

Alleghany Historical-Genealogical Society, Inc.

Preserving Alleghany's Heritage Since 1979



President Roy Hunt
Vice-President Jeff Halsey
Secretary-Treasurer Irene R. Wagner



Volume 31, No. 2

July 2010

Bulletin No. 100

Alleghany Historical Museum (Finally) Finds a Home

The Alleghany Historical Museum has a new home. We have rented the space at 7 North Main Street in Sparta across the street from the Courthouse and will use approximately 1000 sq. ft. of the total 1200 for display and the rest for storage.

The building, owned by Carl Dean Edwards, is one of the oldest in town and has many attributes for our start-up space:

- Location on Main Street in downtown Sparta and accessible on foot
- Nice, big window for display
- Open space, for a variety of display options
- Security
- Ready to move into
- Old-timey atmosphere in a historical building
- Central air for proper humidity control



Over the years many types of retail shops have occupied the building, but is probably best know as the home of Belk's department store. Belk's eventually used all three stories of the structure utilizing a dumbwaiter system for moving orders and products easily between the floors.

R.C. Mitchell said that his father had a hardware store there in 1933 before the devastating fire. The business wasn't damaged by the fire, itself, but it had so much smoke and water damage, it was never re-opened, afterward.

The location was actually the original site of the Alleghany Courthouse. It was moved across the street in 1879-80.

The Historical Society will continue to sell it's books at The Sparta Store next door to the Museum space.

Story continued on page 7



Photo of Wiley Williams, Patty Wingler's Grandfather, from 1914 recently found by her aunt.

Message from the President

Dear Members,

We had elections in March so you have to put up with me being President for another year. I hope I can do it justice. We have several projects in line for the coming year.

In March 2010 we announced that we (the Historical Society) were looking at the Sparta Presbyterian Church manse (or parsonage) on Main Street to rent for a Museum. This did not go through. By the end of June there was another site that came available and we have rented one half of the old Belk's Store Building on the corner of 18 South and 21 North on Main Street. This building will serve as a temporary place until we have a permanent Museum location. We hope to have the Alleghany Historical Museum open for visitors by September, 2010.

Alleghany is rich in heritage and the Museum will serve as a proper place to store our stories and memories.

Roy K. Hunt

Halsey Family Book Published

AHGS members Jeff Halsey and his daughter, Claire, have recently completed a photographic family history of Eli Hamilton Halsey and Lillian Blanche Smith, Jeff's great-grandparents.

Using family photographs, tintypes, genealogies, stories, and some recent images, they have made a chronological photo history of the lives of their Alleghany ancestors.

"It's not a complete genealogy, but we have traced some of our family lines back to the Mayflower, to President James Madison, Andrew Baker and surnames Davis, Smith, Bonham, Sturgill, Hash, Avent, and others," said Claire.



Elijah Franklin Smith, 1842-1926, wounded at Gettysburg and taken prisoner near Petersburg. Father of Lillian Blanche Smith Halsey. (from Mary Evelyn Shumate)

Story continued on page 7

ARC Seeks Local Civil War Lore



The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is still accepting submissions about the Civil War in Appalachia for the forthcoming "Stories from the Home Front" story guide and American Heritage map insert. The Division, along with the other states in the Appalachian region, is funding the insert, to help visitors to make strong connections to Civil War stories from "beyond the battlefield" to lead to increased visitation, public awareness and stewardship of assets found within Appalachian communities.

While most Civil War stories focus on battles and military history, few narratives have been fully shared about how families, farms, and livelihoods were affected by the war. As the United States approaches the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, the ARC plans to help travelers and residents understand the full impact of the Civil War in their region--sharing stories to provide a better understanding about how Appalachia and its residents uniquely dealt with the issues, activities and outcomes of the Civil War. Of particular interest are place-based stories that have been forgotten or are not well known, stories that tell how the Civil War affected women, children, the other people left behind; the war's impact on local commerce, landscapes, agriculture; the situations families found themselves in during the war; the personal situations faced and addressed; and the actions and resilience of local residents.

Do you have a story about the Civil War to tell? A forgotten voice you want heard? Share your Appalachian-based story about the Civil War today. For more information or to submit a story, visit www.arc-cw150stories.com.

