LETTERS FROM HOME

Letters to W. Walter Lane, M.D. from his family and friends 1855-1856
edited by Diane C. Cashman

EDITOR’S NOTE: In 1986 Virginia Farmer Hardin gave the Society correspondence that had been saved by her late husband Edward Manning Hardin (1893-1930). Her gift included a series of letters written in 1855-56 addressed to “Dr. W. W. Lane in care of Duncan MacRae, Esq., United States Consul” or to “13 Rue du Faubourg, Montmartre, Paris.” These letters must have had great sentimental value for the Hardin family, since they related the tragic story of the death of “Dr. ’’ John Haywood Hardin’s (1853-1932) mother, but they also provide a glimpse into Wilmington’s ante-bellum town and plantation life that should be of interest to Bulletin readers.

It would have been impossible to identify the many individuals mentioned in the letters without the help of the genealogies compiled on the Hill, Lane, and Haywood families by Col. Charles Gault of Chapel Hill; Hill family papers collected by Dorthea Kettler of New Lebanon, Ohio, and the monumental genealogy of inter-related Wilmington families compiled by the late Eugene Hicks.

In 1808 Ezekiel Lane (1773-1834), a thirty-five year old self made farmer, who with his wife Elizabeth Williams Lane (1776-1846) shared roots in Isle of Wight County, Virginia, started buying up land on the west side of the northeast branch of the Cape Fear River. As the years went by his acreage increased until he had become the greatest landowner in New Hanover County, North Carolina. The old plantations in the Rocky Point area of present day Pender County were all to be his: Stag Park, the Watts, Strawberry, Springfield, Whitemarsh, the Neck, and portions of Moorfield. He had started with the purchase of a 640-acre parcel: he would cap his career with a 8,400-acre transaction.

Elizabeth McKoy wrote, “Lane paid big sums for these lands. The number of plantations that that man Ezekiel Lane bought and owned and probably tended as land was amazing. He must have felt he had a kingdom. Just to ride over it once in a while and see what his slaves were doing must have taken most of his time.”

And Lane did own a huge number of slaves. His will ran to twenty-two items and listed more than one hundred slaves by name. He also had cash, horses, hogs, cattle, farm equipment, furniture, carriages, and two thousand pounds of pork and ten thousand pounds of fodder. By the time he died in 1834 he had earned the respect of the community but was still a social outsider.

Ezekiel was survived by one son, Levin Lane (1793-1863) who automatically became a very rich man upon his father’s death. This wealth was enhanced by his wife’s sizeable inheritance and appreciated even more in 1846 upon the death of his mother. In 1850 Levin Lane owned 170 slaves, a number that was only eclipsed in New Hanover County by the Wilmington and Weldon Railroads, which owned 220.

In 1817 Levin Lane married Margaret Moore Hill (1801-1874). She had been born at Force-Put, the plantation of her father Col. Thomas Hill (1757-1818) who was the youngest surviving son of William and Margaret Moore Hill. Mrs. Lane’s distinguished ancestry insured her children a firm foothold in Lower Cape Fear society that has often been described as “the cousinhood.” Levin and Margaret Lane had ten children.

I. Elizabeth Maria Lane (1818-1853) m. Dr. Edward H. Goellet* of Goldsboro, N.C.
Goelet children: Julia, Elizabeth Margaret, Edward Buncomb (”Bunk”)

II. Thomas Hill Lane (1820-1864) m. Sophia Frances Ashe of Wilmington, N.C.
Lane children: Elizabeth Bell, Levin Ashe, Henry Bell, Margaret Hill, Mary Ashe, Thomas Edward, Susan Hall, Henry Bell, William Walter, Melissa (“Lillie”) Ashe, James McRee.

III. Margaret (“Mags” or “Maggie”) Hill Lane (1821-1905) m. Dr. Peter Mallett Walker of Wilmington, N.C.
Walker children: John Moseley, Margaret Lane, Alice Haigh

IV. Ezekiel Edward Lane—died in infancy.

V. Augusta Lane (1825-1856) m. Lauriston Bonaparte Hardin (1804-1859). They lived outside of Alexandria, Va. and in Washington, D.C.

VI. Susan H. Lane (1827-1850) m. Edward (“Ned”) Dudley Hall of Wilmington, N.C.

VII. Virginia (“Ginny”) Lane m. her eldest sister’s widower, Dr. Edward H. Goellet. They lived in Goldsboro, N.C.
Goellet children: Augustin, Anna Cox

VIII. William Walter Lane, M.D. (1831-1901) m. Helen F. Green (1850-1924).

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LOWER CAPE FEAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

Volume XXXI, Number 1 Wilmington, North Carolina October, 1987

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Thank you for electing me president of the Society for the year 1987-1988. It is an honor to so serve. Our organization’s success has been due in large measure to the outstanding performance of our past presidents. I can assure you I will make every effort to “measure up” to my predecessors’ standards. Additionally, I shall continually remind myself and others that the Society belongs to all the members.

Careful evaluation of past operational experience has identified seventeen vital functional areas. Over the years, these have served effectively as action avenues and have maintained and enhanced this organization’s integrity as it strives to attain its purposes; i.e. community service. Thus, these avenues must be evaluated frequently and energized to sustain our forward momentum. To this end, they have been designated as the committees listed in an adjacent column on this page of the Bulletin; i.e. from Archives to the Newsletter. The more the membership actively participates in these areas the more pleasure accrues to the individual member and the more the Society benefits. Therefore, I urge the members to volunteer for one or more of the listed committees by phoning our Executive Director, Jean Scott (762-0492). Your support in this regard will strengthen the Society immeasurably.

I am pleased to report that the response to our membership letters has been very encouraging.

Regarding future activities, I would like to advise that:
1. Our next general meeting is scheduled for October 11th at the Latimer House. A reception will follow the meeting.
2. Plans are developing for a fund raising event on October 24th & 25th. “The Latimer House Tableaux Vivants” will feature a cast of forty that will perform twelve Impressionist masterpieces complete with dialogue and action.
3. Plans are well established for our Candlelight Tour and Wassail Bowl, (December 5th & 6th).

In closing, I wish to add that I am looking forward to seeing you at our forthcoming events.

Until then, best wishes,

Joe Dunn
President

GIFTS TO THE IDA B. KELLAM MEMORIAL ARCHIVES

Dr. and Mrs. John Cashman
“Guide to N. C. Historical Highway Markers” articles on Mary Lily Kenan Flagler Bingham and the Bingham family.
Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County—“Hill’s Wilmington City Directories” 1967-’83.
Jewel Spangler Smaus
“‘Family: from New England to the Black Hills’ by Jewel Spangler Smaus.
Mrs. Rose Allen Picot
“A Souvenir of Wilmington, N.C.,” ca. 1904
“Illustrated Story of Wilmington,” 1914
Mr. Henry J. MacMillan
Sloop Point Plantation history, data, and photographs
“One Eighteen South Fourth Street” by Henry J. MacMillan.
A silhouette of James Hogg.

