

© 2008
Mary A. Browning

ISBN: 0615193307
LCCN: 2008901626

Cover photo:
Bank barn at Mendenhall Plantation,
Jamestown, N. C.
(Credit: Mary A. Browning)

❧ Preface ❧

We came to Jamestown, North Carolina in August 1969, my husband Fred, and I, and our two sons, Chris and Bruce. We had not chosen this region, state, or place, but our livelihood was tied to Fred's job with Western Electric Co. and its plan to build its Guilford Center along Interstate 85 near Greensboro, so here we were. Jamestown appealed as a place to live, and we have been here ever since.

I won't even try to explain why I am always so curious about the history of the many places I've lived, why I want so much to know what really happened here. It is just something I have always done. Over the years I've made notes, copied information, filed, sorted, lost and reclaimed whatever came to hand about Jamestown. Since, as it turns out, I have lived here quite a long time, the accumulation of notes is large.

I've tried to put it to work and to share it in a format that will appeal to local residents as well as casual visitors. Our visible landscape changes every day, so it's high time to put Xs on the spots where things used to be. I wish I knew more of them.

Many people have contributed to this book, usually when neither they nor I had any idea their information would be published. Some spoke over the phone. Others stood by anxiously while I copied precious old handwritten notes or newspaper clippings. Even more said, "Bring 'em back when you're through" with a wave of the hand and breathtaking trust in my promise to return promptly. Electronic mail gathered an amazing number of responses from busy people. My endnotes name those whose specific information I relied upon. If I begin to name the others, I'm sure to leave someone out.

Working with that superior and enthusiastic gang of volunteers at the Jamestown Alumni Archives introduced me to a new supply of information. This spawned the Oakdale Mill Project that gave me treasured new friends and the golden—no, platinum—opportunity to meet and talk with many folks I would not know otherwise, and to hear their stories. The Town of Jamestown generously made available two specially designed maps for this book, for which I am very grateful.

However, when a writer wants information about the late 18th and early 19th centuries, libraries, archives, and manuscript collections must be the sources of choice. Many of the happiest hours of my life have been spent in those trusted quiet refuges. The staffs and facilities at the High Point Public Library, Greensboro Public Library, Friends Historical Collection at Guilford College, Greensboro History Museum, North Carolina State Archives, North Carolina State Library, and Southern History Collection at UNC provided the main treasure troves.