Bryan Gupton, Director of Operations and Industry Relations, NC Division of Tourism, 919-733-7552

Daniel Boone Workshop Scheduled

The Yadkin Valley Historical Association invites you to attend the 5th Yadkin Valley History Fair and Genealogical Conference Saturday, August 14, from 8 am to 5 pm at the First United Methodist Church Family Life Center at 310 North Main Street in Mocksville, NC. The theme will be: Daniel and Rebecca Bryan Boone, Their Lives and Times with keynote speaker: Randell Jones, author of *In the Footsteps of Daniel Boone* and *On the Trail of Daniel Boone*.

For more information, go online to: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ncyadvha/2010flyer.pdf>

Or contact: *Marie Roth, Yadkin Valley Historical Association, 276 Park Avenue, Mocksville, NC 27028, 336-751-5212 Best time to call: 8a - 12n, MarieBCR@gmail.com*

Glade Valley School Remembered



A GVS Memorial has been placed on the former Glade Valley School Campus now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Bob Alexander. The Alexanders have been very generous in allowing us, the Glade Valley School Association of Students and Staff, to place a Memorial on what was the school campus. Thank you Bob and Janice for all you do for us.

Over the past seven plus years we, the GVSAOSS, have been the vehicle through which many former students and faculty have donated to erect such a memorial. GVS has been and still is a special place to those who taught and those who were students. It has been a privilege to erect this memorial to help future generations locate the place their ancestors loved and talked about so dearly.

Prior to this effort, contacts were made with state offices to erect an Historical Highway Marker. The dreams of a NC Historical marker came to an end when we were told that Glade Valley School was not of sufficient significance to the state of North Carolina to warrant a marker.


Last year, 2009, marked the 100th year since GVS was founded. Our annual reunion was held in The Silver

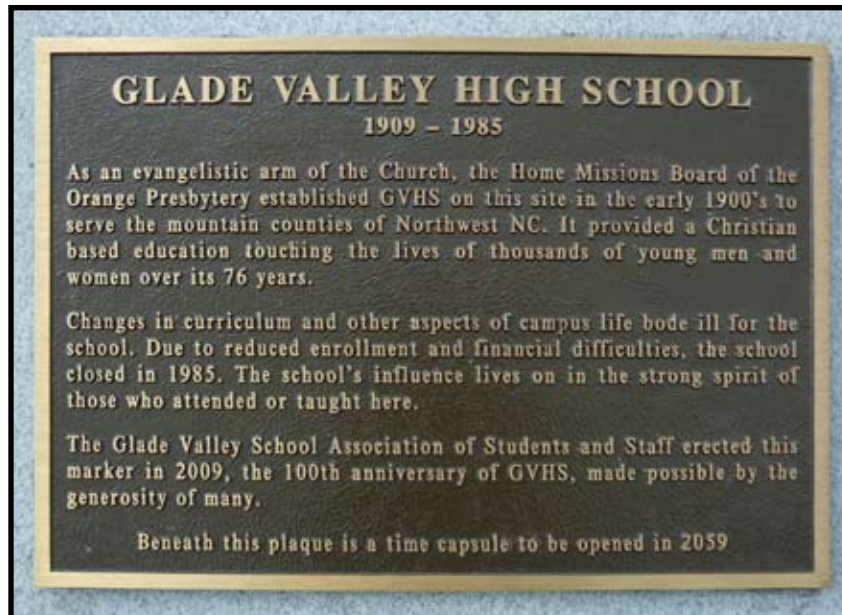
Spoon, which was 'the gym' for those who were a part of the former school. Those who attended the reunion had the opportunity to sign a special page and make any comment about their life at GVS. These pages were a part of the contents of a time capsule to be placed within the monument.

The time capsule was designed and work was begun by Roy Saddler, class of 1959. Due to his untimely death, the capsule was completed by his son, Bryan.

After the 2009 annual reunion, Patty Saddler Wingler, president of the GVS association, contacted Ray Blevins, of Sparta who contracts for such memorials. Patty and husband Bill, treasurer of the association, met with Ray. A down payment was made to order a bronze plaque to be attached to a granite monument with an opening for the time capsule.

Although the 2009 placement of the memorial was delayed for various reasons, it is now a reality.

Should you visit the former campus or go to The Silver Spoon for an activity or a meal, look to your left as you turn onto Glade Valley Church Road and there you will see The Glade Valley School Memorial. 