(Cont’d on Page 3)
GIFTS (Cont’d from Page 2)

Genealogical material and photographs of the MacMillan family.
Photograph of portrait of John Baptista Ashe. Tributes, condolences, and memorial book of Dr. William Dougald MacMillan.
National Society of the Colonial Dames Pedigree.
Pedigree Chart of Wm. Whitfield and Rachel Bryan Genealogy of Judge James E. Pearce.
Two volume genealogy of Whitfield/Bryan/Smith/Huske ANDERSON genealogy.
Genealogical material on the Davis family, Tillinghast family and Kenneth Murchison.
"Wilmington, N.C. Historic District"-1964 Historic District Development Plan-1968
Mr. Edward Brandt Latimer, Esq.
"The Genealogy of the Benson/Latimer/Reed/Durham and Associated Families" by Mary Benson Maxwell, 1931.

LETTERS (Cont’d from Page 1)

IX Ezekiel Edward ("Eddie") Lane (1833-1858) m. (ca. 1857) Elizabeth L. Andrews.
X Julia Frances Lane (1834-?)
*Dr. Edward Goelet is mentioned frequently in the correspondence because he had first been married to the Lane’s oldest daughter by whom he had two children. Julia and Bunk. After his wife’s death he then married the Lane’s seventh child "Ginny" by whom he had Augustin and Anna Cox.
W. Walter Lane was born at his parents’ summer home on Wrightsville Sound in 1831. He graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1852. He then went to New York where he received his doctorate in medicine from NYU. After graduation he toyed with the idea of establishing a practice in a metropolitan area such as Washington D.C., but was discouraged by his professors, who provided letters of introduction along with the advice that he go abroad for postgraduate medical study. Their letters noted he could well afford the trip and such additional training would make it easier for him to establish a practice. Acting on this advice the young doctor settled in Paris where he received the following letters:

From E. Edward ("Eddie") Lane  Vatts, Dec. 12, 1855
My dear brother,
I received your letter day before yesterday. We are glad to see that you write in such good spirits, knowing thereby that you must be in good health. We were very anxious until we received your first letter written in London. Pa and Ma wrote last week, the letter will start in one of the steamers today . . . We put two ten cent and one three cent stamps on our letters. Our postmaster says that twenty-one cents is all that is necessary. I told Tally Burr® about sending you the weekly paper and that I would settle with him about the postage. I am going down next week and will see whether he has sent it. There is great excitement in Wilmington now about the commissioners election. Everyone looks forward to a very tight one, and I expect there will be a considerable row, fights are quite frequent there now, a very sorry ticket on both sides. I think. I saw a few of the boys in town and they all inquired about you. Tom Holden¹⁰ is there still he says he is waiting to get some money and then he will be off to Florida. . . . John Baker¹¹ has gone to Central America. I suppose to join Walker who is head man there. He gave Fulton¹² a thrashing some time ago—some political affair. Ned Meares¹³ has sold out up here to Buck Meares¹⁴ and will start for Florida the first of February. I suppose Buck will continue to run the mill. Dudley Cowan¹⁵ is clerking for Townsh. Poor fellow, I expect he lost what little he had in the grocery business. I know he is now in debt for $2500. I did not see John Worcester. He attends to his father’s distillery all together now.

Tom Hill¹⁶ was to have married Miss Holmes on the eighth of January and I was to wait on him. He had all of his cards and everything fixed, but he told his father and he knocked all in the head for a while, but Tom says he is determined to marry her. I hear Miss Kate my old flame is engaged to Judge Person¹⁷. I hardly think it is to be believed. John Walker¹⁸, Peter’s brother is engaged to Miss Eliza Jane Gibbs to be married next spring I think. Nothing has been heard of John Taylor¹ and Buck Wilkins¹⁹ yet. They have been out seventy odd days. There was a report when I was in town that the vessel had been seen bottom up that they sailed in.

I went to Petersburg last week to bring sister (Augusta Lane Hardin)—Mr. Hardin came that far and returned. She looks very badly and coughs a great deal, but we are all in hopes she will improve now that she is with us. The baby is very poor, one of the negroes nurse him.

We stayed two or three days with Ginny (Virginia Lane Goelet) and the Dr. They are both well. Augustin can talk a little. He is the finest child I ever saw. Eliza and Bunk (Eliza and Edward Bancomb Goelet—children of the late Eliza Maria Lane Goelet and Dr. Edward Goelet) are coming down to spend Christmas. The Dr. has rented Dr. Davis’s house²¹ on the back of Borden and Bridges—a very nice house but no garden.

Well, dear Walter I must say good night for I have written until my fire is almost out and it is very cold. Elijah is snoring very loudly on his stool and Lou at my feet, you can imagine how things look. I will finish my letter tomorrow night, good night again and may God bless and protect my far absent brother.

Dec. 13, 1855

Now I will finish my letter by letting you know what I am doing at home. I have been home almost all fall and have gotten along very well—very little sickness so far among the negroes, our corn crop has gathered 100 lbs. of very fine corn. I think I will sell 2000 bushels this year. There is every prospect of its being high and I am in no hurry to sell. I will finish picking the peanuts the first of next week. I sent some down early in the fall which I got $165. I have sold only 90 bushels and they netted $145. I am holding on now with the expectation of getting $175. We will make between 500-600 bushels. I will send a few down tomorrow. They were selling a day or two ago for $1.77—some say they will go up to $2. a bushel.

Your boy Peter I will try to put at some trade. If not, I will bring him up here. Harriet, I will hire out as I have no use for her. You do not want her to work as a common field hand. David I think I will bring up here for he has so little to do with Ned Hall²² that he will be completely spoiled. I will see if I cannot get something for George this year.

I have hired an overseer to come the first of January. He is an Edgecombe County man. I am going to give him $300 . . . he is a man of family. I will put him in Frank’s old
house after fixing it up and building him a kitchen.

Well, my dear Walter, I will try to write you every two or three weeks . . . You must take care of yourself. You know your weak part and must guard against it. It would be very bad for you to be sick so far away from home. Ma and Pa and all at home send their very best love, and dear, Walter, my prayer is every night that God may bless and protect you against all evils so that we may welcome you home once more. Write to us very often. All the boys of your acquaintance in town begged me to send their best respects.

