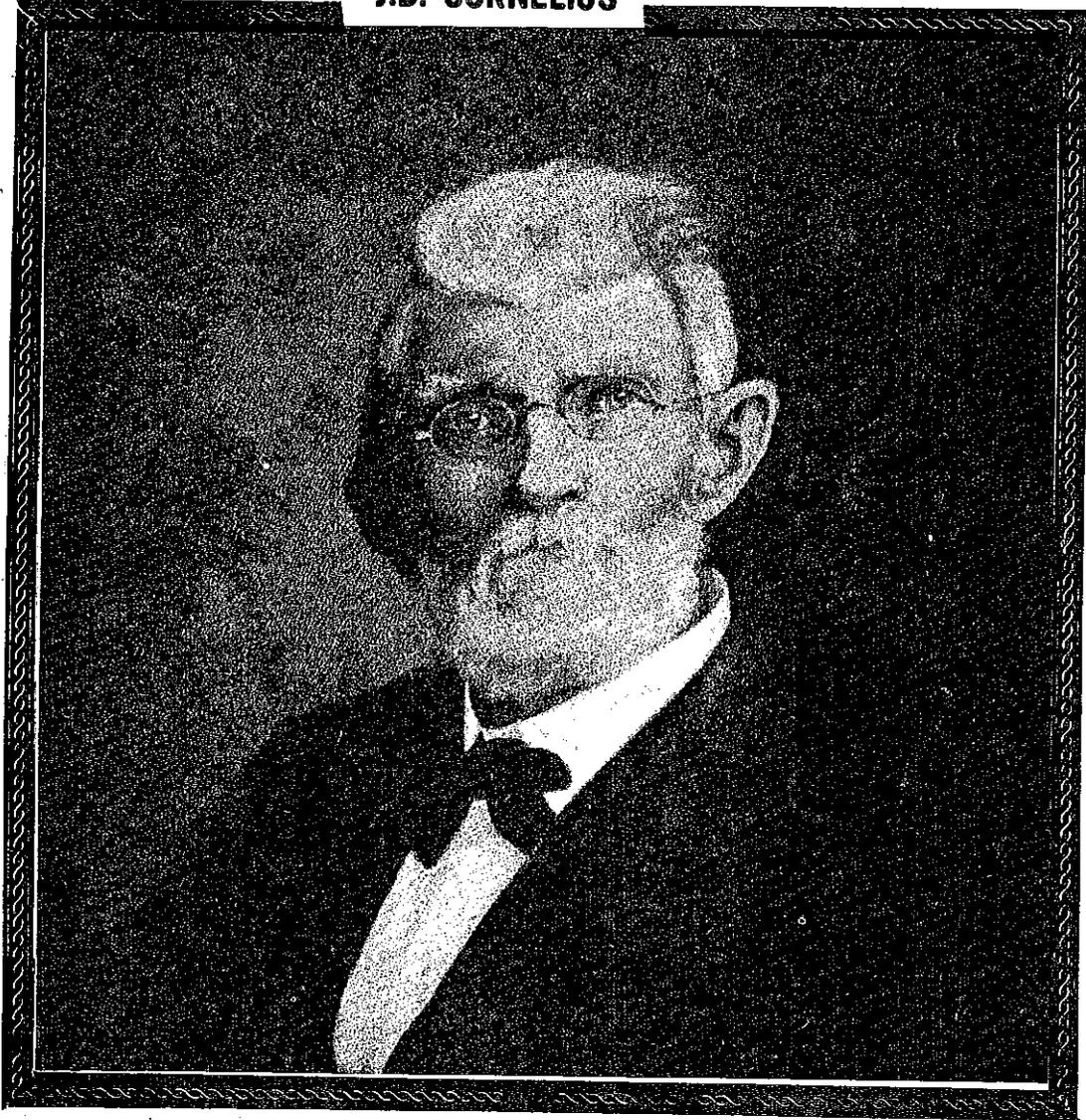


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J.B. CORNELIUS



THE HISTORY OF CORNELIUS

I N T R O D U C T I O N

THE FOLLOWING IS A COMPILATION AND RECORD OF THE HISTORY OF CORNELIUS. THE HISTORY WAS RESEARCHED AND ARRANGED BY THE CORNELIUS JAYCEES. THE SPECIAL DESIRE TO RECORD FOR THE PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATION THE PAST RECORD OF CORNELIUS AND ITS FOUNDING, WAS CREATED BY THE OLDER GENERATION OF CORNELIUS WHO DIDN'T WANT THE PAST TO BE FORGOTTEN. IT IS HOPED THAT THIS RECORD WILL INSPIRE PRIDE AND A SENSE OF BELONGING TO THIS TOWN WITH WHICH WE ARE ALL ASSOCIATED. WE BELIEVE THAT THE PAST CAN TEACH US THE WAY TO HANDLE THE FUTURE AND HELP OUR TOWN NOT JUST TO GROW, BUT TO GROW INTO THE KIND OF PLACE THAT THE FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL BE PROUD TO RAISE THEIR CHILDREN IN. WITH THIS WE DEDICATE THIS HISTORY TO THE PAST, PRESENT AND THE FUTURE OF CORNELIUS.

CORNELIUS JAYCEES, 1971

2-A

WE DEDICATE THIS HISTORY TO MRS. MOLLIE SHERRILL,
MR. & MRS. JAKE DOVE, AND MRS. W. W. WASHAM WHO
LIVED THESE MOMENTS.

LIVES OF GREAT MEN ALL REMIND US
WE CAN MAKE OUR LIVES SUBLIME
AND DEPARTING LEAVE BEHIND US
FOOTPRINTS ON THE ROADS OF TIME

FOOTPRINTS THAT PERHAPS ANOTHER
SAILING ON LIVES SOLEMN MAIN
A FORLORN AND SHIPWRECKED BROTHER
SEEING MAY TAKE HEART AGAIN.

LONGFELLOW

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The Plantation World Around Davidson by Chalmers G. Davidson -

A "Plantation - In 1850 almost all the inhabitants of the piedmont of North Carolina lived on the land. Charlotte had only 1,065 inhabitants in 1860, the end of the agrarian era. The majority of the people were non slave-owners and the majority of slave-owners owned but a few. A man who worked his own land, however praiseworthy his enterprize, and even though assisted by eight or ten "hands" was a farmer and not a planter. The dividing line is considered to be something around 25 or 30 slaves as the ownership of so large a number customarily required the services of an overseer. The landowner who employed an overseer was a planter.

In 1850 there were seventeen planters in Mecklenburg who owned thirty or more slaves. Ten years later, in 1860, there were thirty. In the year 1860, these families were as follows (the numbers following the names indicate the number of families of the same name in the list): Alexander, Ardrey, Bell, Caldwell, Davidson (3), Davis, Grier (4), Johnston (2), Kirkpatrick, Lawing, Mills, Morris, Morrow, Patterson, Parks, Potts (2), Walker, Wallace (2), and White.

The exact location of all these is not known. Many of the homes are piles of rubble, or less, today, even though Sherman did not march through Mecklenburg. The size of some and the isolation of most made them impractical for later generations of the families to maintain. Judging by those which remain today, mansions were few, perhaps a dozen at most, but well kept grounds and comfortable homes were many, and it must be remembered that the mansion-house itself comprised only a part of the living quarters. Kitchens were universally detached buildings in the rear; smoke houses (for meat), storage houses, well houses, carriage houses, and the plantation offices, were separate buildings.

There is little correlation between the size of the big house and the number of slaves in 1860. This is owing largely to the fact that many sizeable estates of the 1830's and 1840's had been more than once sub-divided by 1860. Several of the more noted plantations of the county do not appear on the list of thirty-plus slave-owners at the end of the era. For example, the two "Rosadales." The older one, a half mile south of Sugaw Creek Church, was originally known as "Frew's Folly." Dr. David T. Caldwell who owned it before the war considered himself a physician rather than a planter. The "Rosedale" one half mile west of the present Croft was owned by the Alexanders, beginning with Dr. Joseph McKnitt (son of the noted John McKnitt Alexander) and descending to his son Dr. M. Winslow Alexander (an original Trustee of Davidson College). By 1860, the widow of

the latter had moved to Charlotte. On this plantation stood one of the really great houses of the county, four stories counting the rock basement and fireplaces, four large chimneys, and double galleries extending across the entire front. This place burned in 1967.

The writer has not had an opportunity to visit the home sites to all thirty of the large planters of 1860. The plantations to be described will be those located in the northern part of the county with a brief spill-over into southern Iredell. Not all the significant plantations have been located. For example, the third largest planter in Mecklenburg, according to the 1860 census, was C. L. Torrence. A "Charles L. Torrence" was a trustee of Davidson College in 1840's, but no one in North Mecklenburg has been able to tell me where this planter lived.

Congregations - Owing to the absence of villages, the planters customarily identified themselves with a church congregations, whether prominent in the activities of the denomination or not. The Presbyterians pretty well dominated North Mecklenburg.

The churches closest to Davidson when it was opened in 1837 were Bethel and Centre. Both aided materially in its establishment, although the most substantial support came from the more distant Hopewell farther down the river on the Beatties' Ford Road.

Bethel was organized in 1828. Its brick church is two miles west of the center of Cornelius (once Liverpool) on Highway 73, a hundred yards to the right of 2189. It is not one of the original "Seven Colonial Congregations of Mecklenburg" but is a country church which has preserved much of its early atmosphere. The present building dates from 1896 with a front vestibule added in 1955 in keeping with the earlier Gothic style. The loose rock wall of the graveyard and handsome boxwood attract much admiration today. Of the plantations to be described in this booklet, the following owners had Bethel connections: Williams Patterson and Williams Graham Potts, both of whom are buried there, William Lee Davidson, II, James Johnston, Andrew Springs and David Alexander Caldwell.

Walnut Grove (Johnston - site) - The closest to Davidson of the large plantations was that of James Johnston who died February 14, 1860, just before the war. He was the forebear of many of the Withers, Sheltons, Stoughs and Browns of Davidson today. "Walnut Grove", his home plantation (he owned several) occupied the land south of the college and his house stood where Kerr McGee Farm Center is now. It was a two story, white weather-board building with two end chimneys and one story porch. It was a relatively small mansion house but there were many out buildings. Perhaps had he lived longer, he died at fifty-eight, James Johnston would have built a more elaborate home. He was

amply able to do so as he owned about fifty adult hands in 1860 and was thus one of the largest slave-owners in the county,

In spite of their unpretentious residence, the Johnstons lived well. Family tradition relates of James Johnston that he was a very large man dressed in the velvets and silks then appropriate to male attire and used buttons of gold. To his many slaves, writes a descendent, he was strict. No hungry person was ever turned away from Walnut Grove unfed, though they would be put up for the night in an outbuilding rather than in with the family. On the home place there was a deer park with a fence fifteen feet high, pea fowl etc. The house sat in a beautiful garden.

James Johnston married Ann Bona, daughter of Alexander and Catherine L. Torrence. She was crippled when an outrider of her carriage lost control of his horse and frightened the carriage horses into running away and throwing her out. She spent the latter part of her life in a wheelchair. Of her a descendent wrote: "She was a woman of fine character, patient and intelligent, loving all young people and in turn loved by them. A gentlewoman and Bluestocking Presbyterian, she spent much of her time reading." One quaint fireside custom she shared with Andrew Jackson's wife, Rachel which would betoken her a lady of very modern views for the 19th century.