Business Book Deadline

We are nearing the final deadline for the Alleghany business book. We extended the deadline last year to encourage participation, but unfortunately it doesn't seem to have helped much. **If we don't get a lot more submissions, we just won't have enough for a book.**

The original idea was to assemble a new history, this time based on business life in the county, including stores, doctors, farms, schools, and churches. We asked anyone who has ever had a business in Alleghany to write a short history including operating dates, locations, and photos.

There is no fee for submitting your information but like all our books, no photography can be included without permission from the copyright holder.

Histories that have been submitted include:

- Alleghany CARES
- Alleghany County Farm Bureau
- Alleghany Jubilee
- Alleghany Memorial Hospital
- Alleghany News
- Antioch United Methodist Church
- Bank of Sparta
- Barrett Store, The Peoples Store
- Blue Ridge B & B
- The Blue Ridge Sun
- Blue Ridge Parkway
- Blue Ridge Shoe Co.
- Books N Friends
- BREMCO
- Bristol Compressor/Martin Marrietta
- Tom Burgiss' Businesses
- Chappell's Tax & Accounting
- Charles' Motel
- Dr. Bert Choate
- Capital of the Age of Enlightenment at Piney Creek
- CarQuest
- Castevens Motor Co.
- Civilian Conservation Corps Camp
- Christ Church Episcopal
- Dick's Lawnmower & Saw Repair
- Dr. Grabow Pipes
- Elkin/Alleghany Railroad
- Elk Spur
- Ford Dealership
- Franklin Store
- Glade Valley Radio Service
- M.A. Goodman Lumber Company
- Halsey Drug
- Hanes/Sara Lee Plant Spring Ford & NAPCO
- Heritage Hill Farm
- High Meadows
- Irwin Chevrolet
- Imaging Specialists, Inc.
- Inside Additions
- Junction Beauty Salon
- Alleghany County Public Library
- Laurel Springs Postmasters
- Macedonia Baptist Church

- Mack Atwood's Trading Post
- Magnolia - Sparta Div. Parkdale Mills
- Jim Massey, Inc.
- McKnight's Dry Goods General Store
- Nu-Way Electric & Plumbing
- P.C. Collins Insurance Agency
- Pioneer Eclipse
- Pleasant Grove Union Baptist Church
- Pine Fork Church
- Rainbow of Hope Cancer Support Group
- Reeves-Burgiss Farm
- Floyd Richardson's Store
- Roaring Gap Fish Hatchery
- Silver Striders Walking Club
- Sparta Cab Company
- Sparta Garage
- Starter & Generator Service
- Studio Redwood
- Teapot Dome
- Todd Country Store
- Twin Oaks Co-operative Cheese Co.
- Troutman Industries
- Twin Oaks Motor Company/Stratford Motor Co.
- Village Florist & Gift Shop
- Felix Warden Store
- WCOK
- Alleghany Wellness Center
- Wild Woody's Primitive Campground & Antique Store
- Paul & Grace Woodruff
- Arnold Young
- The Gambill School
- Irwin Grocery School
- New Hope School
- Wolf Branch School
- Black Schools in Alleghany

If you have memories of these or other businesses and organizations, please submit your information before the deadline, August 31, 2010.

Recipes That Raised Us - Vol. 2

If you have a loved one who has passed away, consider honoring them by including their favorite recipe in the second volume of our award-winning, memorial cookbook, "*Recipes That Raised Us.*"

The first volume has been a great success. It was the brainchild of charter society member, Mildred Torney, and all the profits from it have been donated to the Alleghany Library Building Fund. Proceeds from this second volume will go to the Alleghany Historical Museum.

It costs nothing to include a recipe, a photo, and information about your loved one. However, due to copyright laws, no professional photographs can be included without permission from the original photographer.

We currently have about 30 submissions for the book. The sooner we get submissions, the sooner we'll have a book!

Bring your information to Imaging Specialists on Main Street in Sparta or to any Society member.

Books For Sale

HISTORY OF ALLEGHANY COUNTY, NC 1859-1976 - 272-pages not indexed - \$45, S&H \$3 NC residents \$3.04 tax.

ALLEGHANY COUNTY HERITAGE - 555-pages indexed - \$48, S&H \$3 NC residents \$3.24 tax.

ALLEGHANY COUNTY CEMETERIES THROUGH 1986 - 261-pages - \$15, S&H \$2.75 NC residents \$1.01 tax.