Your fond brother,
E.E. Lane

From Margaret M. Hill Lane
(Mrs. Levin Lane)
Strawberry
Jan. 14, 1987

My dear son,
I fear you have thought yourself sadly neglected by us all at home for not writing more frequently to you. I speak for myself. I know none can have more desire to write than I—think they are having more time. Infact, I have had neither time nor opportunity before or since Christmas—for as usual we have had a house full and a constant call on my attention and not a quiet spot in the house. I have retired to the parlor this afternoon—forbidding all intrusions—to write to you my own dear son as there will be an opportunity to go to town tomorrow.

At Christmas we had your brother’s family and Alice and her brother Lander and Tomy Hill together with Bunk and Eliza and your sister Augusta and children. Every room was full. We had shocking weather at that time and it has been raining and severely cold ever since. The new year has set in but a few days of sunshine and through it all the hog killing, and you know what a disagreeable job that is. I have now finished my excuses and shall write of something else—your sister Augusta’s health.

I hope she is improving—her strength certainly is, but the cough still hangs on and the irritation is the same in the throat. She does not nurse the baby—poor little fellow. He looks very delicate and puny and he, too, has a bad cough. I think there is but very little prospect of raising him. Dr. McRee and Cousin Polly paid us a visit last week. He examined Augusta and gave his advice, but we did not ask his opinion—for probably he would not liked to have given it. He advises her to keep up the cod liver oil and to keep the external polich on her throat. We still feel very unhappy about her situation and her little boy still continues lame. Dr. McRee says it is (illegible) disease but progressing slowly—but the child seems well and lively.

If Dr. Goolet has not written to you already, I have some news for you. Virginia had a daughter born on the 30th of December and calls it Anna Cox after the doctor’s cousin. She has had a very lonely time during the confinement for the Doctor had to leave two days after the baby was born—as he had to be in Wilmington on the first of January, and the children were here—and they thought it best for Julia not to come home as the vacation was so short at Christmas. I heard from Virginia a few days ago. She was doing well. The Doctor is in Wilmington again this week.

Tomy Hill—poor fellow—is in a sad dilemma. The eighth of January was set for his nuptials—and all things ready—he had even rented and furnished a house in Smithville to take his bride to, but all of this was done without his father’s knowledge, but he heard of it and wrote (Tomy says) a very insulting letter to Mr. Holmes, the young lady’s father—saying he most strongly objected to it and if Tomy persisted to act contrary to his wishes he would cut him off without a shilling. They then concluded to put off the wedding. Tom was there when the letter arrived—Mr. Holmes then told them that he would not consent to him marrying his daughter to bring her to live near his father and advised him to go to Salisbury and see if he had any prospects of making a living he might come and take his daughter. Tom then returned to Smithville, sold out everything, and without going to see his father, came right up here and stayed a fortnight with us—dreadfully put out and distressed. He left us here last Wednesday for Salisbury. His father not hearing from him and not knowing where he was became very uneasy and sent Johnny up here to look for him and to tell him to come home. But when Johnny got here Tomy had gone. I felt very sorry for Tomy, but still do not think he acted right toward his father, nor do I approve of his father’s conduct to him. How it will finally be settled time will show . . .

How do you get along with the French language—I should think badly—of course, you intend to acquire it. I shall very soon begin to think of gardening, though at present it is very cold. I have not heard from our friends in Chatham in a long time.

Your brother’s family are well and also your sister Maggie. Your Pa and myself are both very well—he says he will write you shortly. And now, my dear son, I must say good-bye hoping this may find you well. God bless you.

Your own fond Mother
Margaret M. Lane

From E. Edward (‘Eddie’) Lane
Vatts Plantation
Feb‘y 5 1856

My dear Brother,
It has been more than a month now since I wrote my first letter to you and I will try and write the first week of every month . . . Pa got your letter week before last. He intends writing very soon. Ned Hall has received yours and says he will answer it soon. Report says Ned is courting but we can not find out who it is. Some say a lady in Portsmouth. There is considerable doubt about him being elected sheriff again this summer. You know he joined the Knownothings at one time. Now he has left them and has been making speeches for the Democratic party. You have seen by the papers that Burr and Fulton were to have a duel. They went to the ground and there made a settlement. It was some time before they started and, of course, the sheriffs were there to arrest them.

There has been another outbreak in town Jim N. has seduced DeC’s daughter. He found him in her room in his shirt tail. N. jumped at him with a knife and has not been seen in Wilmington since . . .

I have bought Ned Meares horse and buggy. He intends going out to Florida. Tom Holden and David Cowan have already gone. I had not had the horse a month before he ran away and broke the buggy. Of course, Ma wants me to sell him immediately, but I intend to hold him. Murry is afraid to drive him . . .

I have gotten the money for Peter’s hire but have not hired him out as you wanted him in a trade but have not done so yet. Work is so scarce in town that no one wants to hire an apprentice right now. Harriet, I could not hire out. She is in a family way and now no one would hire so I have brought her up home since I did not want to put her in the field . . . I could not get my money for Sandy so have put both bonds in Adam Empie’s hands . . . George I have let Sampson have for another year. Elijah I have put with William Kellog and I will put Peter out as soon as I find a place. David I have taken home as I have a good bit of carpentering to do. I will get the horses in the new stables tomorrow. I have had Mr. Keith up here working with my boys. I have got a very nice looking stable, room
enough for thirteen horses. I have not sold any corn yet but Pa
sold a flat load last week for 82. I am in hopes that I will be
higher than that though. I have not sold all of my ground peas
(peanuts) yet. I have bought another young mule from Grant.
Gave $130, found I could not do without another . . . I am
cleaning up the cypress pond. This winter expect to make a fine
crop of corn and rice on it.

Sister Augusta’s baby (Edward Goalet Hardin) died about two
weeks ago. I carried the remains as far as Petersburg where
Mr. Hardin met me. Poor little fellow was suffering for quite
a long time. Cousin James McRee says he is quite uneasy about
Sister Augusta’s cough. We all think she looks somewhat
better since she has been with us.

A great many person ask after you. All at home send their
best love.

Your fond and affectionate brother,
E.E. Lane

From John D. Taylor and W. W. Wilkings

London
March 2, 1856

Dear Walter,

We arrived in this city a day or two since and were pleased
to receive your communication and the news in regard to Burr
and Fulton.