James and Ann Bona Johnston raised four children to maturity, three sons and a daughter. Of the boys, Patrick and Alexander attended Davidson College. The daughter was educated at Salem Academy as was customary with well-to-do piedmont planters' families. The Johnstons attended Bethel Presbyterian Church and Gilead A. R. P. Church, many of them being buried in the cemetery of the latter. Heirlooms from "Walnut Grove" are preserved by Mrs. James R. McCaldin (Margaret Oeland) in Huntington, Long Island, from whom most of this memoir was obtained.

Cedar Grove (Johnston) site - (One and a half miles North of Highway 73 on River (Bethel Church) Road - now under Lake Norman.

Robert Houston Johnston, known as "Houston" a younger brother of James Johnston of "Walnut Grove", was also a planter of considerable means, owning thirty-two slaves by the 1860 count. His homeplace, which he inherited from his father, on the Beatties' Ford Road, was distinguished by its rows of cedars and was called "Cedar Grove". The house was later owned by Mr. John D. Hager. According to Mr. Hager, it was a large log home, weatherboarded over, with the date 1814 in one of the two end chimneys. Although two stories in height, only the first floor was ever finished and no windows cut in the logs above. There were three windows on either side of the front door and a long porch across the front and back of the house.

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The chief recollection by some of the grandchildren of "Cedar Grove" is the brass work, tremendous locks and hinges. The house was pulled down by Mr. Hager in 1922-23. This plantation is now under Lake Norman.

Houston Johnston married Catherine, daughter of Barbabus Torrence. Their two daughters have many descendants locally. A handsome oil portrait of their only son is owned by Mrs. John White Moore of Mooresville. His brief story is told on a marble monolith in Gilead A.R.P. churchyard:

Barnabas Alexander
son of
R. H. and R. C. Johnston
2nd Lieut. Co. C
37th Reg. N.C. T.
Born Jan 21st, 1838
and was killed
At the Battle of
Spottsylvania Courthouse
Virginia
May 12th, 1864
Aged 26 yrs., 3 mos., 21 days

He died as a soldier prefers, if he must fall, in the front of battle, with his face to the foe, gallantly fighting for his country's right. His body lies buried on the field of battle, ensanguined by his blood. Though the cause for which he fought and fell is lost, his memory is cherished in the hearts of those who loved him living, as a martyr for Southern honor and liberty.

The Milly White Place - Another of the relatively large slave owners lived close to Davidson, according to Mr. John B. Jetton. This was Mrs. Amelia K. White. Her home was over near the gullies on the present Shearer's Chapel Road, but it has been long gone and along with it Mrs. Amelia and her forty Negroes.

Glenwood - (Intersection of Highway 73 and Sam Furr Road, Southwest)

This is the property of James Withers of Davidson now.

In the vicinity of Caldwell Station were two homes of unusual interest. One of these was "Glenwood" which belonged to David Alexander Caldwell and which has recently become famous (or infamous) as "Holly Grove" on LeGette Blythe's Call Down the Storm. D. A. Caldwell built the house in 1830. The jacket picture for Mr. Blythe's novel changes the two-story frame house with its two large and two small end-chimneys to a large four chimney brick house greatly resembling "Rural Hill" over near the river. Only the towering

holly trees and other ornamental paintings remain at "Glenwood" (house is now a shell) to indicate that it was a place of some pretensions in the day of its respectability. D. A. Caldwell was eminently respectable himself. He was an original trustee of Davidson College and Dr. J. B. Alexander calls him "the best cultured man in the county." He was not himself college bred but he sent his only son Edward to the Presbyterian College nearby. To judge from Mr. Blythe's novel Davidson didn't teach him much, in spite of his impeccable pedigree (his great-grandfather, the Reverend David Caldwell, having been the most distinguished divine in the colony). In the days when "Glenwood" was D. A. Caldwell's home, it was a favorite resort of Davidson professors and Davidson students. The plainness of the exterior of the house belies the generous proportions of the two front rooms and the rather elegant lower turn of the staircase. Mr. Caldwell's only daughter, Sally, educated at Edgeworth Seminary in Greensboro, was a lady of rare brilliance and became a noted teacher after the Confederate War. The portrait of her young husband, Dr. William Edward White, a Davidson alumnus who gave his life as a surgeon in the Confederate Army, now hangs in the Eumenean Literary Society Hall on the Campus.

That "Glenwood" proved an oasis for certain lonesome young intellectuals on the faculty is indicated in the writings of Professor Clement D. Fishburne, who arrived at Davidson in 1855, just out of the University of Virginia. He was twenty-three years old:

Not a great many families, he remembered later, lived in the reach of the college who had educational and social advantages such as I would have enjoyed, but a good many of them had ample means to educate their families who had no inclination to do it. A few families were near whom I knew very well and visited frequently and found agreeable and pleasant and profitable society. I recall the families of Mr. J. Read, of D. A. Caldwell, and of Mr. Brevard (or William) McDowell. Other families lived too far off to visit them frequently.

The Reids lived at Mount Mourne and will be noticed under the section of Centre congregation. The McDowells lived three miles from Beattie's Ford, in Iredell County, and were members of Unity congregation across the river in Lincoln County. Robert Irwin McDowell, who married Rebecca Brevard of "Forest Dell" was a trustee of Davidson from 1844 until 1886. His son Brevard graduated from the college.

Perhaps Professor Fishburne taught Ed Caldwell, who was not far from his own age, and went home to "Glenwood" with his student.

Hickory Grove - site - (Intersection of Highway 115 and old Caldwell Station, new Mayes Road.

The other large plantation near Caldwell Station was the home of Andrew Springs. The house stood in site of the present Highway 115, just north of the Mayes Road to Concord. The trees and magnificent old boxwoods can be seen today across the railroad tracks where the Mayes modern brick house occupies the site. The Springs house was standing, deserted in the 1920's and 1930's. At first glance, it appeared to be a one story cottage with a quaint stoop on brick arches. A closer view revealed the remains of a three story edifice, with plastered half basement rooms below and a good sized third story with dormer windows above. Dr. J. Brevard Alexander, the Mecklenburg historian, says that Andrew Springs "was noted for being an excellent farmer, keeping everything tidy and clean, as well as making a profit out of all his crops." Mr. Springs operated a store and the local post office in addition to his plantation. One son attended Davidson College, briefly. His daughter Mary married Major John H. Caldwell, brother of D. A. Caldwell of "Glenwood."

Andrew Springs' obituary (he died October 15, 1860) states that he "possessed a handsome mein, was fixed in the principles and honest and conscientious in his political predictions. Although a ruling elder in Bethel, he is buried beneath a handsome monument in the First Presbyterian churchyard in Charlotte.

The Springs' family have a talent for accumulation and preservation. Andrew's cousins in the town of Charlotte and in upper South Carolina were equally wealthy "before the war". Many are even richer today. This is one of the families in the piedmont section which belongs both to the planter aristocracy of history and the industrial plutocracy of the twentieth century.

William Patterson site - (present Outrigger Harbor) two and three-fourths miles off Highway 73 on the Jetton Road, 2151.

Some six miles west of Davidson, on the site of the present Outrigger Harbor on Lake Norman, lived another family associated with Bethel Church. This was the homeplace of William Patterson, owner of thirty-eight slaves in 1860. The Pattersons moved to upper Mecklenburg from Providence community. According to records preserved by Miss Lenora Patterson of Davidson, William Patterson moved into his new home in this section in 1829. It was a typical two-story weatherboarded house, with two large end-chimneys, a one story porch across the front and the usual outbuildings. This house burned in 1945, but photographs of it are preserved by Patterson descendants. No name is recollected for this plantation,

though it probably had one. None of the sons of William Patterson attended Davidson College before the war, but the name of the progenitor of the line is perpetuated on the faculty roles in his distinguished great-grandson, Dr. William Patterson Cumming.

Walnut Grove (William-Patterson - site - (One and a third miles west of Highway 21 on Hambright Road to Patterson-Potts Road, thence north to end of the road)

Dr. Cumming's own grandfather (John, son of William) lived in a much more imposing home. His father purchased for him, in 1856, the seven hundred and fifty acre plantation and handsome brick dwelling of the Reverend John Williamson of Hopewell Church. The Reverend John Williamson had been a planter and slave owner as well as a preacher. He was an original trustee of Davidson College and a brother of the second president of the College, the Reverend Samuel Williamson. Dr. Sommerville's History of Hopewell relates the following: The Reverend John Williamson and his wife were pioneers in education. When the present Hopewell brick church was built, they erected a school house in their yard from the old frame church and it was here that many of the young women of the county received their education. A story was handed down by the Williamson slaves that Mrs. Williamson shut the young ladies in a dark closet under the stairway when they were "naughty."

The Reverend John Williamson occupied the brick house as a manse until his death. Thereafter, it was the home of his brother, Dr. Samuel Williamson, retired president of Davidson College. Much that concerned the early history of the Presbyterian institution was doubtless discussed and settled in the brick manse.

William Patterson bought the manse and plantation from the Reverend Samuel Williamson. The Pattersons called the place "Walnut Grove," whether a name inherited from the Williamsons or their own choice is not known. The name is recorded along with others in this area, in an 1870's autograph book which belonged to Miss Banna Patterson.

Older residents of Davidson remember the "Patterson girls" as elderly ladies in and out of the village some thirty or forty years ago. Most of them were born at "Walnut Grove" and remembered it with affection and pride although it burned in 1883. The ladies differed widely in personality, from the gentle and retiring Mrs. Calvin Cumming who had served with her husband as a missionary in Japan, to the lively "Miss Nita" (the Widow Caldwell) who, when in her seventies, could out-square dance most of her acquaintances half her age. The "Walnut Grove" Pattersons attended Hopewell Presbyterian Church.

The Robert Potts House - (One half mile east of Highway 115
on Smith-Potts Road to Cornelius)

We cannot leave Bethel community without a notice of the Robert Potts home, a half mile east of the Confederate statue in Cornelius. Although not on the list of large planters, Robert Potts built substantially and well. It is a two-story log structure, clapboarded over, built in 1811. The wings are more recent additions. It has been authentically restored by Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Smith who have furnished it with period antiques, some the possessions of the original owner. Most intriguing is the shadow painting on the wall, typical of the times but nowhere else preserved in this vicinity. The Potts were sterling stock if not as rich as some of their neighbors. Robert, the builder, was an elder in Bethel (where he was buried November, 1859) and an antebellum trustee of Davidson College. He sent his sons to the Presbyterian institution, one of whom Charles Stanhope Potts, who entered the first class, claimed to have hauled the first load of brick to build the College when nineteen years of age.

Cornelius Presbyterian Church - Cornelius Presbyterian Church is the daughter church of the Bethel Presbyterian Church which is located about 2¼ miles west of the town. The church was begun in 1909 as a Sunday School in the days when transportation was rather difficult.

It was organized into a church with twenty-two (22) charter members and the Reverend Mr. J. E. Wool came as its first minister in 1910. The first services were held above the old John Mayhew store in Cornelius. Reverend Wool was followed by the Reverend J. C. Clontz under whose ministry the present building was erected in 1923. Mr. Clontz was followed by W. Ted Smith. W. H. Johnston was the minister from 1936 through 1940. He was followed by the Reverend J. L. Russell who served the church for two years before he became a military chaplain during the Second World War.

The Reverend Mr. S. A. Ewart was pastor from 1944 through 1946. He was followed by the Reverend Ben F. Livingston who served the churches during 1947 and 1948.