ALLEGHANY ARCHITECTURE: A PICTORIAL SURVEY - 101-pages not indexed - \$30.00, S&H \$3.00 NC residents \$2.03 tax.

ALLEGHANY COUNTY, NC MARRIAGES: 1849-1900 - 354-pages indexed - \$30.50 plus \$5 S&H from Heritage Books Inc., 1540-E Pointer Ridge Pl., Bowie, MD 20716 - 1-800-398-7709 - www.heritagebooks.com.

ALLEGHANY COUNTY COURTHOUSE ORNAMENT - Gold-colored metal ornament depicts the county courthouse. \$11.21 NC residents \$0.76 tax; no shipping & handling.

MARY'S MEMORIES - 74-pages Published by Mary Lyon Harless in 2000 on the occasion of her 100th birthday. \$8.00, S&H \$1.50 NC residents \$0.54 tax.

FOOT PRINTS ON THE SANDS OF TIME - 75-pages Subtitled "A History of Southwestern Virginia and Northwestern North Carolina," first published in Sparta, NC in 1900 by Dr. Aras B. Cox. Indexed. \$15.00, S&H \$2.00 NC residents \$1.01 tax.

1938 VIDEO OF SPARTA, NORTH CAROLINA - 20-minute video, by Ben Reeves - Trip to the 1939 Worlds Fair in New York, with 1938 Sparta. VHS tape or DVD \$11.00, S&H \$1.50 NC residents \$0.68 tax.

RECIPES THAT RAISED US - 230 pages Memorial cookbook \$20, S&H \$3.00 NC residents \$1.35 tax or (3) books for \$45.00, S&H \$7.00 NC residents \$3.04 tax.

Find all our items online at: www.spartastore.com

For items ordered from the Society, send your check, payable to Alleghany Historical-Genealogical Society, to:
Alleghany Historical-Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 817, Sparta, NC 28675.

info@ahgs.org

336-372-3002

www.ahgs.org



Membership Form

Please enroll me as a member of the Alleghany Historical-Genealogical Society, Inc. in the classification below:

New Renewal

Individual \$10.00 annually

Business, Institutional or professional \$20.00 annually

Sustaining \$ 50.00 annually

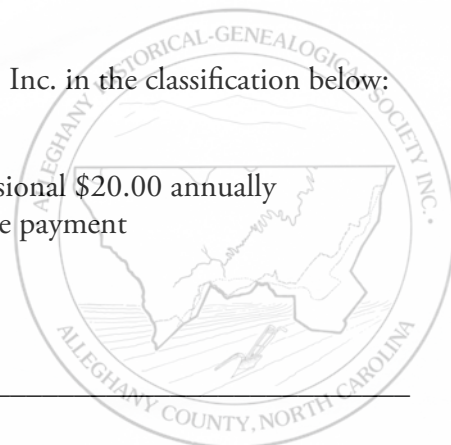
LIFE MEMBER \$100.00 in one payment

Enclosed is a check or money order for membership.

Please send membership card to:

Name- _____

Address- _____



Inquiries

Inquiries are printed here and posted on our website (www.ahgs.org). If you are looking for information, send your inquiries in by emailing info@ahgs.org. Also, if you have answers or information for these people, contact them. You can also send your responses back to the Society (to info@ahgs.org) and we'll print the answers here and post them online. Thanks!

—o—o—o—

Would like to have a death notice for a William Griffith in the Prathers Creek area 1870-1880. Was Griffiths in the 1870 census-wife Mary (Polly). **Marjorie Griffith**, 3319 Stonehenge Sq., Roanoke, VA 24018, 540-819-7878 Best time to call: 5p - 9p, ssmkg1@yahoo.com

—o—o—o—

What is the old building located on the corner on Wolf Branch and Mahogany Rock Rd. It looks like an old school or church. Just email me at your convenience. Thanks, **John Turpin**, King, NC 27052, 336-591-1108 Best Time to Call: 8a - 12n, jmturpin@windstream.net

—o—o—o—

I am interested in purchasing the book, *Choates of the South*, by Irene Choate Williams. Thanks for your help. **Jennifer**, 541-369-2796 Best time to call: 8a - 12n, lollylok@hotmail.com

—o—o—o—

I am originally from Ashe Co. and am descended from Samuel Johnson. I am looking for the book: CAPTAIN SAMUEL JOHNSON OF WILKES COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA - Ancestry and Descendants, Volume One, Descendants of Robert and Celia Bourne Johnson. Do you have any leads or suggestions? **Melanie Reeves Miller**, 137 Claybrook Lane, Cane Ridge, TN 37013, 615-975-8310 Best time to call: 12n - 5p, melanie_reeves@comcast.net