After leaving Paris we tarried a day at Strasbourg and saw
the L Horlogie Astronomique clock. Thence we journeyed to
Heidelberg and Mannheim then to Frankfurt am Main then to
Mainz on the Rhine where we took a steamer to Cologne thence
to Dusseldorf in which place we anticipated a great treat in the
gallery of paintings, but alas there is comparatively no gallery
there except in the summer season at which time the painters
exhibit their work. Leaving Dusseldorf by steamer we journeyed
to Arnheim thence to Amsterdam where we tarried for two days
and here let me advise you you should be sure to visit there
before you return to the United States. Also should you go there
be sure to visit the diamond manufacture as it is called — it is
well worthy of a visit. From Amsterdam we went to Leyden
and took a private carriage to see the celebrated works at the
mouth of the Rhine. We then started for The Hague where we
were agreeably and I must say magnificently entertained by the
American minister. Tell Mr. MacRae I took his advice and
although I did open my mouth it was only to take in the fine
wines that Mr. Belmont regaled us with. From this point we
soon reached Rotterdam and after a good sleep for the night
took a steamer for this city which we accomplished in about
twenty hours. We shall leave on the steamer of the 8th and in
ten days we hope again to be home.

My kindest regards to Mr. and Mrs. MacRae and others who
take sufficient interest to make inquires about.

Your friends,
Jno D. Taylor & W. W. Wilkings

From Virginia (“Ginny”) Lane Goalet (Mrs. Edward Goalet) Goldsboro
Apr. 8, 1856

My dear brother,

It is difficult to keep pace with time when it passes so rapidly
as five months have done — the time you have been away from
us, and yet when I reflect how many scenes I have gone through,
and how much I have suffered both mentally and physically the
time appears an age. And then I begin to think how sadly I have
neglected you, but indeed, my dear Walter, I have not meant
to do so.

Soon after you left we had company in the house for some weeks.
Then I was taken sick about Christmas. After I got through with my troubles (she had given birth 12/30/55) — which
I am thankful to say were very slight — by a little act of imprudence I took cold and was very sick . . . as soon as I was
able to leave my room I went down to Strawberry where I spent
six weeks. We got back here last Thursday and I found your
letter waiting. Your letters are always hailed with delight and
always sent to be read by those who have not heard directly
from you . . .

I am glad to see you write in good spirits, good health has
much to do with that. I am always happy when I am well but
oh, so depressed when the least unwell. The Doctor has prom-
ised me a trip to the mountains next summer and says if that
does not restore my health he will let me go to Europe next
fall and accompany you home. If I could be assured of regain-
ing my health entirely, I would indeed venture on the ocean
wave.

I am so sorry to see you cannot drive away all thoughts of
that unfortunate love affair. You must not allow it to trouble
you in the least. You have not yet learned woman sufficiently.
I would venture to say that young ladies does not spend a thought
about it. I hear of her flirting with several beau and sometimes
of her being engaged. That does not sound like "weeping o'er
early affection." I reckon the song "Thou Has Wounded the
Spirit That Loved Thee" is hardly among her list. Everyone
I heard speak of that affair seem ignorant of the way it was
broken off. I suspect that she has acted very ladylike and
prudent about it . . .

I am glad to hear you say, Walter, that you intend traveling
this summer. I think that if it were I, I would go everywhere
that there was anything of interest to be seen. Now that you are
there do not hurry yourself but see all that is to be seen.
You will hardly go again. Dr. Wilkings and Mr. Taylor arrived
in Wilmington while we were there. The Doctor saw them and
told them they had lost their luggage. I know Ma will be disappointed
about her boots. Pa is constantly jeering about them — he
says he is afraid to carry her to the Springs next summer — her
French fixings may lead her into dissipation. We tried to talk
Pa into traveling with us this summer, but he will not say
outright what he intends doing.

I think if poor Sister lives until Summer she ought to be car-
rried somewhere for I fear if it is left to Mr. Hardin it will not
be done. It is sad to look at her and see what sad havoc disease
has made. Her life has been sacrificed: I cannot help but think
her health has been neglected, if that cough had been attended
to in the first instant there might have been hopes of her
recovery, but, Alas! it is too late she is going fast. The last
stages of the disease are approaching fast. I do not wish to
distress you my dear brother, when so far away from us, but
you better know the worse now — then to have it broken on you
suddenly. I am trying to school my mind to become reconciled
to the great loss when it comes, but I know how hard it will
be for me to give her up. I shall feel alone in the world for
a sister. I hated very much to leave her and she seemed to feel
it too, but I have attended so little to my family all winter and
have been so much from my kind husband that I thought I best
come home — and told them if she grew worse to let me know
and I would go down again. I think it is strange that Mr. Har-
din has not been down to see her this winter. He has been in
distress, too, and he came as far as Petersburg but would not
come any farther. I am quite sure that if he was my husband
I would not be his wife now. The Doctor is too careful of me.
I tell him sometimes if he would let me cough more perhaps
LEVIN LANE. Born 19 Nov. 1793 near Wilmington, N.C., the son of Ezekiel and Elizabeth Williams Lane. Married 22 May 1817 to Margaret Moore Hill, daughter of Col. Thomas and Susannah Mabson Hill. He inherited from his father "The Vatts" and was a planter throughout his life. Died 2 June 1863 at "Hailbron" plantation near Pittsboro, N.C. and is buried there. [Her portrait is attributed to William Gart Brown and belongs to Mrs. James G. Todd, Jr., of Portsmouth, Virginia.]

Dr. WILLIAM WALTER LANE. Born 15 Aug. 1831, the son of Levin and Margaret Moore Hill Lane. Studied medicine, part of which training was received in Paris, France, and practiced in Wilmington, N.C. Married Helen F. Green. He died 4 Feb. 1901 and was buried in Oakdale Cemetery. [Picture from an old photograph.]

MRS. MARGARET HILL LANE WALKER, Born 24 Dec. 1821, the daughter of Levin and Margaret Moore Hill Lane. Married 24 Apr. 1845 to Dr. Peter Mallett Walker and had a son and two daughters. After her husband's untimely death in Wilmington while they were living in Mississippi, she and the children resumed residence in Wilmington, N.C. Died 31 Mar. 1905 and was buried in Oakdale Cemetery. [Her portrait belongs to Mrs. Wm. L. Walker of Wilmington, N.C.]
MRS. MARGARET MOORE HILL LANE. Born 8 Jan. 1801 at "Forceput" plantation on the Northeast Cape Fear River, the daughter of Col. Thomas and Susannah Mabson Hill. Married 22 May 1817 to Levin Lane and was the mother of ten children. She died 24 Sept. 1874 in Wilmington, N.C., and was buried there at Oakdale Cemetery. [Her portrait is attributed to William Gari Brown and belongs to Mrs. James G. Todd, Jnr. of Portsmouth, Virginia.]