Dr. Ernest Beatty of Davidson College was interim supply until J. E. Wayland, Jr. took over this responsibility in 1951. Upon his graduation from Columbia Theological Seminary in 1952, Mr. Wayland was ordained and installed as minister.

In 1966 a new manse was built beside the church, the old one torn down, and Mr. Wayland and his family are now living here.

Bethel Presbyterian Church - On a three and a half acre plot donated by Miss Ann Potts, Bethel Presbyterian Church built its first small sanctuary in 1830, following a meeting of Presbyterians of the community a few months before who resolved that a Christian Church of Presbyterian faith should be organized which Presbyterians of the community could attend because there were no good roads and the women and children were deprived of church privileges. This church served until 1895 when the sanctuary now in use was built with bricks made by hand by church members and friends. Later a new floor was laid, modern pews installed, and Sunday School rooms built.

Like many Presbyterian churches and churches of other denominations, Bethel had a number of Negro members prior to the War Between the States. The last of these members, Selina Johnston, received into the membership of Bethel Church on profession of faith in 1853, died in 1927 at the age of ninety.

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The Reverend Thomas Espy was the first pastor of this church in 1829 and since that time there have been approximately 35 pastors and supply pastors. There were 11 charter members, four of which were elders.

During its long history Bethel Presbyterian Church has had many achievements to its credit. Three of its members, the Knox sisters, served as missionaries in the foreign field. The church is currently, along with the Cornelius Presbyterian Church, supporting its own missionary, Miss Cora Wayland, the sister of our minister.

The present minister, the Reverend J. E. Wayland, Jr. came to Bethel Church as supply minister in 1951. He was installed as minister of the Bethel and Cornelius Presbyterian Churches in 1952.

Ministers who have served the Bethel and Cornelius Churches:

Thomas Espy
Patrick T. Sparrow
S. Williamson
E. D. Junkin
James H. Coleton
R. B. Anderson
J. M. Anderson
L. K. Glasgow
K. W. Culbertson
J. Horace Lacy
R. A. Webb
R. S. Arrowood
R. W. Boyd
W. B. McNair
J. M. Grier
M. E. Sentelle - Cornelius Church organized here and these ministers following served both churches.

John E. Wool
Bolling Hobson
W. C. Wanchope
R. C. Clontz
Wilson Moore
W. T. Smith
W. H. Johnson
J. L. Russell
S. A. Ewart
Ben J. Livingston
J. E. Wayland, Jr.

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Cornelius Church of God - The Cornelius Church of God was organized on June 2, 1946 from a tent revival on the lot where Cashion's Supermarket is now. It was started with twenty-two (22) members.

The lot where the church now stands was purchased from Mr. Columbus Hager. The block church was completed and the first service held on July 20, 1948.

In 1963 the church was bricked and Sunday School rooms were added and the church was remodeled inside and new pews and pulpit furniture added.

In 1965 a parsonage was built on the lot across from the church.

In 1966 a fellowship hall was built with kitchen and dining area.

The church now has fifty-two (52) members.

Pastors who have served:

Rev. B. H. McDonald	1946-1948
Rev. G. W. Dyson	1948-1950
Rev. Archie Bunn	1950-1952
Rev. Dixie Chambers	1952-1954
Rev. Reid Huffman	1954-1956
Rev. J. E. Hayes	1956-1959
Rev. I. C. Morris, Sr.	1959-1960
Rev. B. L. Bowles	1960-1964
Rev. W. S. Williamson	1964-

The Cornelius Tabernacle - The Cornelius Tabernacle will observe its thirty-third anniversary on August 16, 1971. Reverend and Mrs. S. K. Clanton have been the faithful pastors from the opening and their ministry has been rewarded by the beautiful church and the fine membership which now stands as a monument to their faith and labours.

Thirty-three years ago, August 16, 1938, Reverend and Mrs. Clanton came to Cornelius from Charlotte, North Carolina with a burden on their hearts for a revival in Cornelius. What was to have been of three weeks duration, became five weeks and many decisions were made for Christ.

A severe testing came after the revival had been in progress for one week. A severe storm came and the tent was lowered by the wind and rain, but services continued the next night. After five weeks under the tent numerous requests were made by many who had been converted that an organized and permanent work be established.

Some of the people made arrangements for the use of the Junior Hall and the meetings were moved there for the winter. A Sunday School was organized with 87 in attendance the first Sunday. The following summer the tent was again erected on the same site for three more months, then the location was moved to the present theater site, where not only the Sunday School was well established but regular weekly church services as well. After the sale of the theater building and there was no building available, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. White opened their home on School Street for a meeting place, this being used for almost three years. During this time a building fund was started and a lot purchased for the present church building from Mr. and Mrs. Tom Brackett. Building was started immediately with Reverend Clanton and members of the church assisting the carpenters in every way possible as all wanted a permanent church home. After one month, on July 5, 1941, the first services were held in the new building even though it was far from being finished. The late Dr. A. G. Garr of the Garr Memorial Church conducted the dedicatory service.

For several years it was conducted as merely a fellowship group and no members were received into the church. Later, after numerous requests, the policy was changed and members were taken into a regular church fellowship and many of the charter members are still active in the work of the church. Church membership is not emphasized as much, however, as a consistent walk with the Lord.. At present there are 80 members and scattered across the nation are many who began their Christian experience by being born again and living for God in Cornelius Tabernacle. A very active Sunday School has an average of 100 per week with departmentalized classes, taught with spirit filled teachers and officers.

When first built, the building was a frame one, located on the Charlotte-Statesville highway. The years have seen many improvements. In 1956 the church was brick veneered and a full basement is the Christian Education department as present with all classes meeting with the exception of the Adult Bible Class. Later a dwelling house built back of the church was purchased and has been used as an extra Sunday School building and Fellowship Hall. Plans are to build an additional Sunday School building in the future.

God has been especially generous with the Cornelius Tabernacle. During the war years when materials were very scarce for building a friend had just enough celotex ceiling for the ceiling of the sanctuary. The air cooler, furnace and Hammond organ were all donated. These were things the congregation were unable to purchase, but the Lord supplied them. Phillipians 4:19. The gifts above all these are friends and members God has given to make his work a reality in Cornelius.

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In the last few years, pews have been installed in the sanctuary, carpeting placed on the floor and the entire interior painted. There is no debt connected to any of these. Now the church is completely air-conditioned.

Many nice things could be said about so many who have been faithful through the years, if space permitted, but all honor and glory go to the Lord who has been faithful and supplied the needs over and over again.

While the church grew to the limit of its building much prayer went up that more land might be purchased. This came to pass as the church was able to buy the lot bordering the church property. This was developed for parking until the time an Educational Building can be erected. This has a frontage of 86 feet and an depth of 300 feet. Still the church is free from debt and for all these things we are a grateful people.

As to the government in the church, a Council of four members and the pastor as Chairman, meet every two months and work out plans for the advancement of the work. Once a year an entire membership meeting is held and plans discussed and passed upon. At this time new council members are elected by the membership. Council members serve for terms of two years duration.

The Ladies Auxiliary of Cornelius Tabernacle was organized many years ago and have done much to enhance the beauty of the church by the many gifts they have donated such as the pulpit for the sanctuary, the Bible for the pulpit, a generous offering on the carpet and numerous other gifts. Their meetings are held monthly and their work is outstanding, not only in the church, but to many in the community and to missionaries in other countries.

One year ago the congregation voted, without one dissenting vote, to become affiliated with the Church of the Foursquare Gospel International. This became a reality in December 1970. The name of Cornelius Tabernacle became Cornelius Foursquare Church and the new sign has been erected.

The congregation felt by doing this it would have a wider field to spread the Gospel, as the missionary program of the Foursquare Gospel is in every country that ever had an open door for the Gospel. There are over 800 missions stations that have been built around the world.

Reverend and Mrs. Clanton are still the only pastors that the church has had, but at their retirement, the Foursquare Organization in co-operation with the congregation will supply pastors.

Cornelius Baptist Church - Cornelius Baptist Church was started soon after the beginning of the century, back about 1904.

It seems that it all began when the roof of the Hopewell Baptist Church needed repairing. Most of the members felt that they could with greater profit build a new building which would be closer to their homes. Mainly under the leadership of A. P. Swett, definite plans began to take shape. Under the supervision of the brothers R. D. and C. B. Mooney, who were contractors in this area, there was erected the building which now stands on Catawba Avenue.

There seem to be no extant records of that first membership. It is certain, however, that there were less than 50 members, probably less than 40.

The first pastor was the Reverend C. M. Murchison, who stayed only for a short while. Along with Reverend Murchison, mention should be made of Reverend L. R. Pruitt, who was for many years a pastor in Charlotte. Reverend Pruitt did considerable work in helping the Cornelius church get started. It was he who selected the location for the church.

Mr. Murchison was followed by W. A. Hough. He was succeeded by Reverend T. L. Cashwell. His pastorate ended December 25, 1921. Mrs. Cashwell was followed by Reverend James Brown who served until December 31, 1926.

Next in line was E. C. Taylor. He resigned as pastor in March 1930. Then W. W. Rimmer was called. The date of his resignation was May 7, 1939. The next pastor was Reverend Homer Goode, who stayed at Cornelius for four years. It was during that time that the basement was dug and several Sunday School rooms and a kitchen were built.

Reverend Goode was followed by Reverend Paul D. Drum. He stayed for two years. The next two pastors Zeb Baker and R. G. Bennett remained only a short time at Cornelius.

When Reverend James Bulman became pastor in 1949, the church membership was around 100. He remained pastor until the early part of 1955. William Neal Baker took over the pastoral duties on October 1, 1955 and remained until April 1966. Ground breaking for a new pastorium was held in August 1963. The Bakers moved into the new home on March 23, 1964. Dedication and open house for the pastorium were held Sunday, April 26, 1964.

Reverend Dennis M. Larkins became pastor in January 1967. The church membership at present is 273.

Mount Zion Methodist Church - Cornelius, N. C. - Mount Zion Methodist Church at Cornelius, N. C. is in the upper part of Mecklenburg County, about 18 miles north of Charlotte, and a mile south of Davidson College. With a membership of 800, it is the largest rural church in the Western North Carolina Conference, and is thought to be one of the largest in the South.

The first record we have in connection with this church is on March 24, 1828, Alexander Warsham deeded a tract of land to David George, Osborn Jetton, Job Cannon, John Kerr and Andrew Moore, Trustees of Zion Episcopal Church for the purpose of building a church. This building was on what is now Highway 73, about one half mile southeast of Bethel Presbyterian Church. It is said services were held under a brush arbor, with a "stand" being erected for the preacher. Remains of the first cemetery can be seen there. The congregation remained there seven years.

The congregation moved from the old site to the present one in Cornelius on Highway 115, and there is a record of a contract made by one, James Black, February 15, 1835, to build a weather boarded church building 25 x 35, on part of this present site given for this purpose by Alexander Johnston. The contract price was \$90.00 for all labor, the church to furnish the materials. An additional two and one-half acres (which is the lower part of the old cemetery) was purchased from W. A. Black for \$30.00.

This building served until 1870 when a second building was erected.

A second building was erected in 1870. In 1878 lamps with reflectors were installed, candles being used to light the church previously. In the same year the church was sealed and a gallery was constructed. It was not until 1890 that an organ was placed in the church. Previously a tuning fork was used to get the singers at the proper pitch. It took three years to build this church, and the building was dedicated in 1903. The site for that sanctuary, and the present one, was acquired by deed from P. A. Stough, for seven and one-half acres February 18, 1902. The brick to build this building was made nearby.