—o—o—o—

Do you have any obits? I am really wanting to find one for Dallas Glenn Parsons b 1926 & died 25 Jul 1981. Thanks for your time. **Bette Nelson**, 4 Tall Tree Way, Georgetown, MA 01833, 978-352-2765 Best time to call: 8a - 12n, bette_nelson@comcast.net

—o—o—o—

I was hoping you could point me in the direction of my family genealogy have traced my great grandmother to your area...Lessie Jane Cheek...I was wanting to find living relatives, if that is possible...please help me! **Tracy McGee**, 1542 Palm Spring Dr., Chambersburg, PA 17202, 717-446-0411 Best time to call: 12n - 5p, tracy6878@yahoo.com

I'm researching my great-grandmother, Mary "Ellen" Toliver. Was known as Ellen Toliver. Believed to be born in Alleghany or Ashe Co. Jan 1862. Jesse W. & Louisa Toliver cited as her parents. Ellen Married. Thomas Hudson Nov. 1877 in Alleghany by Rev. Eli Billings. I have their 1877 Marriage Certificate. They had a daughter Louisa Jane Hudson, (b. May 29, 1879, m. John R. Crouse, d. Nov. 1961). Thomas Hudson was Louisa Jane's father and died in Aug. of 1880. Louisa Jane was adopted by Jesse & Louisa Toliver (Date unknown). Ellen's 2nd marriage to David A. Taylor was in Alleghany NC. Until recently, it was believed that Jesse & Louisa Toliver were her parents. Although, I've been told that Susan Hash is her mother. Any information would be appreciated. **Jane**, 7726 N. Jefferson Place Circle, Apt. P, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, 225-993-6030 Best time to call: 12n - 5p, carmella913@aol.com

—o—o—o—

I am working on a family research project about the William Harris family who lived for at least 3 generations in Alleghany County at Cherry Lane. Could you please let me know if this family is included in some of the history books already written about the area. I am also interested in the civil war service of William Harris who was born in 1834. Also, I would like to know how to get a copy of the Harris wills. **Patty Conroy**, 20171 Leroy Drive, Castro Valley, Ca, 94546, 510-828-1082 Best time to call: 8a - 12n, yornoctap@uahoo.com

—o—o—o—

Thanks for publishing my request online. Here is a change of e-mail address. Does anyone there know anything about the locations of these places? Or, if one were to die at Crab Creek, where would that be? Thank you; would love to start searching the land down. Need to know general holdings of John Connely in 1798; that means "general" as in, near Ennice area. Have general clues as to property area, Crab Creek, etc. More info on the Connely question: sites mentioned are: Maid's (Mades) Knob, Glade Creek area, Crab Creek & Brush Creek Fork; across Glady Fork into VA, Nathan's Ridge, Hammond's Mill Creek, Brushy and Crab Creek drainages. These were lands held by John Connely and I am seeking the general location now. Later acquired by Passmore, Higgins and Johnson Families. Also, where is the "early Little River Baptist Churchyard?" I have a feeling this is all around Ennice? Thanks for any help. **Mary Jo Gohlke**, 3848 Steve Lillie Circle, Stockton, CA 95206, mjgohlke@gmail.com



Allegheny Historical Museum - Continued from page 1

The committee is currently working on walls, cleaning, and generally getting ready to bring in the display cases.

We want the Museum, a long-time dream of many in the Society, to be a showplace for Allegheny's heritage - a place to learn, a place to preserve our history that will be accessible to everyone, but this is our startup. We will grow as we have the money to grow. We plan to build a facility that folks in the county will want to support.

It is also important that we restate our commitment to the Allegheny County Library, and its efforts for a new library building. The Historical Museum and the Library will both serve as important resources for our county.

Barring unforeseen problems, the Museum should be open by the Mountain Heritage Festival on September 18.

If you have items to loan or donate, stories to tell, photos to display or add to the database, or if you just want to volunteer, contact us at info@ahgs.org. The Museum Committee would love to hear from you. Got an idea for a display? Give us a call!

Contact Pauline Jolly at (336) 363-2282 or email us at info@ahgs.org.