Dr. PETER MALLET WALKER. Born 13 Oct. 1817, the son of Carleton and Caroline Mallett Walker of Wilmington and Fayetteville families, respectively. He was a doctor but did not enter into the practice of medicine and eventually moved his family to Mississippi where he bought a cotton plantation. He was back in Wilmington, N.C., on a business trip when he suffered a sudden heart attack and died 7 Jan. 1862 and was buried in Oakdale Cemetery there. [His portrait belongs to Mrs. Wm. L. Walker of Wilmington, N.C.] His grandson, William Lippitt Walker (1884-1966) was president of the Texas Cotton Ass'n 1944-'45, president of the Houston Cotton Exchange 1952-'54, chairman of the Cotton Export Advisory Board to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture 1944-'46, member of the Harris County/Houston and in St. James Episcopal Church in Wilmington, and served as chairman of the American Red Cross in Wilmington, N.C., after he retired there from active business.]

EZEKIEL EDWARD LANE. Born 22 Aug. 1833, the son of Levin and Margaret Moore Hill Lane. Married Elizabeth M. Andrews. He was a planter in the Rocky Point area of the Northeast Cape Fear River. Died 17 Dec. 1858 and was buried in Oakdale Cemetery, Wilmington, N.C. [His portrait belongs to Mrs. Thos. C. Darst of Wilmington, N.C., and appears to have been painted from a Daguerreotype belonging to the Gault family of Lake Waccamaw, N.C.]
I would be harder. It is a comfortable feeling to know you have someone who watches over you and has a sympathetic heart for every pain. I think our dear sister is aware of her state of health. She told me she felt she could never recover, and said she was resigned to her fate. Pa and Ma did not seem to be aware of how low she was until we went down. The Doctor talked to Pa about it and told him he thought Mr. Hardin needed to be written to, and he wrote him himself while there. We have not heard since we came away if he has come. Oh, yes, I hope when he comes he will take her on a little trip south—a change might benefit her and prolong her life. You must write to her Walter . . .

April 14th

Last night I received a letter from Allie. She said Mr. Hardin arrived Monday morning and sister Augusta seemed brighter since she says she spoke of taking her up to Raleigh and if she could stand the cold would take her towards Salem . . .

V. L. Goelet

From Levin Lane Strawberry, May 26, 1856

My dear Walter,

I pen this short note in the midst of our distress and confusion. The event which we all have unwillingly been forced to believe must ultimately take place has at length occurred. Your poor suffering sister Augusta answered her call about five a.m. this morning surrounded by her two sisters, husband, children, and those who have watched over her with unremitting anxiety. Dr. Walker also. Dr. Goelet was absent when Virginia left Goldsboro and has not reached here yet.

I am content to think she was fully prepared to quit pain and suffering which medical skill had failed to restore to health and to be at rest in her Saviour's kingdom—she surely has a place for one so meek, gentle, & amiable. One wish, which seemed to weigh on her mind, & which she so often spoke after her return from Raleigh was the desire to be carried back to Washington but alas that could not be granted . . . It was also among her last requests that her remains be placed by her children in Alexandria. Arrangements are being made to carry it out. Mr. Hardin and Edward will leave with them in the morning. The two children Suzie and John are to remain with us for present but will be taken sometime in June to their father.

Enough at this time. We are all well. The expired's most sincere regret—that she could not see you & begs to have it said to you that she hoped to meet you in the next life. Walter, think of a dying sister's request and try to be prepared for a mansion where no suffering is to take place.

I think we all prefer your returning home next fall & I desire you to make the best of your time there and not disappoint us in seeing you. Everything is trying to grow now that the weather has turned warm. Excuse this Walter, Mr. Hardin desires kind to be remembered to you.

Your fond & affectionate father,
L.L. Lane

From E. Edward ("Eddie") Lane Vatts June 5, 1856

I have put your boy Peter with Murry a bricklayer in Goldsboro—he is to give $50 a year for five years.

My dear Brother,

(Ed. note: The first paragraphs of this letter, which give another account of Augusta Lane Hardin's death and her last wish whispered in Eddie's ear to see Walter have been omitted)

Since I wrote last quite a gloom has been cast over our community by the fatal result of the unfortunate duel between Joseph Flanner and Buck Wilkins 31 resulting in the death of poor Buck. It arose out of a speech given by Buck in the Courthouse on Wednesday evening in making some allusion about the commission of navigation. Joe being on the ticket took offense and published a card in the Herald—a liar, a base liar. I hear they were sitting in the Courthouse side by side and when Buck got up to speak Joe said to him, "Now Buck get up and show off." I blame Joe for being so hasty in publishing the card. He might have demanded an explanation of him. A great many seem to think and I think so myself that the seconds might have stopped it without dishonor to either party, but the seconds were young and inexperienced. The first fire Buck’s ball passed very near Joe’s face, the next—Joe’s ball passed through Buck’s hat. Then there was an interval of some half hour or more and Dr. McRee, Jr., the surgeon for both parties tried to stop it but could not. They then took their places and Joe’s ball passed through Buck’s lung. He fired his pistol and fell into the Dr.’s arms and said, “Dr. I am a dead man.” and died immediately. There was considerable party feeling about it but it has quieted down considerably.

Well, now dear Walter, now for some plantation news. I am getting pretty well along with my crop, but it is very backward owing to the late spring. Had a great deal of replanting to do. One field I ploughed it up entirely and planted over. I have got my cypress pond cleared and some planted in rice and corn. I have got some twenty acres in groundpeas. The overseer I got from Edgecombe turned out to be no account. I turned him off week before last, and I think I will get a man named Cherry from Long Creek. I have not sold but one flat load of corn—got $6.50—have on hand some 1500 bushels yet—will not send it off before I get through with my crop.

I had to send my man Elijah to town to the Dr. He has done no work since January—his complaint—the piles. Dr. Anderson 32 has operated on him and sent me word that he soon will be able to work again.

Well, Walter the flies are so bad that I have had to have keep Silas brushing while I write to you so I must stop. You say you will not be home until next spring. I had intended to go to New York to meet you this fall, but if you think you will improve your health and mind you better stay but do be careful of yourself . . . it would be very bad for you to be sick so far from home. Pa will furnish you with the money. The Dr. and their children are with us. The Dr. and myself are going to town this afternoon in my buggy. Dr. Walker and sister will be with us. They have been wanting to come for some time . . .

All at home send their best . . . Pa has not made up his mind where he and Ma will spend the summer nor I either.

Your fond & affectionate brother, E. E. Lane

From Julia Goelet, daughter of the late Elizabeth Lane and Dr. Edward Goelet and step-daughter and niece of Virginia “Ginny” Lane Goelet Goldsboro, July 11, 1856

My dear Uncle,

I know you think I have treated you badly by not answering your letter before and I know it myself, too, for I have not had
the slightest excuse for not writing, but I'll try to write regularly now that I am at home. I got home last Friday night and you may know I was delighted for it is no small thing to be gone for fourteen months. We got here on the one o'clock train—Father and myself—and no one expecting us so soon, found the house all locked up and everyone asleep except sister. When I went into Grandma's room to tell her good morning I could scarcely make her believe it was I. I have not seen Uncle Eddie or Grandpa yet, but I got a letter from the former before I left Richmond.