After building this church, several additions and alterations were made. In 1919 a gallery was constructed inside the church and the rear part was partitioned in Sunday School rooms.

In 1942 a new educational building was built adjacent to the rear of the church.

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What we knew as the "old church", completed in 1902 and dedicated in 1903, was abandoned August 15, 1954, a new church being erected and first service held August 22, 1954.

In 1945 a new parsonage of brick, was built on the front of the church property.

On August 20, 1952, a new church was begun. It consisted of a Sanctuary with full size basement. This was the fifth building for the Methodist members of Mt. Zion - the fourth building on the present site. Sloan & Wheatley of Charlotte, were the architects. Jack M. McGee was the general foreman on the job. Reverend F. W. Kiker came to Mt. Zion in the fall of 1949, and it was under his leadership that the new building was undertaken and completed, the first meeting being held in the church on August 22, 1954.

The building committee for the above church was: A. D. Cashion, Chairman, H. R. Smith, Co-chairman, Keith R. Howard, Miss Mary Sherrill, Ben A. Washam, B. S. Sherrill, Sr. and Otis Wally.

On May 24, 1959, the church mortgage for the new church was burned during a special dedication service held in the sanctuary at 2:15 P.M. Reverend J. C. Grose was pastor of the church at that time, and his topic at the 11:00 o'clock service was "Builders for Eternity". This Sunday was also the annual Homecoming Sunday.

The dedication service was conducted by Dr. Walter J. Miller, District Superintendent of Methodist churches in the Charlotte District of the Methodist Church, led the service and members of the official board of Mt. Zion and Trustees of the church participated.

The plans were for a two-story Educational Building containing approximately 16,000 square feet of floor space. The structure was designed to match the existing sanctuary, which was built in 1951.

The building was completed in December 1961. It is constructed of brick, concrete blocks and steel, and is completely air-conditioned, as was the church. The building houses the pastors study, an office for the Director of Christian Education and a library. Another feature of the building is a parlor, complete with kitchenette, for committee meetings.

The kitchen in the social hall in the sanctuary was remodeled to accomodate cafeteria style serving.

Sloan & Wheatley were the architects for the Educational Building. G. E. Vinroot Construction Company did the building.

A covered passage connects the new building with the sanctuary. The Sunday School began using the building in January, 1962.

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Pastors who have served Mt. Zion Methodist Church for various lengths of time for the past 95 years.

1872 - 1878	Rev. T. P. Triplett
1878 - 1881	Rev. J. T. Harris
1881 - 1883	Rev. W. P. Williams
1883 - 1887	Dr. J. W. North
1887 - 1888	Rev. L. E. Stacey
1888 - 1892	Rev. M. A. Smith
1892 - 1893	Rev. J. O. Shelley
1893 - 1894	Dr. Keith
	Rev. J. E. England
1894 - 1895	Rev. J. E. Gay
1895 - 1896	Rev. J. S. Nelson
1897 - 1898	Rev. Ira Irwin
1898 - 1900	Rev. C. M. Campbell
1902 - 1904	Rev. H. M. Vestal
1904 - 1907	Rev. W. H. Willis
1907 - 1908	Dr. Dan Atkins
1908 - 1909	Rev. S. T. Barber
1909 - 1910	Rev. J. W. Clegg
1910 - 1911	Rev. J. W. Jones
1911 - 1912	Rev. C. A. Woods
	Rev. T. Paris
1913 - 1914	Rev. C. M. Pickens
1914 - 1915	Rev. T. J. Ogburn
1915 - 1917	Rev. E. M. Hoyle
1917 - 1918	Mr. Page, Rev. J. Green
	Rev. T. A. Grose Rev. N. G. Allen
1918 - 1920	Rev. W. B. Davis
1920 - 1922	Rev. T. C. Jordon
1922 - 1925	Rev. J. H. Bradley
1925 - 1927	Rev. G. W. Vick
1927 - 1929	Rev. R. A. Swarangin
1929 - 1931	Rev. H. H. Robbins
1931 - 1933	Rev. W. A. Barber
1933 - 1937	Rev. E. M. Avett
1937 - 1939	Rev. H. C. Sprinkle
1939 - 1945	Rev. W. S. Smith
1945 - 1949	Rev. B. Shankle
1949 - 1956	Rev. F. W. Kiker
1956 - 1958	Rev. G. E. White
1958 - 1962	Rev. J. C. Grose, Sr.
1962 - 1967	Rev. D. G. Bridger
1967 -	Rev. P. H. Gibbs

J. B. CORNELIUS - The following is a brief glimpse into the life of the man for whom our town was named.

Due to the years that separate his time from us, we are unable to do justice to the fine gentleman of long ago years, but are sure that as the history of Cornelius unfolds you will be more and more aware of the significance of his life in the growth of a town he loved so much.

J. B. Cornelius was the son of Jessie Cornelius and Margaret Cornelius. He was born September 1, 1833 and died October 23, 1914. On August 7, 1859, he married A. E. Sherrill.

Mr. Cornelius was originally from Iredell County, North Carolina. His homestead still stands at Highway 150 out of Mooresville toward Denver.

He had one eye, lost the other as a boy plowing. He lost a brother in the Civil War. He himself was not in the war because of only one eye.

Mr. Cornelius was an elder at Mt. Zion Methodist Church.

There is a J. B. Cornelius Foundation, Inc, Frank Sherrill, President, with currently sixty girls involved with college scholarships.

He sent a missionary to Japan for five years.

He also gave \$10,000 to childrens home in Winston Salem, N.C,

The picture on the cover of this history is in possession of Mrs. Molly Sherrill. It was painted by "Miss Courtney" of Lenoir, N. C. It hung in "Cornelius Hall" of Davenport College, Lenoir, N. C. until 1942.

Richard Johnston Stough - Co-finder with Mr. J. B. Cornelius, of the town of Cornelius, was born in Cabarrus County in 1844. His father, Mr. Alfred Stough, moved the family to Mecklenburg before the war. Through his mother, Elizabeth McClure, he was a descendant of Matthew McClure, a signer of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

Dick Stough grew up on the farm and on July 8, 1862, at the Mt. Zion Church ground, he volunteered in the Confederate States Army. He served as corporal in Company K, 56th Regiment of North Carolina Troops. Many young men from the Mooresville, Davidson, Huntersville and Mt. Zion sections served in this company. They were trained at Camp Mangum, Raleigh, North Carolina, and then were sent to guard the railroad from Weldon to Richmond. On March 25, 1865 the company made the charge in front of Petersburg, Virginia. Since they were outnumbered by about 4 to 1 they were unsuccessful and most were captured. They were taken to a prison camp at Fort Lookout, Maryland. The treatment was cruel and the food was terrible. One man said "The meat had so many worms in it that if you threw it away, it would crawl back". They were released on the 20th of June 1865 and began the slow journey home. Part of the way they rode flat cars and when they reached Charlotte they were tired and hungry but Mr. Stough and his future brother-in-law, Mr. I. W. Barnett, walked the last twenty miles to their homes near Cornelius. These experiences, horrible as they were, nevertheless cemented all these young veterans in bonds of friendship that grew stronger through the years and endured until death.

After returning home, Mr. Stough, farmed for awhile and then went to Davidson and opened a general store. In 1874 he married Miss Mary Ann (Mollie) Johnston who died in 1880 leaving one son. Pat Stough, who for many years, until his death in 1922, was secretary and treasurer of the Cornelius Cotton Mill.

After his wife's death, Mr. Stough became very concerned with the education of the children in the Mt. Zion section. There was no primary school very near and no secondary school where the young people could be prepared for college. He attempted, along with other interested parents, to build an academy. This did not materialize so he and Mr. W. A. Brown decided to build a one room school beside Mt. Zion church. In 1885 the school was built and Miss Emma Thompson of Davidson was hired to teach. She had attended Lander College in South Carolina and the University of North Carolina. This was the first "free school" in what is now Cornelius. The age of the pupils ranged from Mollie Barnett (Mrs. F. C. Sherrill, Sr.) who was five years old, to Dr. W. W. Washam, who was about sixteen and preparing for college. This was in 1885, and today, 86 years later, three pupils are still living, Mrs. F. C. Sherrill, Sr. age 91, Grace Barnett (Mrs. J. A. Dove) age 95, and Mr. J. A. Dove, age 95.

Others attending were: Bona White, Nat & Ernest Washam, Tom, Bob, & Jim Readling, Pat Stough, Charles & Haywood Barnett, Maggie Mock (Mrs. Perry Goodrum), Lizzie Mock (Mrs. John Alexander), Rose, Julia & Sam Thompson, Dr. Sam Withers and Dr. Jim Withers, Jim, Ed & Dan Bost, Rose Smith & Will Mock. This is not a complete list, just the ones remembered.

In July, 1886, Mr. Stough created an educational problem for the new school. He married the teacher, however, the school continued with another teacher.

Mr. Stough had been buying cotton from the farmers in this section and shipping it to the small cotton mills that had been started in North and South Carolina after the war. He moved his cotton platform from Davidson to a spot about one mile South and shipped out so much cotton that it was called Liverpool by the farmers and railroad men. Soon he, with Mr. J. B. Cornelius started a little store that was known as Stough Cornelius Company. This grew and continued in operation until 1941.

About 1890, Mr. Stough, his brother-in-law, Mr. C. W. Johnston, and Mr. J. B. Cornelius decided to build a cotton mill here. This would provide jobs and wages for the farmers and their families. In addition to providing a market for the cotton raised in this section. The mill was incorporated in 1891 and stock sold. Mr. Cornelius was president and R. J. Stough secretary and treasurer. In a few years Mr. Pat Stough became secretary and treasurer and continued until his death in 1922. The mill was expanded and homes erected for the families of the workers. The brick for the very first part of the mill were made in the lot North of Mrs. F. C. Sherrill's present home. Mr. Pat Stough was followed by another of R. J. Stough's sons, J. C. Stough. In 1944 the mill was sold to Ix Company and then to the present owners, Reeves Brothers. Although he continued to be interested in the Cornelius Cotton Mills, Mr. C. W. Johnston moved to Charlotte and became a successful mill owner, having plants at Rock Hill, South Carolina, Huntersville and Highland Park, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Mr. Stough served on the school board for many years and the official board of Mt. Zion church. Early in the 1900's a beautiful brick sanctuary was built to replace the first board church and a large school building took the place of the one room building. Cornelius became an incorporated town about this time and honored Mr. Cornelius by taking his name. In 1903 Mr. Stough built his home just north of the church and lived there until his death. A bank was started with the first directors being J. B. Cornelius, J. M. Dove, F. C. Sherrill, R. J. Stough, P. A. Stough and T. S. Williamson.

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During all these years Mr. Stough maintained a close relationship with his former army comrades. He attended reunions of the United Confederate Veterans in many cities of the Confederacy. The last one he attended was at Memphis, Tenn. in 1924. He was eighty (80) years old but he enjoyed it as much as all the others.

