family](#).
Macon, Georgia: Mercer University Press, 2000.

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John Walker

Sheriff of Duplin County (1759)

John Walker served as Register of Deeds during the year 1759.

Joseph Williams

Sheriff of Duplin County (1754-58)

It is thought that Joseph Williams, Sr., was the son of Edward Williams and Elizabeth Sawyer. It has been reported that he was possibly born around the year 1720.

Williams moved to Duplin County about the year 1749. He purchased a tract of land from Henry McCulloch on Turkey Branch near the present Duplin-Sampson line. He quickly became a large property owner and planter. He would eventually branch out and venture into several other business pursuits as records indicate that he was merchant, tavern keeper, and miller.

In addition to his business activities, Joseph was also very interested in civic affairs. He was a Justice of the County Court and a Vestryman of St. Gabriel's Parish. He also represented Duplin County as a member of the Colonial Assembly and was a Captain in the Colonial Militia. Additionally, James served from 1754-1858 as Duplin County Sheriff. After the county seat was moved from the McRee place on Goshen to Captain Williams' place on Turkey Branch he gave a deed to the County for one acre "whereon the courthouse now stands."

He married Mary Hicks of Onslow County. They were married by Squire John Howard on August 8, 1746. It has been reported that the couple had nine children: Hester, Mary, Daniel, Benjamin, Theophilus, Joseph, Jr., Francis, Susannah, and Easter. Their daughter Mary married Colonel William Dickson who was an accomplished military leader, Clerk of Duplin's Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, member of the colonial assembly and delegate to the Provincial Congresses. Mary's son, Dr. William Dickson, would move to Tennessee and later become Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. Another of Joseph and Mary's sons, Daniel, was an outstanding patriot and served as a Captain in the regular army during the Revolutionary War. Yet another son, Theophilus, was a lieutenant in the regular army during the Revolutionary War and later also served as a Captain of volunteers in Duplin County. Theophilus like his father served as Sheriff of Duplin County from 1781-83.

About the year 1787, Captain Williams and his wife were living on a plantation of one hundred acres near the head of Bear Swamp in Duplin County. The year of his death cannot be determined.

William McRee, Jr.

Sheriff of Duplin County (1750-53)

William McRee, Jr. was a member of one of the most prominent families of Duplin's earliest history. In about the year 1739, William McRee, Sr., of County Down, Ireland immigrated to the Colony of America with his wife Dinah and their seven children including sons William McRee, Jr., Robert McRee, Samuel McRee, John McRee and James McRee and daughters Sarah McRee, Alice McRee and Susannah McRee. The family lived on land granted to William

McRee, Sr. by the Colonial Council in the northern reaches of New Hanover County. He called the property the Goshen settlement.

William Mcree's father, William, Sr., represented this part of New Hanover County as a member of the County Court in Wilmington but on account of the long distance and inconvenience to and from the court he joined forces with Colonel John Sampson, Dr. William Houston, Captain Francis Brice and other prominent citizens of the day, in a move to form a new county. The result of their work was the formation of the County of Duplin and St. Gabriel's Parish by an Act of the Colonial Assembly at New Bern in the year 1750.

The first meetings of the county court were held at the McRee plantation on Goshen. William McRee, Jr. was selected to serve as the first Sheriff for the newly created County. In addition, several members of William's family were chosen to hold positions of high importance in the government of the newly formed county. William McRee, Sr., served as a Justice and also as one of the first Vestrymen of the parish. Robert McRee was selected to serve as the first Clerk of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions.

After his service as Sheriff, William later continued his public duties serving as a member of the N.C. Assembly from 1773-79. He also served as a Colonel in the Colonial Militia.

William sold his land holdings in Duplin County and moved to Bladen County in about the year 1755. Duplin County deed records indicate that on April 9, 1755 he conveyed 300 acres of land on the north side of the fork of Dark Branch to Edward Matchit for 40 pounds. He also deeded 200 acres to Hannah Johnston on December 17, 1776 for which he received 150 pounds.

William McRee, Jr. married Margaret Jones. The couple had at least four children named: William, III; John; Sarah; and James McRee.

There are few records of his life that can be located after he left Duplin County. William McRee, Jr. is thought to have died around the year 1785 most likely in Bladen County, North Carolina.

Written by: Davis Brinson
Duplin County Register of Deeds
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