You don't know how much I miss you, Uncle Walter. It does not seem like Father's house unless you are in it. You have never seen Anna. I do wish you could see her for she is the sweetest thing in the world and she is equally fond of me as I am of her. She cries to come to me from everyone but Aunt Ginny. Augustin is just like you and very handsome of course. He is not nearly as fond of me as he used to be and I am very sorry for it. I do everything to make him love me. I like Father's house so much. It is the closest place I ever was in. It is six times as cool as the one in Richmond. I don't think anyone could hire me to spend another summer there.

I met Mr. Hardin when I got there. He had come to take Johnnie home with him. Suzie is to live with Grandma. Aunt Ginny tells me that you are very anxious to know who Anna is like. Well! She is the image of me. She has red hair and beautiful blue eyes, a nose like sister's, and a beautiful little mouth and lovely skin. She has the sweetest little hand and foot I ever saw—in that respect she takes after her Uncle Walter. I think she is so beautiful and so good too.

Perhaps you would like now that I have exhausted my stock of news how I get along with my French. I shall know enough about it to be able speak with you when you get back. I will tell you what books I have gotten through.

(Ed. Note—she then catalogs the books she had read, writes in French and promises to send a letter in French—she signs off so that her father can add a postscript... There are other letters from Julia written in French in the correspondence.)

From Dr. Edward Goelet

My dear Walter,

Let me acknowledge the receipt of your last letter from Blois. Ginny and myself had been wishing for sometime to receive a letter from you and learn when and what you are about.

And is it possible you have been laid up with the gout? Have you become so much of an aristocrat already! I hope my dear fellow, you have put it aside before this and are yourself again.

Ed came up here about a week ago and brought your Mother to remain until the old gentleman gets ready to leave the plantation. This you know can he not do until after the Elections.

He must stay and vote in the good old Whig cause. We shall probably all go up into the country this summer probably to Hillsboro.

I presume you have seen from the U.S. papers that we have three candidates in the field for the Presidency Fillmore, Buchanan, & the miserable Fremont. Fillmore is certainly the man for the times here and I have great hopes for his election, though at this time Buchanan's chance seems best. The American Party—I mean the conservatives—and the old Whigs will go for him almost to a man. In the North, Buchanan is looked upon as the candidate of the slave holding interests, therefore he must lose many votes, even among those black Republicans.

(Ed Note: The rest of the letter is almost illegible, but states he believes Fillmore will win and talks about Wayne County, N.C. politics.)

From E. Edward ("Eddie") Lane

Smithville
July 29, 1856

My dear Walter,

I have been waiting for some time to hear from you, but have concluded to wait no longer. We must not wait to answer each letter as it comes, but write when we feel like it. Pa received your last letter and we were all so pleased to hear that you had gotten better. You are too fond of good living to live in Paris. If you were to live there six months you would not be able to get around at all. I must have been very boring to be confined to your room.

I had a very little attack of bilious fever last week at the plantation and I came down here last Saturday to stay with Johnnie Hill. Uncle John and myself get along very well. I have nothing to say about politics. That is all that is talked about wherever I go. This is the second time that I have been down here this summer. I was here about two weeks and found it very pleasant. I shall return on Monday. Would like to spend the summer here, but to not think I can. My present arrangement is to go to the Springs after the election. I do not think I will like it very much although some of our Wilmington people will be there—the Meares—old lady and Addie, Pen and his wife, Buck and his wife. I am to take charge of Uncle Thomas's daughter Maria and Sue and Ann Mauger London so for a week or two that should be very pleasant. Miss Jennie London asks me to send her you very best so does Ann Mauger who is spending some time down here with Miss Matilda Cowan. Wherever I go you asked about by both ladies and gentlemen. Willie Lord sailed last week for Europe. I told him we would hardly meet you as you would be off in the middle of the month. Who is this Dr. Hudson, your travel companion? You have never mentioned him before.

As for the money you spoke about, I will send it about the middle of September. I will also send you about $50 of my money to make some purchases for me in the way of engraving... and anything else that you might suit my fancy, but I will tell you more about this when I send the money. Our crop looks very badly this year. Pa says he has not seen so much rain since he has been farming... Mr. Cherry, our overseer, has succeeded in our business. That other man I had from Edgecombe I would not give a straw for—he was perfectly no account.

I plan planting some fifty acres in wheat this fall. We must plant something that we can make money on other than corn. Buck Meares has planted about sixty acres in cotton this year, but it looks very sorry—too much rain. I am afraid he will not make much.

Our negroes have been very healthy so far. I have hired your girl Harriet and her big white baby out of town for five dollars a month. I would not have her about me. She is the lowest negro I ever saw and I would not put her in the field. I have not got the money for last year's hire yet. Adam Empie promised it, I will get the money in this September court.

It seems very doubtful about Ned Hall's election, but each one says he is bound to be elected. I suppose Pa has told you where he plans to go this summer. He will go to some point on the N.C.R.R. for the month of August. He will then go to Washington for a short while and for the last of September he will pay Mr. Hudson a visit. Ma will be much pleased to visit New York.
I will meet you in New York next winter when you return, if you will let me know what steamer you will be sailing in. Brother Tom and Sister Mags’ families are well.

Your fond & devoted bro
E.E. Lane

From Virginia Lane Goelet
Goldsboro, N. C.
Oct. 7, 1856

My dear Brother,

We received your letter dated from Geneva yesterday and I hasten to answer it fearing you may sail before you get another from me. I have been intending to answer your letter written from Zurich that I received while I was in Hillsboro, but have been very much engaged since we got home the first with arranging my house affairs and preparing to receive Pa and Ma. They spent a week with us and Eddie several days. He came up to go on to Raleigh for John Baker but was taken sick and had to stay there. They left me last Friday afternoon. Ma is to spend a week in town and then go to the plantation. I suppose she has told you she has charge of our dear sister’s little children. It is a mournful pleasure to her but she bears it with Christian fidelity. Pa and Ma are both looking tolerably well . . .

Eddie has been looking out for a wife. I rather think he is more in earnest then I ever saw him. He told me in confidence when he was up here that he was beating the bush though lightly. And yet he is afraid to be too certain. I will not tell you who it is. He perhaps would rather tell you all about it when you meet, and may God grant that will not be too distant.

You ask about my health. I am really thankful to say that I am better than I have been in a long time. I have had a quiet pleasant summer. The portion of time I was in Hillsboro more pleasantly passed. I made many agreeable acquaintances. The doctor, I believe, was better pleased with the country up there than I was and most anxious to make a purchase, but I convinced him it would not do so well. He could not move his whole force up there and that would subject him to much inconvenience. He has gone in the country today to look at land. I hope you will determine for each other when you come home.