It was in 1886 after he returned from the U.C.V. Reunion at Richmond, Virginia that he determined to start a yearly reunion of the veterans of Company K and all other veterans in this section. He also dreamed of erecting a monument here honoring the soldiers of the confederacy. His bride, a daughter of Lt. S. S. Thompson, was just as enthusiastic and after that most of the reunions were held at Mt. Zion. Then in 1900, Mt. Zion church grounds were decided upon as a permanent reunion place and it was held on a Thursday in August every year for more than 50 years. Long after the last confederate veteran died the young veterans of World War I continued the reunion. Each year Mrs. Stough would put a Confederate Flag on the graves of each of the forty-five old soldiers buried in Mt. Zion cemetery and she, with the other ladies of the community, would prepare a dinner for the veterans and their friends. It was always bountiful and delicious. Usually there was a speaker. Always there were refreshments stands and carnival rides and novelty stands. There was always a band concert in the early days and the old soldiers formed a line and marched over the grounds to the tune of "Dixie." As the years passed the line grew shorter, the steps faltered and the "Rebel Yell" sounded weaker, but they still could tell the tales that fascinated all the youngsters.

The monument that Mr. Stough had dreamed of became a reality in 1910. It was erected through the combined efforts of the veterans and the entire community. Five hundred and eighty-five people contributed individually while hundreds of others gave their time and talents through box suppers, fiddlers conventions, plays, ball games and any other way that money could be raised. In 1907 the first three slabs of granite were unloaded from a flat car which had been stopped directly in front of the monument site. The railroad authorities allowed one hour for unloading and many of the men of the town helped. In 1908 and 1909 the other sections were delivered and put in place and on August 6, 1910 came the biggest reunion celebration of them all. Judge Armistead Burwell made the address and little Miss Feriba Stough, youngest daughter of R. J. Stough, pulled the cord that unveiled the monument to a cheering crowd of about 6,000 people.

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Mr. Stough's hopes for erecting a public library on the monument plot were never realized but through the years the farmers company was organized to gin the cotton of the neighboring farmers and sell fertilizer. A furniture factory was built and operated for a number of years. A drug store owned by Mr. Stough was successful for some years. Two sons served in World War I, S. T. Stough (Tush) with 113th Field Artillery, 30th Division and Lt. Mike A. Stough, Instructor in the Fort Sill School of Fire. His three daughters taught school. Mellie (Mrs. R. S. DuRant) taught at Cornelius as did Miss Feriba Stough and Lucy (Mrs. Brice J. Willeford) taught at Kannapolis.

On February 4, 1926, Mr. Stough died at his home. He was greatly mourned by his family, the community and his old comrades. He had lived to see a thriving town grow from nothing in less than forty years and had been vitally concerned with every step of its progress.

DR. WILLIAM W. WASHAM -- The Cornelius Jaycees pay special tribute to one of our beloved citizens who has left our midst but whose memory remains in the hearts of the citizens of Cornelius who he so devotedly served for so many years.

The following are excerpts from the Mecklenburg Gazette and can best tell the warmth and compassion of one of Cornelius' leading citizens.

DR. WASHAM, FAMILY DOCTOR SERVED NORTH MECKLENBURG COMMUNITY MANY YEARS.

The farm boy who walked seven thousand miles to become a beloved family physician was Dr. W. W. Washam.

He was born October 18, 1870, in a log cabin on a small farm in Iredell County, where he lived until he was sixteen months old when his father sold this farm and bought another one in Mecklenburg County, 2½ miles west of Davidson.

Here Dr. Washam grew up, helping with the chores and attending schools of the day and working on the farm. Sundays the family attended services at Mt Zion Methodist Church in Cornelius where he joined at the age of 10.

The pattern of life was pretty much the same for him for a good many years - working on the farm, attending Sunday School and going to school a few months in the winter, spending an occasional night with a friend. Once in a great while he would go to Charlotte when his father and several neighbors would haul cotton to the market. The trip to Charlotte would be an event that was anticipated with great pleasure and talked about a long time afterwards. To make the trip in wagons required at least two days, and one night was spent on the roadside by a big camp fire.

The years passed and as Dr. Washam reached manhood the question arose, what to do and what profession he should devote his life. From time to time he would go to the Davidson College commencement, which was just about the only event in the way of entertainment that existed in that day. Hundreds of people from far and near attended the commencements in the old days.

The North Carolina Medical College was then at Davidson and somehow he felt the urge to study medicine and give his life in service to humanity. He was 24 years old and had not finished high school, so he entered the

Davidson academy and finished high school, and at the age of 27 he entered the N. C. Medical College and studied physics and chemistry at Davidson College at the same time. For seven years he walked 2½ miles from his home to the college.

It was hard financially so he decided to apply for a teacher's certificate which he received and taught school on the side to help defray the expenses of college.

At the 1901 Davidson commencement he received the greatly coveted diploma, although he did his first medical practice in the summer of 1900 by taking over the practice of the late Dr. Elmer Wilson in Catawba County, while Dr. Wilson went to Louisville, Ky. to attend an old soldiers' reunion and visit friends.

After graduation he continued to live at the old home place and he began riding horseback to see his patients. The old saddle is still in his possession in Cornelius. In 1902, at the suggestion of the late Dr. Ed Caldwell, another physician in North Mecklenburg at the time, the young Dr. Washam moved his office and home to Cornelius and invested in a buggy and became a horse and buggy doctor.

The general practice of medicine, which in those days covered everything from obstetrics to teeth extraction, was all in a days work, and he took care of each case to the best of his ability. He always went wherever he was called, dispensing his own medicine at first, later a drug store was established in Cornelius where prescriptions were filled.

Dr. Washam's genial nature and friendly smile endeared him to all with whom he came in contact and the twinkle in his eye and affable manner often did more for his patient than the medicine.

During the nearly fifty years of busy practice, he has delivered thousands of babies. Often a young mother will come in and say that my grandmother said you were the best baby doctor she has ever seen, so I want you to look after my baby.

On his 85th birthday, Dr. Washam retired from active practice, but still feels the urge to serve humanity.

He has been a member of Williams Masonic Lodge at Cornelius for over 60 years, and a member of the Scottish rite bodies for years. He maintains a strong interest in current events, and always enjoys having old friends drop by for a friendly chat. He and Mrs. Washam live quietly at their home on Catawba Avenue, in Cornelius, and as citizens pass his door many of them remark that Dr. Washam was the only doctor they had ever known.

Dr. Washam passed away on June 2, 1958. His wife is still living and resides at their home in Cornelius.

Character Sketches of Dr. W. W. Washam by Robert T. Hoyle
July 29, 1949

We hear a lot about socialized medicine and government regulation and direction of health, but as far as I'm concerned I'm still for that superb servant of all - the good old Family Doctor.

We who were brought up in the small town, look back to the days when the doctor was the best friend any family had. Everyone loved him, including the children. Everyone of his patients took a new lease on life the moment his cheery face came through the door. He was medicine. He took a friendly interest in everyone in the community who called upon him. Many times he sacrificed his own comforts that others might live longer. He was never too busy to answer a call.

Most of his pills that he gave were relatively harmless. You see, he understood human nature as well as human mechanism. Often no more than understanding was needed, and he had that aplenty. He was wise and tactful. He was patient with all types of human beings. When he was able he covered his town and surrounding territory.

This doctor I'm telling you about was a genuine psychologist. He carried his best medicine in his brain and in his heart. Children loved him and got well pronto after his call. When he was able to make visits to his patients, storms, muddy roads, long distances and inconvenient hours meant nothing to him. When babies arrived in the home he was the first there to share the joy. When the older members of the family passed on he was there to comfort.

Perhaps by now you have guessed the doctor of whom I have spoken. He is Dr. W. W. Washam of Cornelius, whom I revere as a sort of father as well as friend. When he visited my childhood home he would come with a twinkle in his eye and would in a soft, encouraging manner that had more effect oftentimes than the medicine he prescribed.

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Dr. Washam is active in community affairs; he is a Mason and a member of Mt Zion Methodist Church and despite his physical condition attends church regularly. He still carries on the practice of medicine at his home in Cornelius, but is unable to make calls. Dr. Washam is still interested in people and things and never fails to give you his friendly smile in the same compassionate manner that I remember as a child. When I saw him a few days ago with Mrs. Washam at the auditorium at Lake Junaluska, it brought back to me in a very forceful manner my memories of him in my childhood days. So here's to you, Dr. Washam, a grand doctor, a true friend and faithful citizen.

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Frank C. Sherrill - Frank C. Sherrill, son of Jephtha A and Rachel Robinson Sherrill, was born May 10, 1871, on a farm west of Mooresville, North Carolina near Sherrills Ford. In 1900 he and Miss Molly Barnett were married.

Frank Sherrill attended Iredell county schools and Oak Institute in Mooresville, North Carolina, then went to Trinity College, now Duke University, Durham, North Carolina where he finished his junior year. He failed to complete his college education as Mr. J. B. Cornelius, his uncle, wanted him to become an associate in the Stough Cornelius Company. Frank bought one quarter interest in this company.

Stough Cornelius Company, now Turner Hardware Company, was a large country store that sold everything from groceries to clothing. In addition, they bought and shipped produce brought in by the farmers. Due to the cotton market at the Stough Cornelius Company, the farmers called it Liverpool.

As business progressed a post office became very necessary as the mail had to be carried from Davidson each day. At a meeting of the towns people, Frank was chosen, along with Reverend J. O. Shelly, minister of Mt. Zion church, to go to Washington and plead the case. Reverend Shelly had some influential friends in Washington during this Republican administration.

April 1899, the post office was established for Cornelius, located in the Stough Cornelius Company store, with F. C. Sherrill the first postmaster.

The Bank of Cornelius was established in March 1903 with J. M. Dove, President and F. C. Sherrill, Cashier. After the death of Mr. Dove, Frank was made President and J. T. Beard, Cashier.

F. C. Sherrill was a stockholder in Cornelius Cotton Mills and President of the Gem Yarn Mills, a mill he helped to organize, until his death on July 23, 1942.

From the time Frank came to Cornelius he took great interest in the education of the children in the community and served on the school board for a number of years.

When he came to Cornelius he moved his membership from McKendrie Chapel to Mt. Zion Methodist Church where he taught Sunday School and was a member of the official board for many years.

GEM YARN MILL HISTORY - The Gem Yarn Mill opened in 1905, was incorporated in 1907 and closed in 1962.

Its board of officers were F. C. Sherrill, J. B. Cornelius, T. S. Williamson, P. A. Stough, R. J. Stough.

In 1905 they started with forty five (45) employees and during their peak years between 1941-1946 they employed one hundred fifty (150).

The original building was built by R. D. Mooney and Company of Davidson, North Carolina. A second building was erected in 1918 by W. E. Potts of Davidson, North Carolina.

Cornelius - Cornelius, youngest of Mecklenburg's five incorporated towns, was born in 1893 but not incorporated until 1905. The story of its origin is given in an article by Fannie Lou Bingham in the Charlotte News of September 27, 1935.

Before 1888 Davidson was a market place for a great many farmers from up and down the Statesville road and from Lincoln County. The Lincoln County folks came across the Catawba River and up the river road which entered the Statesville Highway at a point which is now the middle of Cornelius.

Two business firms were thriving at Davidson, the R. J. Stough Company and Sloan Brothers. Each firm furnished farmers on open account and had its own scales and did its own weighing of cotton. When Charlotte, the county seat, appointed a town weigher, an agitation began at Davidson for a similar official. Some thought it was a waste of money to pay for weighing while others thought that it was the only way to insure honest weighing. R. J. Stough Company was in favor of the buyer doing his own weighing, and Sloan Brothers in favor of the town weigher.