Allegheny Historical - Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 817, Sparta, NC 28675 or info@ahgs.org



Halsey Family History - Continued from page 2

The Halsey Family Arms is also included with a detailed explanation of the language found in Burkes' General Armory describing the Halsey blazon, crest, and family motto.

Jeff: "We drew a map of northwest Allegheny County which, of course, was Ashe County in the days when our ancestor, Moses Halsey and his cousin, William, moved to Piney Creek. They came from New Jersey and according to Clinton Halsey's books were descended from Thomas Halsey who came to America in 1638. He settled in Lynn, Massachusetts, and later helped to found Southampton on New York's Long Island.

"His house, Hollyhocks, is still standing and has been turned into a museum by The Southampton Colonial Society."

The book also incorporates photos by Jeff's dad, Ron Halsey, and son, Jeremy Halsey. Ron was raised in Piney Creek and moved to Roanoke where he worked with his uncle, Merle Cornette, who taught him large format black & white photography and introduced him to the printing industry where Ron spent his career in prepress photography.

"Dad copied old family photos for years and was the 'camera man' for most gatherings. Now we are able to scan his negatives and prints and can share these images with everyone.

"And thanks to the photographic process, today we can see farther back in time than anyone in history. We can look right into our great-great-grandmother's eyes."

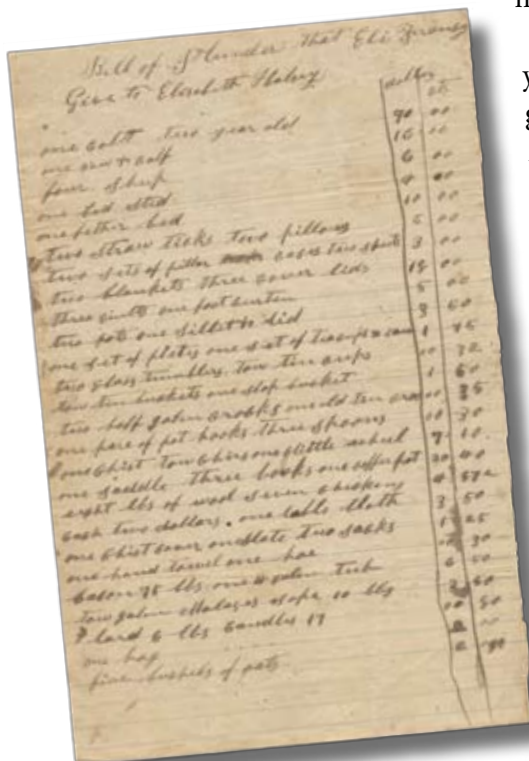
Claire says, "Identify your photographs! It is heartbreaking, but common, to have a good, clear photographic record of a person that no one can identify any more."

Copies of the book can be ordered from The Sparta Store at www.spartastore.com for \$55.40, 102 pages, color, hardcover, 8.25" x 10.75"

"The collection would not have been possible without the cooperation of cousins and family friends. We appreciate each and every one who shared their photos with us."



Elizabeth Frances Halsey, 1843-1913, mother of Eli Hamilton Halsey (from a tintype)



"Bill of Plunder that Eli Frances Give to Elizabeth Halsey"





*Piney Creek United Methodist Church,
Piney Creek, North Carolina*

*Church of St. John the Baptist, Great Gaddesden,
Hertfordshire, Great Britain*

Piney Creek United Methodist Church, home to and final resting place of many of the Halsey family, celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2009. The building, above, was built in 1959 and replaced an earlier, wood-frame structure built in 1910, when the church moved from its original site near where the New Home Baptist stands today.

Note the design similarities in the churches. The the stained-glass window in Piney Creek's sanctuary resembles the one at St. John's. Even the bell towers are similar.

The resemblance is not remarkable but interesting, considering Piney Creek's designers had probably never heard of and surely never seen the ancient church in England where, Thomas Halsey was christened in 1592.

The smaller, reddish gable to the right, of St. John's is called the Halsey Chapel. It displays a brass plaque dedicated to "Thomas Halsey, who immigrated to America in 1637 on the ship in which Oliver Cromwell was due to sail, before he was dissuaded by his friends."

*-from Family Photos, Eli Hamilton Halsey and Lillian Blanche Smith
Photos by Jeff Halsey and Jeremy Halsey*

*This newsletter is published quarterly by the Allegheny Historical-Genaeological Society, Inc.
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