Julia has gone back to Richmond to school. Buncomb continues at Mr. Cobb’s and Eliza at Mrs. Moor’s. Augustine is in better health than he has been, but he has just had a bad fall over a banister—struck the top of his head. He complains a great deal and climbed in my lap and fell asleep. I hope there will be no serious consequence attending it. He is so full of activity. He jumped up on the banister as he had seen other children do, lost his balance and fell. He had just been at my side the minute before to hold the inkstand. I asked him what must I tell you and he said, “Tell Uncle Walter to bring me a soldier’s bag.” We got a soldier’s cap from Mama’s wardrobe. The Doctor brought him a cap from Richmond and he is very proud of it and when he puts it on will not he called anything but “Soldier Boy.” He is the most sunny boy you ever saw and it is said by all that see him that he is noble looking. I am just quite proud of my boy, Walter, and I know when you see him, you will say I have every right to be. I have not put pantaloons on him yet. He is very short legged and looks very awkward. I dress him in knee pantaloons and short frocks. And now something about my charming Anna Cox. She has lost some of her beauty being disfigured with fat. Her Uncle Eddie calls her “big ugly,” but she is such a merry little thing no one can not but think her lovely. Now you must laugh at all this, but make an allowance for a Mother’s prejudice . . .

Your sister fondly,
V. L. Goelet

A postscript from Dr. Goelet ended the Lanes’ “letters from home” to Dr. W. W. Lane. Readers might be interested to know the fate of those they have come to know from this correspondence.

Eddie Lane did court “in earnest” to marry Elizabeth L. An-
drews. He died, age twenty-five, in 1858. His death bed will expressed his last wishes: "Of my real and personal estate, and everything I have after paying all my debts and one thousand dollars to be given to the two Episcopal churches in Wilmington, shall go to my dear wife. It is my wish that none of my negroes be separated man and wife I mean, and no small child from its mother. I wish my father to exchange and get it right."

In that same year of 1858, Augusta’s widower, Lauriston B. Hardin died suddenly in Washington, D.C. Correspondence directed by his attorneys to Levin Lane make it plain that the deceased had gone deeply in debt in order to purchase property in Washington, D.C. and near Alexandria, Virginia. When all creditors were paid, his orphaned children, whom the Lanes took in at Strawberry, were left with nothing from the estate but a trunk filled with their mother’s silver, a Bible, a quilt, and a few personal effects.

Ginny Lane Goelet, age thirty, died the next year in 1859. Her widow served in the Confederate Army. There is no record as to whether he remarried, but after the war he continued his practice of medicine in Wayne County until 1874.

Thomas H. Lane moved to Florida in 1859. He enlisted in the Confederate States Army. According to his obituary in the 27 February 1864 Wilmington Journal, "Died in Florida on the 20th, Thomas H. Lane in his 44th year of age . . . the day before the late battle in Lake City a detachment of 110 men was thrown forward to act as skirmishers and retard the progress of the enemy. A desperate encounter ensued in which the deceased was mortally wounded. A few days later he died within enemy lines."

Dr. Peter Mallett Walker moved to Mississippi. He, too, died from injuries in Confederate service in 1862. His widow, Margaret ("Mags") moved to Washington, D.C. after the war.

Levin Lane died in 1863. His widow, who had buried eight of her ten children, survived until 1874. A Wilmington newspaper wrote about her death: "Another link in the chain which bound the old to the new social life on the Cape Fear is broken . . . Mrs. Lane came from good old Cape Fear Stock—the Hills—and for many years as the head of a large household dispensed a generous hospitality to a large circle of friends and acquaintances."

By 1867 the Lane land has been sold. A directory of that year listing the prominent farmers of the area did not include the name "Lane."

As for Walter, after he returned from abroad he moved to Vicksburg, Mississippi where he combined the practice of medicine with farming. During the War he served the Confederacy as an assistant surgeon and surgeon. At the war’s end he returned to Rocky Point where he practiced briefly. In 1870 he began a private practice in Wilmington, but shortly after became the superintendent of the Marine Hospital. Later he formed his own hospital—the Lane Hospital, that evolved into the City/County Hospital. For many years he was superintendent of that hospital. He enjoyed recognition for using Lister’s antisepctic method while amputating a leg in 1876. He was elected chairman of the N.C. Board of Health in 1878. When he died at age seventy, February 4, 1901, his obituary was on the front page of the Wilmington Journal. The article concluded, “Only a few years ago he married Miss Helen Green, of this city, who was then matron of the hospital. The wife with one sister, Mrs. Margaret Walker of Washington, D.C. are the only surviving members of the immediate family. Deceased having been the last but one of ten brothers and sisters, Mr. J.H. Hardin and Capt. J.M. Walker of this city are nephews of his and among others at distance are Capt. H.B. Lane of New Bern and Dr. A.H. (Augustin) Goelet of New York, and Dr. Edward ("Bunk") Goelet who lives in western North Carolina. The funeral will take place at 11 O’clock from St. James Church." Dr. Lane left no descendants.

In 1905, Margaret ("Mags") Hill Walker, age eighty-four, died. Her death closed the chapter on the generation of Lanes who once had enjoyed antebellum life as New Hanover County landed gentry.