A hot election was held. The Stough Company lost and a town weigher was hired. Thereupon, Stough went just outside the Davidson town limit, where the river road met the Statesville Highway, and built a small frame building, placing scales in the back yard. He retained his place of business at Davidson, but did his weighing outside of town.

Later, the hill leading into Davidson became so muddy that farmers were convinced that it would be better to sell to Stough than to venture into Davidson, which accounts for the fact that Stough began buying more cotton than Sloan Brothers. He then moved a little stock of goods to his country store and hired a "right smart boy," C. W. Johnston, to clerk for him. (That right smart boy" turned out to be the C. W. Johnston who headed Highland Park Mill and other mills and who built the 17 story Johnston Building in Charlotte.) Stough and Johnston conceived the idea of having a mill nearby so that cotton could be converted into cloth right there. They didn't have enough money to spare but knew a man who did, Joe Cornelius of Davidson. Soon the cotton mill opened and the town took its name from the principal stockholder who apparently never made his home there but whose widow, Ann Sherrill, did locate at Cornelius after his death.

The first post office was opened November 17, 1899, with F. C. Sherrill as postmaster. Before that, Jacob Alonzo (Jake) Dove rode a bicycle to Cornelius where he picked up the out-

going mail for the nearest post office, which was at Caldwell Station, three miles away. At the same time he put the Cornelius mail in a tin tub at the mill where each person would go through it for his own mail.

Among the early settlers of Cornelius were the families of Robert Pitts, Douglas Weddington, Frank Brown, Andy Hall, Allison Black, Jack White, Charles Readling, and Isaac BARNETTE. The first local school was opened about 1906 with Mrs. Emma Thompson Stough as the first teacher. The monument in front of Mt. Zion Church, honoring 44 Confederate dead, was unveiled in August 1910.

From the early beginning has developed by 1960 a progressive little town, proud of its schools, churches, clubs, public library, and business firms. Its altitude is 833 feet and the 1960 census gives it a population of 1,444.

Mayors of Cornelius, North Carolina:

J. B. Proctor	1905-1906
Lawrence Hager	1907-1910
John S. Sossamon	1911-1912
Alec Little	1913-1914
F. C. Sherrill, Sr.	1915-1916
Joe A. Sherrill	1917-1918
J. B. Readling	1919-1924
W. L. Puckett	1925-1926
W. E. Long	1927-1934
H. K. Sossamon	1935-1937
L. B. Honeycutt	1938- $\frac{1}{2}$ yr.
G. E. Sweet	1939-1946
J. E. Baxter	1947-1948
G. E. Sweet	1949-1950
K. R. Howard	1951-1956
B. S. Sherrill	1957-1959
Ben Byers	1960-1966
Sam James	1966-1969
Wesley Rood	1970-

Our Mecklenburg Heritage 1955 by Charlotte Ivey Hastings -

Cornelius, North Carolina - About 1883 Cornelius was a small settlement of four homes and one planked up store building belonging to Mr. R. J. Stough, which was also used for a cotton buying station.

At this time the community was called Liverpool because one of the farmers got drunk and went to sleep in the cotton and when he awoke he looked around, and seeing all the cotton, said "Where are"? Oh yes, I am in Liverpool, England." When cotton was sold the merchant always looked up the Liverpool cotton prices before paying for it. Mr. Stough did not like the idea of being tied down to a store, so he got busy and had his friends to subscribe stock for a cotton mill.

The brick for building the mill were made by farmers in the old fashioned way, "mudmill," which was about 4 feet square, and was operated by "mule power" somewhat on the order of the old-fashioned molasses mill; the clay was loaded on wagons, and shoveled into the mud mill; the working parts was somewhat similiar to the inside of our modern ice cream freezer. Water was hauled and poured into the mudmill with the clay, and a mule walked around it on the outside and mixed the mud and water. There was a hole in the side of the mill near the bottom, about the size of a "rabbit box," where the mud and water was worked to the right consistency. The exit was opened thus forcing the mud out, which was put into molds of the desired size. The carriers of the molds simply set their molds under the exits to fill up, taking the top or surplus off, then carried the newly formed brick (usually 4 in number) and emptied them on a farmly arranged brick-yard, where it could sun dry for a few days.

In those days I seldom had any money, so I went to the brick-yard and asked Mr. Stough to let me have the job of turning the brick over after they had dried. After the brick were properly sun dried, they were packed in kilns and dried with heat from burning wood. The next move was to the present building site, where the original mill building was built. All the work was done by farmers and their teams.

The town was incorporated in 1905 as Cornelius, in honor of the late J. B. Cornelius, who was one of the principal stockholders of the mill. The earliest record of the population available is for 1920 when the population was 1141. A report says that in 1900 the population was 459; in 1910 it was 833; the present population is about 2000, which does not include Smithville, a colored settlement west of Cornelius. Four hundred dwelling houses, not including the stores and shops and other business places.

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We had a one room school taught by Miss Emma Thompson, which was located near the present Mt. Zion Church. Miss Thompson married R. J. Stough and they had four sons and four daughters. Mr. Stough died in 1926 and Mrs. Stough died in 1953. This family along with the Sherrills, C. W. Johnson, Barnetts, Washam, Howards, Cashion, Long, Cornelius, Knox, Fidler, Beard and many others have left an indelible impression on the community and may God bless them and their decendants. (J. B. Readling)

Parent Teacher Association - Cornelius School - In the spring of 1915 a group of people of the Cornelius community met at the old Cornelius School Building near Mount Zion Church. Mrs. Mary Owen Graham at that time assistant county superintendent of schools was invited to meet with them. The purpose of the meeting was to organize a association that would act in the interest of better schools, and a better understanding between the parents, the teachers and the children. Mrs. Graham took charge of the meeting and the group was formally organized as "The Betterment Association of the Cornelius School." Mrs. Hay was elected president and Mrs. W. E. Long Vice President, due to the illness of Mrs. Hay, Mrs. Long served as acting president.

Many things were accomplished by this organization. Every member worked to help. Soon, all the school rooms were furnished with window shades, attractive pictures were placed on the walls and maps and books were added to the library.

Mrs. P. A. Stough was the next president of the Betterment Association. It was about this time that the school was moved to the present site. There was much work for the Association to do around the new building. The main project was to beautify the grounds. The large water oaks which now stand on the campus were planted along with other flowers and shrubbery close about the building. The school had now added a Home Economics Department and one of the purposes of the Association was to help equip this department in such a way that it would be of the greatest possible service.

For the next several years the Association was inactive. In 1924, the Association was reorganized, although the name was changed to the Parent Teacher Association, the purposes remained the same parent education, home and school cooperation and community betterment. At the first meeting Mrs. Carl Cashion was elected president and under her supervision the organization moved steadily forward.

Mrs. Eason was the next president. The main project during her term, the 1925-26 school year, was to provide and operate a lunch room where the children were served not lunches at the noon hour.

Mrs. W. W. Washam followed Mrs. Eason as President. About this time the schools were taken from under the supervision of the county and placed in the hands of the state school authorities. Due to this change no funds seemed to be available for the purchase of supplementary books for use, in the schools. The PTA purchased and placed in the school three sets of books. All during this year the lunch room was operated daily.

During the summer of 1933 the organization was inactive. The following fall no meeting was called and for five years there was no PTA at the Cornelius School.

The year of 1938 saw the beginning of a new PTA in the community. Three state officials, Mrs. Hunter of Charlotte, Mrs. Rhyne of Hickory, and Mrs. Davendorf of Asheville, helped to organize the chapter. Mrs. Hurd G. Bradford was elected president and served in this office for the next three years. During these three years many worthy activities were promoted and fulfilled by the Association. A real contribution to both the school and the town was the beautification of the school grounds. Flowers, trees and shrubbery were planted and a rock wall was placed in front of the buildings. At this time, the Grade Mother System was put into practice. Prizes were to be awarded the room having the largest representation at PTA meetings.

In the school year 1939-40 many books were added to the library. New shades were furnished for the auditorium and a moving picture machine was purchased for the use of the school.

One of the outstanding accomplishments of the PTA at this time was the establishing of a cafeteria in the school building. This enabled the children to have hot lunches served them at a minimum cost. Money was also furnished for athletic activities.

After three years of untiring efforts, Mrs. Bradford and Mrs. F. C. Sherrill, Jr. was elected as president for the school year 1941-2. Early in the fall Mrs. Sherrill planned a miscellaneous shower for the school cafeteria. Foods, dishes, utensils, and many other useful things were furnished by this shower. The cafeteria was also enlarged. Window shades were purchased for the high school building, and many other activities were planned for the remainder of the year. Funds for carrying on the various programs were obtained through community channels, such as the Halloween Carnival, chicken suppers and the town supper. Professor H. M. Young and his corps of loyal teachers gave their untiring efforts and constant cooperation in every project carried out by the PTA.

Mr. G. R. Madison served as principal of our school for one year from September of 1942 until the close of the school year of 1943. During this year the PTA was active and many things were accomplished

Mr. R. H. Atwell was elected president of the PTA in April of 1943 and served faithfully. The scrap drive for iron in which Mr. C. O. Davis head of the Agriculture Department took a large part, proved successful. Our school won the first prize in the county for the largest amount of iron. This money was used for the benefit of the school. Mrs. W. W. Washam was Chairman when the waste paper drives, old clothing drives, and the tin can drive were put on.

Due to the gas situation the membership of the PTA had fallen off. In September of 1943 Mr. G. E. Smith came to our school as principal. He proved to be very cooperative with the PTA. During the past year the PTA kept up its war relief work, donated to help provide for cafeteria equipment and gave to Mr. Davis for agriculture building warehouse and on the cannery. A delegate was sent to the PTA Association. A projector lamp was bought with the PTA funds.

Mr. Atwell served as a loyal and active president for two years. At the close of the school year Mrs. R. H. Atwell was elected to succeed her husband as president. Mrs. G. E. Smith was elected vice-president, Mrs. W. G. Carter, secretary, and Mr. Harry Washam, treasurer. The membership for 1944 was 120 and the goal set for 1945-46 was 200. Mrs. Betty Jetton was elected historian for the year 1945-46.

The year 1945-46 proved most successful in both membership and interest in the school. The membership was 156, the largest in the history of the PTA. This success was due to the faithful efforts of the membership chairman, Mrs. Carl Cashion, and the cooperation of the teachers. Very interesting programs were given throughout the year. The outstanding project was the financing of the remodeling of the gymnasium. Partitions were made creating private dressing rooms for the athletic teams. Running water and rest room facilities were added. A religious book shelf was added to the library, containing 42 volumes. The community contributed generously through an offering in each church to add to a fund the PTA set apart for the buying of these books which cost around sixty-five dollars. A thousand cans of food were collected by the school and sent to the ear stricken countries.

Mrs. Atwell, the president and Mrs. W. G. Carter, the secretary, attended the PTA convention in Greensboro in May and brought back interesting information. The Cornelius PTA went on record as being a standard organization for this year. At the close of the year Mrs. Sam Furr was elected vice president to succeed Mrs. G. E. Smith. The president, secretary and treasurer were re-elected to serve during 1946-47.

During this year the PTA advanced money to purchase 15 typewriters for the school. The organization also bought instructional supplies for use in the elementary grades. The Halloween Carnival also was a very successful and most enjoyable event of the year. The money from it and the membership fees are the main source of the PTA income. The membership climbed to 160 by the close of the year. Mrs. Atwell served two years with untiring and loyal activity. At the Founders Day Program in February each of the four past presidents was presented with a medal of distinction for loyalty and service to the Association. Recipients of the medals were Mrs. H. G. Bradford, Mrs. F. C. Sherrill, Jr. and Mrs. R. H. Atwell. At the close of the year, Mr. Harry Washam was elected president to succeed Mrs. Atwell. Mrs. Maud Wilson was elected secretary, and Mrs. Thomson, treasurer.

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Cornelius Electric Membership Corporation - March 20, 1956, an industry which has meant so much to rural Mecklenburg, Lincoln, Catawba, Iredell, Gaston, Rowan, and Cabarrus counties will have reached fifteen years of rapid growth. The corporation was started with 225 members and it now has a membership of over 3000.

During the early part of 1939, a group of interested people, mostly farmers, met in the auditorium of the Cornelius High School to see what could be done toward getting electricity to their homes and farms.

Each one present had a chance to express himself. So a few thought it could be had from the local power company, some were sure if could not. Both sides were correct as later results showed that some could get it, but a larger portion of them could not. A few had faith in the ability of rural people to help themselves, and therefore refused to accept defeat.

An engineer was employed to do the mapping work and a sign-up campaign begun. On completion of the this campaign, Ben A. Washam, B. S. Sherrill and J. B. White carried it to Washington, D. C. for approval. It received approval at once.

Construction began in July 1940. Power was turned on in February, 1941.

The growth of the corporation has been a healthy one. Three changes have been made in the rate structure of the corporation, each time the change has been a reduction.

The formation and growth of this corporation has been of great benefit to many rural families who otherwise would not have had the benefit of electricity.

The same benefits which this area is experiencing from the rural electrification program are also coming to communities in every part of the nation. Over a thousand rural electric systems are now in operation, thanks to the REA loan program and determination of the American farmers to band together for the purpose of borrowing money to build their own rural electric lines.

It is clear from what the members of the Cornelius Electric Membership Corporation have experienced that the rural electrification program has not only raised the percentage of the nations farms electrified from 11 per cent to over ninety per cent since 1935, but also has created a vast new rural market. This multi-billion dollar market today works for a sound national economy, benefitting Americans everywhere.

The first company organized was The Cornelius Mutual Corporation with Ben A. Washam as president of board of incorporators.

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Prior to the Cornelius Mutual Corporation was the Bethel Electric System with Ben A. Washam President of the Board. One year after the Cornelius Mutual Corporation was organized it was changed to Cornelius Electric Membership Corporation, a non taxable corporation at that time. Ben A. Washam then became manager and stayed as manager until he resigned in July 1963 to join Duke Power Company in the Distribution Engineering Department.

Smith's Flowers and Nurseries Inc - The business now known as Smith's Flowers and Nurseries, Inc., was started in January 1933 by Hugh Roy Smith and two partners. The business was then called Cornelius Floral Gardens. Five hundred dollars was borrowed to begin the business.

The first building was a sash greenhouse 12' by 25'. Outdoor irrigation equipment was purchased for the growing of outdoor crops. The sash greenhouse was used for growing bedding plants, vegetables as well as flowers. Ten thousand rose bushes were also planted the first year but the market was poor and they did not sell. That same year a cloth house was erected. Asters were grown in this house and sold directly to retail florists in Charlotte. At that time there were no wholesale florist supply businesses in Charlotte.

In the fall of 1933 the partners pulled out of this small venture and Mr. Smith was left alone. However his family, mother, father, brothers and sisters, all provided free labor when he had more work than he could handle alone. This invaluable help was repaid by Mr. Smith helping with his father's farm work when extra help was needed there. The first floral designing was done in the basement of Mr. Smith's parents' home.

In 1934 the name of the business was changed to Smith's Flowers. A greenhouse 25' by 100' was built. A small building was also added to serve as an office and a flower shop. The flowers grown in this new greenhouse were snapdragons, calendula, sweet peas, and also normal blooming chrysanthemums. The latter were followed by iris and spring snapdragons. At this time very little could be grown in greenhouses in the summer since temperatures in the greenhouses were at least twenty per cent higher than outdoor temperatures.

Of course, at this time, the abundance of flowers produced could not be sold retail in the small town of Cornelius. Therefore, the surplus was sold through the first Charlotte wholesaler, Charlotte Florist Supply, a business which was begun about the same time that Mr. Smith built his shop and greenhouse.

About this time Mr. Smith was able to hire an assistant for the greenhouse, DeAndrew Cornelius. Mr. Cornelius has been with the business since this time, serving in many capacities. He is a most valued and co-operative employee.

In 1936 Mr. Smith built another greenhouse 30' by 150' and a small propagating greenhouse. The same crops were grown however, on a larger scale. In the new propagating house, lily of the valley was added for the Easter season and poinsettias for the Christmas season.

In the spring of 1937 Mr. Smith opened a retail shop in Mooresville which was operated by his sister Sarah. This business was sold to Sarah in 1942, however, smithgrown flowers were still sold.

Mr. Smith was able to expand even in the depression days because the directors of Cornelius Savings and Loan realized the potential of his business and were willing to loan him the money for the addition.

Then, in 1937 disaster struck. On December 7, fire broke out in the boiler room and quickly consumed the small frame shop, melted the glass in the greenhouses and destroyed the truck parked in the building directly over the boiler. The plant was not covered by insurance, however Mr. Smith's family came to the rescue. A brother Sam, who was in the plumbing and heating business in Greensboro, came with his employees and his wife. They worked until the heating system was operating again and some of the flowers saved from freezing. Friends in the florist business also helped. Mr. Louis Ratcliffe took the plants that were not damaged to his greenhouse in Derita to keep until repairs could be completed. Then friends came to the rescue financially. Mr. Frank Sherrill, Sr. and Mr. Will Long came to see Mr. Smith to save their original investment in the business (which Mr. Smith still owed) and also because of their continued faith in Mr. Smith and his business and the company loaned more money to repair the greenhouses and rebuild the shop.

The repairing of the buildings and greenhouses was done by Barger Construction Company of Mooresville and was completed by January 15, 1938. Crops were replanted in both greenhouses. These plants were supplied by another friend in the business, J. Van Hanford of Salisbury. Business conditions in general greatly improved about this time. This helped in recovery from loss by the fire.

The business did not stand still. Mr. Smith did a small amount of landscaping during the time. Again in 1941, another greenhouse 30' by 150' was added. A headhouse 30' by 16' was also added to the end of the shop. This area was used for the display of pot plants. At this time carnations, freesias and anemones were added to the flowers grown. A walk in refrigerator was built to keep flowers conditioned. Some outdoor crops such as gladiolus, astors, liatrus, baby's breath, dahlias, and redhot poker were grown in the summer. At this time Mr. Smith with the help of his family and DeAndrew Cornelius were doing all of the greenhouse work and the floral designing.

In 1944 a small apartment was added to the building for Mr. Smith and his growing family to live in. This made it more

convenient for Mr. Smith to take care of his greenhouses because the coal had to be hand shoveled into the stoker late at night so the boiler would keep the heat up to the correct temperature. The thermostat also had to be checked at intervals. Bookkeeping and billing could also be done at night.

Then in 1946 Mr. Smith felt the need to bring to his business an experienced flower grower so he could give more time to the growing retail business. He was able to bring to the business C. E. Yarborough who had been the grower in the State College Greenhouses for many years. To be able to afford a grower it was necessary to increase the growing capacity. Another greenhouse 150' by 30' was added. A second story to the building was also added to provide an apartment for Mr. Yarborough and his family. Mrs. Yarborough also worked in the retail shop and assisted in the cutting and bunching of the flowers to be sold by the wholesaler.

Mr. Yarborough remained with the business for four years. During this time out of season chrysanthemums were added to the growing. Mr. Yarborough was an expert snapdragon grower and during this time snapdragons grown in Smith's greenhouses won a national award from the Society of American Snapdragon Growers. Even today snapdragons are still the number one crop in Smith's greenhouses. The growing of bedding plants, vegetables and flowers was also increased and became a very large part of the spring business.

Business was good in general. During the war years Mr. Smith turned to farming and combining wheat in addition to the flower business. After the war was over he could devote more time to the business. It was growing and needed more help. Mrs. Nan Knox came to work in the shop. She became very expert in designing and was a devoted employee until her death in 1960. After her death Mrs. Hollis Reid and Mrs. Smith worked in the shop. Mr. Smith continued to do landscaping when the flower business was not at its peak.

In 1968 the shop space became too little for the amount of work that had to be done. So a one story addition was built, containing an office, a display area and additional work areas. Another walk in refrigerator was added for additional storage for the flowers until they could be shipped to Charlotte.

During the year 1960 till the present time, the nursery has been expanded along with the flower business. Mr. Smith's two sons, Albery and Roy, expressed a desire to become a part of the business. They both attended the University of North Carolina at Raleigh majoring in horticulture. Following graduation from college they served their country, Albert in the Air Force and Roy in the Marines, before coming into the business. Roy returned to the business in December 1967. His interest is in the nursery. Albert returned to the business in

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1970. His interest is in the greenhouse and shop. They both have a desire to carry on the business that their father began on faith nearly forty (40) years ago.

In 1969 Larry Edwards (a former North High School math teacher) joined the business as flower grower. The following year he joined Roy Smith to propagate and grow shrubs for the growing landscaping business. He is a most enthusiastic and energetic addition to the business.

The nursery grows a large variety of shrubbery useful in home landscaping as well as commercial. However rhododendrons are the main product grown. These are sold all over the Southeastern United States.

Rhododendron became the main shrub after 1967. That year entered a garden in the Southern Living Show. This garden won two awards, a Sylvan Award from the society of American Florists and one which was voted on by the public. Mr. Smith's garden in 1968 was also voted by the public to be the best. His 1970 garden also won first place. These gardens all featured rhododendrons. This showed the public interest in this beautiful shrub.

In the fall of 1970 the facilities for the nursery were expanded. A metal building 40' by 60' for plant storage and potting etc was erected. Also two propagating greenhouses 30' by 96' and 22' by 18' are located between the greenhouses and Highway 21.

In the Florist Retail Shop Mr. Smith's daughter Martha worked as a designer from 1965 till August 1970. She became quite an accomplished floral designer. Mr. Smith happily but regretfully lost her to marriage in August 1970. However other equally good designers have become faithful employees Mr. Larry Foard, Mrs. Susan Penninger, Mrs. Faye Smith and Mrs. Phi Alexander. Mrs. Alexander is still working for us on a part time basis as she has for many years. The business has also been blessed with excellent office employees. Mrs. Jimmy Mayes worked in that capacity for many years. At present Mrs. James Hucks is our faithful and patient bookkeeper and secretary.

Other employees other than those already mentioned have helped to make the business a success. Some of them have advanced in the business. One of the most renowned is Dr. Marc Cathey, a Davidson native. He worked during his high school and college days. After receiving a degree in horticulture from the University of North Carolina at Raleigh, Marc worked in our greenhouses and retail shop in Mooresville about three years. Then he went to Cornell University to earn his Masters and Doctors degrees. At present he is in research at the Federal Research Greenhouses in Beltsville, Maryland. His research is a great benefit to our business. We are proud he began his career with us.

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Other valued former employees have gone to other work. Crawford White was a talented floral designer with us. He is now a Presbyterian minister serving a church in Concord. Arthur Beard, whose home was on Beattys Foard Road, also had a degree in Horticulture and worked in our nursery for two years. He is now a Presbyterian minister. We are proud of these men and their work in the Church.