FOOTNOTES
1 All genealogical material concerning the Lane family came from the Lane Family Genealogy compiled by Col. Charles Gault of Chapel Hill, N.C.; LCFHS Archives.
5 Thomas Hill Will, dated 8 July 1818. copy in LCFHS Archives.
7 Hill Family Genealogy compiled by Col. Charles Gault. LCFHS Archives.
8 Information on Dr. W. Walter Lane’s medical training and professional career was obtained from the extensive physician files maintained at the LCFHS Archives. These files were compiled the late Ida Brooks Kellam and the Auxiliary to the Medical Societies of New Hanover and Brunswick Counties.
9 Talcott Burr, Jr. was editor of the Wilmington Herald. See Sprunt, pp. 557-58.
10 J. Thomas Holden (1844-?), son of the Wilmington Town Constable, 1850 Census of New Hanover County.
11 John Baker (1847-?), a friend of the Lane brothers, married Minerva Haywood. See Note 43.
14 Dr. Wm. Belvedere ("Buck") Meares, Jr., brother of Ned. married Mary Thomas Exum. Ibid.
15 Edward Dudley Cowan (1832-?), Cowan file, LCFHS Archives.
16 Dr. Thomas Hill (1832-1906), son of Margaret Lane Hill’s brother, Dr. John Hampton Hill. After leaving UNC in his junior year he read medicine with Dr. James Fergus McRee (See, Note 23). He received his M.D. from the University of New York in 1854. Lived in Salisbury, N.C. He did not marry Miss Holmes, but Mary Caroline McConnaughy. He also practiced in Smithville, served as a C.S.A. surgeon throughout the war. After the war he practiced in Kannapolis, Missouri, and settled in Goldsboro.
18 John Moseley Walker (1824-1894), son of Carleton and Maria Moseley Walker. His brother Dr. Peter M. Walker was married to Margaret Lane. He married Eliza Jane Gibbs (1833-1918). Walker File, LCFHS Archives.
19 John Douglas Taylor (1831-1912), son of John Allan and Catherine Harris Taylor enrolled in UNC in 1850. After his graduation in 1853 he traveled in Europe where he visited Dr. W. Walter Lane and the artist James Whistler. He married Sarah Elizabeth Walker (1839-1910). He was a hero in the battle of Bentonville and father of Col. Walter Taylor. Taylor file, LCFHS Archives and "Col. Walter Taylor" by Susan T. Gerdes.
20 Dr. Wm. Crawford ("Buck") Wilkins (1826-1856). Physician File. LCFHS Archives.
21 Dr. Wm. Watters Davis, Ibid.
22 See Note 28
23 Dr. James Fergus McRee (1794-1869) married Mary ("Polly") Ashe Hill. "Cousin Polly" was the daughter of the Hon. Wm. Henry and Elizabeth Ashe Hill. Her father was Margaret M. Hill Lanes brother. Dr. McRee graduated from medical college of New York in 1814. He was a classical scholar, chemist, and botanist. He practiced in Wilmington from 1815-1869. Hill Genealogy, Physician file, and essay on Dr. McRee written by Jean Thompson Poole for the Dictionary of N.C. Biography, LCFHS Archives.
24 John Haywood Hardin (1853-1922), son of Lauriston B. and Augusta Lane Hardin. He married 1) Fannie B. Manning, 2) Mary B. Brooks. "Dr. "Hardin was a well known Wilmington pharmacist. Dr. R. M. Fales recalls that his lameness describes in these letters followed him into adulthood. Lane Genealogy and telephone interview with Dr. Fales.
Julia Frances Goetel, daughter of Dr. Edward and Elizabeth Lane Goetel. She attended Mr. Seefore's school in Richmond, Virginia.

John Hampton Hill, Jr. (1834-1910), son of John H. and Mary Ann Holmes Hill. His father was Margaret M. Hill Lane's brother.

Chatham County, N.C. was a popular summer residence for many Wilmington families including the Hills, Walkers, and Taylors. Most of these families owned property near Pittsboro. The "Springs" that are so often mentioned may have been the mineral springs near Siler City now known as Mount Vernon Springs, Chatham County 1771-1791.

Edward ("Ned") Dudley Hall (1825-1896), married 1) Susan H. Lane (1827-1850), 2) Sally London Green. He served as High Sheriff of New Hanover Co. 1852-60 and was C.S.A. officer, Hall file, LCFHS Archives.

Dr. James Fergus McRee, Jr. (1821-?), went into the practice of medicine with his father (See note 23) in 1843. He was chairman of the committee to establish the North Carolina Medical Society in 1849. Served as C.S.A. surgeon. Physician file, LCFHS Archives.

Dr. Edwin Alexander Anderson, Jr. (1816-1894). He took degrees from Yale in 1835, 1837, and 1838. He was author of a lengthy article in the 1872 N.Y. Medical Journal of the 1862 Yellow Fever epidemic in Wilmington. His office still stands at 104 Orange Street. Ibid.

The Kansas-Nebraska Act had made rights a fiery issue in 1854. In the summer of 1855 the Know-Nothings or American Party, as it was called, nominated the old president Millard Fillmore, the Democrats nominated James Buchanan. A branch of the Know-Nothings nominated John Fremont, who also was nominated by the newly formed Republican party. In the 1856 election, which was fought quite openly on lines between North and South, Buchanan was elected carrying fourteen slave states and four free states. Fillmore carried one free state, and Fremont, eleven.

Smithville, N.C., now Southport, was a popular summer resort for Wilmington families.

The Meares family: The "old lady" was Mrs. Catherine Grady Meares, widow of the attorney Wm. Belvedere Meares (1787-1841); "Addie".

her daughter, Adelaide Savage Meares who married Dr. Moses deRosset III (1838-1881); "Pen". Judge Oliver Pendleton Meares (1828-1906) who was married to Anne Eliza Wright. Meares file, LCFHS Archives.

"Uncle Thomas" is Thomas Hill, brother of Margaret Lane Hill. His daughters who were with him in Smithville, Maria Rett and Susan. Lane Genealogy, LCFHS Archives.

Ann Mauger London (1835-?), daughter of Henry A. and Sally Lord London. Her maternal grandmother, Eliza Lord Hill (Mrs. Wm. Campbell Lord) was Margaret Hill Lane's sister. AML married 1) Simon Bolivar Zimmerman, 2) Lawrence J. Haughton. She played the St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church (Pittsboro, N.C.) organ for sixty-six years. Hill Genealogy and Chatham County.

William Ancrum Lord, son of Wm. C. and Eliza Hill Lord. (See Note 38.) Hill Genealogy.

Adam Empie, Jr. (1821-1877), son of the Rev. Adam and Ann Eliza Wright Empie; married Virginia Gwathney. He graduated from the Univ. of Va., and practiced law in Wilmington more than thirty years. Hewett and McEachern, p. 49.

William Augustus Wright (1807-1878), son of Judge Joshua Grainger and Susan Bradley Wright, married Eliza Ann Hill, daughter of Margaret Hill Lane's brother William H. and Ann Claypoole Hill. Hill Genealogy.

Ann Claypoole Wright (1836-?), daughter of the above. She married Walker Meares on Oct. 23, 1856. Walker Meares was the brother of Ned. (See note 13). Ibid.

Minerva Haywood, daughter of Jane Graham and Wm. Henry Haywood, Jr. Her father was a U.S. Senator and her uncle, Edward Bishop Dudley, the first popularly elected governor of North Carolina. Haywood Genealogy compiled by Col. Charles Gault.

Kate Walker can not be identified but the ball was described in Wilmington Herald of Sept. 16, 1856. It stated that the garrison at Fort Johnson was decorated with evergreen and flowers and the party lasted until 3 a.m.

An article on Dr. Goetel states that he was one of Wayne County's biggest slave owners. He lived in a brick house near Rosewood, Wayne County (N.C.) Historical Society, The Heritage of Wayne County, 1982. p. 30.

See Note 18.

In Memoriam

Mrs. Hargrove Bellamy
Mrs. Emmett H. Bellamy

Henry Bartley Lee
Mrs. Lawrence Lee

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