We are grateful to all our present and past employees for their loyalty and hard work.

Mr. Smith's purpose in the work has always been to bring beauty, pleasure and comfort into the lives of his customers by giving the best service possible. This continues to be the main purpose and he hopes to serve this area for many years to come.

CIVIL WAR HISTORY - REUNION AT CORNELIUS - Five confederate veterans are honor guests at annual event in upper Mecklenburg - Spanish and World War veterans also attend gathering.

Approximately 3000 people gathered at Cornelius today to honor the veterans who have fought for the south and the United States in the various wars. In the crowd were Confederate, Spanish-American and World War veterans. Honor guests were the five confederate veterans who are the remaining ones in this section of the vast number of Confederate soldiers in whose memory the reunion was first held.

The throngs of gaily dressed merry makers strolling from the carnival in the main part of the town to the reunion grounds at the Mt. Zion Church gave Cornelius today the air of a gala summer resort.

Major A. L. Bulwinkle, congressman from this district, addressed the crowd following the dinner and paid a beautiful tribute to the memory of the soldiers who fought for the Lost Cause and urged the soldiers of later wars to carry on in a way that would be a tribute to them. He was introduced by Major Paul Younts, Charlotte postmaster.

The Cornelius reunion was originated 48 years ago by Company K of the 56th. North Carolina regiment of Infantry C.S.A. John Kennerly of Mooresville, who is the only living member of this company was present today. He says he has not missed a reunion in all the 48 years they have been held.

D. W. Mayes of Huntersville, who was a member of Company K of the Third South Carolina regiment and who is now Brigadier General in charge of the commissary for the Confederate veterans of the South says he doesn't remember missing a single one of the reunions but that his son thinks he has missed one.

General Shakespear Harris of Concord, who served in Company F of the Fifth North Carolina calvary and who is now Major General of the North Carolina veterans was one of the honor guests. General Harris succeeded General W. A. Smith of Ansonville, lately deceased.

Another veteran present was Col. B. B. Coltrane of Concord, who served in Company I Fith Calvary North Carolina regiment and who is now on General Harris' staff.

Present also was George M. Lore, of Concord, Company E 72nd North Carolina regiment, a member of General Harris' staff.

T. L. Shaver of Charlotte, dressed in his Spanish American war uniform was the only reminder of that epoch of our history. The picnic today was sponsored and arranged for by the North Mecklenburg unit of the American Legion and the world war soldiers were well represented in the gathering. J. R. Beard, commander of the North Mecklenburg post and A. D. Cashion, adjutant for the post, were in charge of arrangements.

Seen mingling with the crowd were Ernest Grady, commander of the Hornet's Nest Post American Legion, John Slear, secretary to Congressman Bulwinkle, Lester Wolfe, recently nominated clerk of court, Henry Harkey, county commissioner, Mrs. T. C. Moose, assistant adjutant of the Mecklenburg camp 382, Mrs. C. W. Hunt and Mrs. G. W. Link of Charlotte.

Mrs. R. J. Stough of Cornelius, as she has done for the past 48 years was welcoming the people and looking after the dinner.

Lt. Gen. John R. Hodge stood in line to sign the veterans book at the Old Soldiers Reunion in Cornelius today, just as the other ex-servicemen who attended. Here Gen. Hodge, who is commanding general of Fort Bragg, is signing the book while Mrs. R. J. Stough, widow of a Confederate veteran, looks on. General Hodge made the principal address at the reunion.

August 4, 1949 was the last reunion held.

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The Cornelius Post Office was established on November 17, 1899.

<u>Post Master</u>	<u>Date Appointed</u>
Frank C. Sherrill	November 17, 1899
Austin A. Torrence	November 25, 1905
D. Frank Harwell	July 11, 1912
John E. Baxter	April 14, 1916
Walter Blakely	February 17, 1920
Arney D. Cashion	September 29, 1920
Hattie Beatty	October 17, 1922
George E. Sweet	April 10, 1923
Gladys O. Howard	July 1, 1936
Keith R. Howard	August 18, 1958
Fred G. Torrence	October 4, 1968

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Cornelius Lions Club - In 1952 approximately six civic minded men in the community decided that Cornelius should have a Lions Club. Mr. Leon Frye, Hugh R. Smith, Ben Washam, R. H. Atwell, Sr. , Robert Hoyle and Reverend S. K. Clanton. Some of these men were at the time members of the Davidson Lions Club. With the help of the Mooresville Lions Club plans were made to form a club at Cornelius.

The Cornelius Lions Club actually began in January 1953 and had meetings from that time until the charter night on June 23, 1953. The club began meeting at Mt. Zion Methodist Church Hut and continued there for some time.

Club officers at the charter meeting were: President, Leon Frye, First Vice-President, P. A. Alexander, Second Vice-President, R. H. Atwell, Sr. , Third Vice-President, Hugh R. Smith, Secretary, Joe B. Hornbuckle, Treasurer, Frank M. Blue, Taitwister, T. B. Fidler, Lion Tamer, H. B. Knox, Directors James Carson, W. F. Washam, Ben M. Brown, R. E. Kennedy. Other members were Verson Alley, John E. Baxter, Boyd Cates, Williams V. Elliott, Robert Hoyle, Jack Human, Vane D. Mingle, Gordon Perry, C. B. Sperry, Conley Whaley, Luke Woods, Keith Howard and Reverend S. K. Clanton. Honored guests were: District Governor R. E. Kelly, District Governor Elect A. V. Goldier, International Director John L. Stickley, and Lion Joe Carter, President of the Mooresville Lions Club. A note of interest here is that John L. Stickley was later elected International President which is the highest and most honored office in the entire Lions organization. Lion Carter presented the gavel to Lion President Leon Frye on behalf of the Mooresville Lions Club.

The club operated with approximately 36 members until the closing of Frank IX and Sons Plant in 1957. At that time the club went through a set back because of the loss of membership. By the perserverence of some devoted lions the club managed to survive and after a period of about two years was able to increase membership and at present time has 26 members.

In 1955 the Cornelius Lions Club began a project to raise funds to support local and international projects. This project at the time was known as the Miss North Mecklenburg Beauty Pageant. The first queen to be crowned was Miss Nancy Deaton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willis Deaton of Cornelius, North Carolina. This pageant began to grow and now we are in our 17th year. The first year we were able to give the queen a cardboard crown and \$18.75 savings bond. We now offer many prizes as well as a scholarship fund. Our present queen (1971-1972) is Miss Marty Raborn, Mallard Creek Community, Charlotte, North Carolina.

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The pageant changed the name from Miss North Mecklenburg to Miss Mecklenburg County in 1963. The winner now goes to the North Carolina Rhododendron Festival at Bakersville, North Carolina. We have over the years been able to have one winner at the Rhododendron Festival who was Miss Jean Rhodes, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Rhodes of Matthews, North Carolina. We have also had queens in the top five on many occasions and only finished out only finished out of the top ten on two occasions.

Cornelius Lions are also involved in other fund raising projects such as broom sale, bulb sale, candy sale, clock sale, fertilizer sale and calendar sale. The funds are used for many purposes such as North Carolina Association for the Blind, White Cane, Mecklenburg Association for the Blind, Boys Home at Huntersville and Lake Waccamaw, CARE, and local projects such as the athletic and recreation program, school PTA, erecting street markers and house numbers, annual beautification program, community civic sign project, instrumental in getting direct phone service to Charlotte area. Christmas baskets and toy program, sponsored Boy Scout troop, Camp Dogwood for the blind, and many eyes have been secured by members of the club for use at the North Carolina Eye and Human Tissue Bank at Winston Salem.

Cornelius Lions Club is a member of the largest civic organization in the world with membership of almost 1,000,000 in approximately 114 countries. The purpose of our organization is to serve our fellow man internationally, nationally and locally. Our motto is "We Serve."

CORNELIUS JAYCEE'S HISTORY

The Jaycee's is an organization for young men between the age's of 21-35. The Cornelius Jaycee's were chartered July 15th, 1963 by the China Grove Jaycee's.

The Presidents of the Jaycees to the present Jaycee President are as follows:

- 1963 - Jerry Sossamon
- 1964 - Clyde Caldwell
- 1965 - Carroll Clark
- 1966 - John Bustle
- 1967 - T.K. Robinette
- 1968 - Reid Morgan
- 1969 - Jack Bradford
- 1970 - Phil Shook
- 1971 - Butch Gilleland

The Jaycee Organization is a Civic Club involved in helping its Community to better itself through self-improvement projects. The Cornelius Jaycees are one club out of 228 in the State of North Carolina. As of this date the State Jaycee President of North Carolina Jaycees is Avery Nye from Fairmont, N.C.

Current members of the Cornelius Jaycees of December 1971 are:

1. Jack Bradford
2. Hick Brown
3. Mike Ewart
4. Mike Gant
5. Butch Gilleland
6. Doug Hybarger
7. Ronald Hager
8. Vernon Knox
9. Colin Kelly
10. Junior Little
11. Bobby Mayhew
12. Rodney Mayhew
13. Larry Morrow
14. Phillip Shook
15. Barry Sims
16. Jimmy White
17. John Pittman
18. Larry Sims
19. Frankie White
20. Ronnie Brown
21. Thomas Goodman
22. Billy Washem
23. Ronnie Lowrance
24. Mike Sherrill

THE JAYCEE CREED

We Believe

That faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life.

That the Brotherhood of man transcends the Sovereignty of nations.

That economic justice can best be won by free men through free enterprise, That government should be of laws rather than of men.

That Earths great treasure lives in human personality and that Service to humanity is the best work of life.

FACTS OF INTEREST -

A dentist, Dr. Pierce (red headed) practiced in Cornelius in the early 1900's with an office over the old drugstore above the bank.

A doctor, Mr. Hay, lived in Cornelius. He ran the local drugstore but never practiced medicine.

The water trough was the central watering place for horses in the early 1900s. It was located where the old drugstore "Guions" once was. The water trough is now at Robert Westmorelands.

In the late 1800s there was an old tanyard behind American Legion ball field - McCoys.

There is a legend that "Virgin Spring" located behind the laundry is where Cornwallis stopped and camped.

The old barbershop in Cornelius was run by Ed Armstrong and located above John Mayhew store. Haircuts \$.15 and a shave \$.10 in the early 1900s.

From 1908-1910 there was an ice plant in Cornelius operated by Sid White and located where the dime store and meat market now stand.

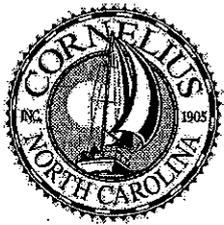
Cornelius Union Furniture Company - 1908-1912. Located where Magla is. In the early 1900s Ollie Little, Ross White and Jim Harviel worked here. Allan Bustle was killed in an accident there. Various pieces of furniture made here is still in homes in Cornelius.

Overall Factory - Alec Little, Jake Smith, Roof Washam, Lottie McConnel, Mag Lotherie worked here. It was located top of "Star Theater".

Mattress Factory - Located across from Esso in a plank building. In the early 1900s June Cashion worked here.

Print Shop was operated by John Sossoman and located beside the dime store (Harrills).

There was a two story school located near Mt. Zion Church prior to Cornelius School.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: March 15, 2005

CORNELIUS- The Centennial Committee will meet Tuesday, March 22nd at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will take place at Town Hall and is open to the public.

For more information on the Centennial Celebration, contact Rhonda Hollingsworth at 704.892.6031 Ext. 166.

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