❧ Table of Contents ❧

| | |
|---|----|
| Preface | 3 |
| Table of Contents | 5 |
| List of Maps & Illustrations | 7 |
| Introduction to Jamestown | 9 |
| Section One, Old Jamestown and New Jamestown | 11 |
| 1. The James Mendenhall House, 11 | |
| 2. Mills and milldam, 11 | |
| [Box] George Mendenhall, 12 | |
| 3. Telmont Law School, 12 | |
| [Box] George C. Mendenhall, 12 | |
| 4. British Troops, 13 | |
| 5. Jamestown, 13 | |
| 6. Reece-Johnston-Bevan House, 14 | |
| 7. Missionary Baptist church, 15 | |
| 8. J. M. Weatherly's Academy, 15 | |
| 9. Guyer-Joyner House, 15 | |
| 10. Madison Lindsay Medical School, 15 | |
| 11. Jamestown Female College, 16 | |
| 12. Holton-Thad McInnis House, 16 | |
| 13. David Lindsay's Store House, 16 | |
| [Box] David Lindsay, 16 | |
| 14. Logan Lodge, A. Y. M., 17 | |
| 15. Coffin -Robbins-Tilden House, 17 | |
| [Box] Martha Robbins Tilden, 17 | |
| 16. A Potter's Shop, 18 | |
| 17. Mezeriah (Martin) Fuller and Ezekiel Fuller, 18 | |
| 18. Stanley House, 18 | |
| [Box] The Nicholites, 18 | |
| 19. "High Log House," 19 | |
| 20. Richard Mendenhall House & Tanning Shop, 19 | |
| 21. Bank Barn, 19 | |
| 22. Richard Mendenhall's Store House, 20 | |
| 23. Old Jamestown Meeting House, 20 | |
| 24. Brick Schoolhouse, 20 | |
| 25. Woolen Mill, 20 | |
| 26. Farmhouse, 21 | |
| 27. Dam, 21 | |
| 28. Potter House, 21 | |
| 29. Jamestown Public Library, 22 | |
| 30. Robbins-Holton-Moore Mill & House, 22 | |
| 31. Dr. Shubal Gardner Coffin House, 22 | |
| 32. "Jamestown Depot" or New Jamestown or "Jamestown Station," 22 | |
| 33. Flint Hill School, 23 | |
| 34. Foscue House, 25 | |
| 35. Oscar M. Bundy House, 25 | |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 36. Magnolia Farm, 25 | |
| 37. Underpass, 25 | |
| 38. Guilford County Tuberculosis Sanatorium, 26 | |
| 39. Mark Iddings House, 26 | |
| [Box] Two Jamestown Gunsmiths, 27 | |
| [Box] Pilot Life Insurance Co. & Sedgfield, 27 | |
| 40. Johnson Shoe Co., 27 | |
| 41. Oakdale Mill Village, 27 | |
| 42. Oakdale Cotton Mill, 27 | |
| Section Two, The Mine District and Southward | 29 |
| 43. Jack's Hill Mine, 29 | |
| 44. North State Mine, 29 | |
| 45. Lindsay Mine, 29 | |
| 46. Deep River Mine, 29 | |
| 47. McCulloch Gold Mill, 31 | |
| 48. Kennett Meeting House, 31 | |
| 49. Hayworth Springs, 31 | |
| 50. Gardner Hill Mine, 31 | |
| 51. Stephen Gardner-Wiley House, 32 | |
| 52. Old Union Cemetery, 32 | |
| 53. Jesse Lee Armfield House, 32 | |
| 54. Holton House, 32 | |
| 55. Gold King Mine, 32 | |
| 56. Freemans Mill, 32 | |
| Section Three, Northward along Deep River | 34 |
| 57. Idol Mill, 34 | |
| 58. Mackay-Armstrong-Thornton House, 34 | |
| 59. Futrell-Mackay-Armstrong House, 34 | |
| [Box] Bull Run Gunsmiths, 34 | |
| 60. Walnut Grove Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery, 35 | |
| 61. Clarence H. Mackay Hunting Lodge & Preserve, 35 | |
| 62. Camp Uhwarrie, 35 | |
| [Box] More Gunsmiths, 36 | |
| 63. Old River Path & The Bicentennial Greenway, 36 | |
| 64. David Beard's Home & Hat Shop, 37 | |
| 65. Nathan Wright House, 37 | |
| 66. Florence Female School, 37 | |
| 67. N. C. State Armory at Florence, 38 | |
| 68. Chestnut Hill, 38 | |
| 69. Florence Community, 38 | |
| 70. William Beard House, 39 | |
| 71. Deep River Friends Meeting House, 40 | |
| 72. Deep River Cabin at Gibson Park, 40 | |
| Index | 40 |
| Endnotes | 44 |



❧ List of Maps & Illustrations ❧

| | |
|---|----|
| Map of Jamestown & places north of the town | 10 |
| Map of Jamestown & places south of the town | 30 |
| Illustrations | |
| James Mendenhall House demolished 1928, 11 | |
| Jack Perdue's sketch map of old Jamestown, 14 | |
| Guyer-Joyner House, 15 | |
| Madison Lindsay Medical School at original site, 16 | |
| Holton-Thad McInnis House, 16 | |
| Logan Lodge, 17 | |
| Stanley House, 18 | |
| Last depot building, 23 | |
| Jamestown Depot sketch map, 24 | |
| Foscue House, 25 | |
| Johnson Bros. & Co., 27 | |
| Oakdale Cotton Mill, 1886, 28 | |
| Freeman's Mill as a machine shop & ice plant in the 1950s, 33 | |
| Back wall of Freeman's Mill, 33 | |
| The Lodge at Camp Uhwarrie, 36 | |
| Beard's Hat Factory, 37 | |
| Florence School built by the Rosenwald Fund, 39 | |



❧ Introduction To Jamestown ❧

Strange, but true: Jamestown began in High Point City Lake Park.

In 1760 there was no High Point, North Carolina, no park, and no lake. But there was a nice piece of land that included a fork where two headwater branches joined to form Deep River, part of the Cape Fear River system.

The branch that flowed toward the fork from the west attracted a Pennsylvania Quaker named James Mendenhall, because it had just the kind of a loop in the waterway that he favored for a place to build a grist and saw mill. He obtained a grant from the British Proprietor, Earl Granville, in 1762, and he built two mills and a house.

Stand on the dam in High Point City Lake Park, look north, and that branch chosen for the mill is to your left. If you look ahead, over the lake, you are sighting along the East or North fork of Deep River. Farther north along its banks in early days were many small gun-manufacturing operations that made use of the water flow to help run lathes and such to produce the famous Jamestown rifles and other items in small workshops.

To your left, again, if you follow the park road to its end at Penny Rd. you will follow the old course of the West or South Fork, and be very near where James Mendenhall built his house and mill. The actual site is now under water.

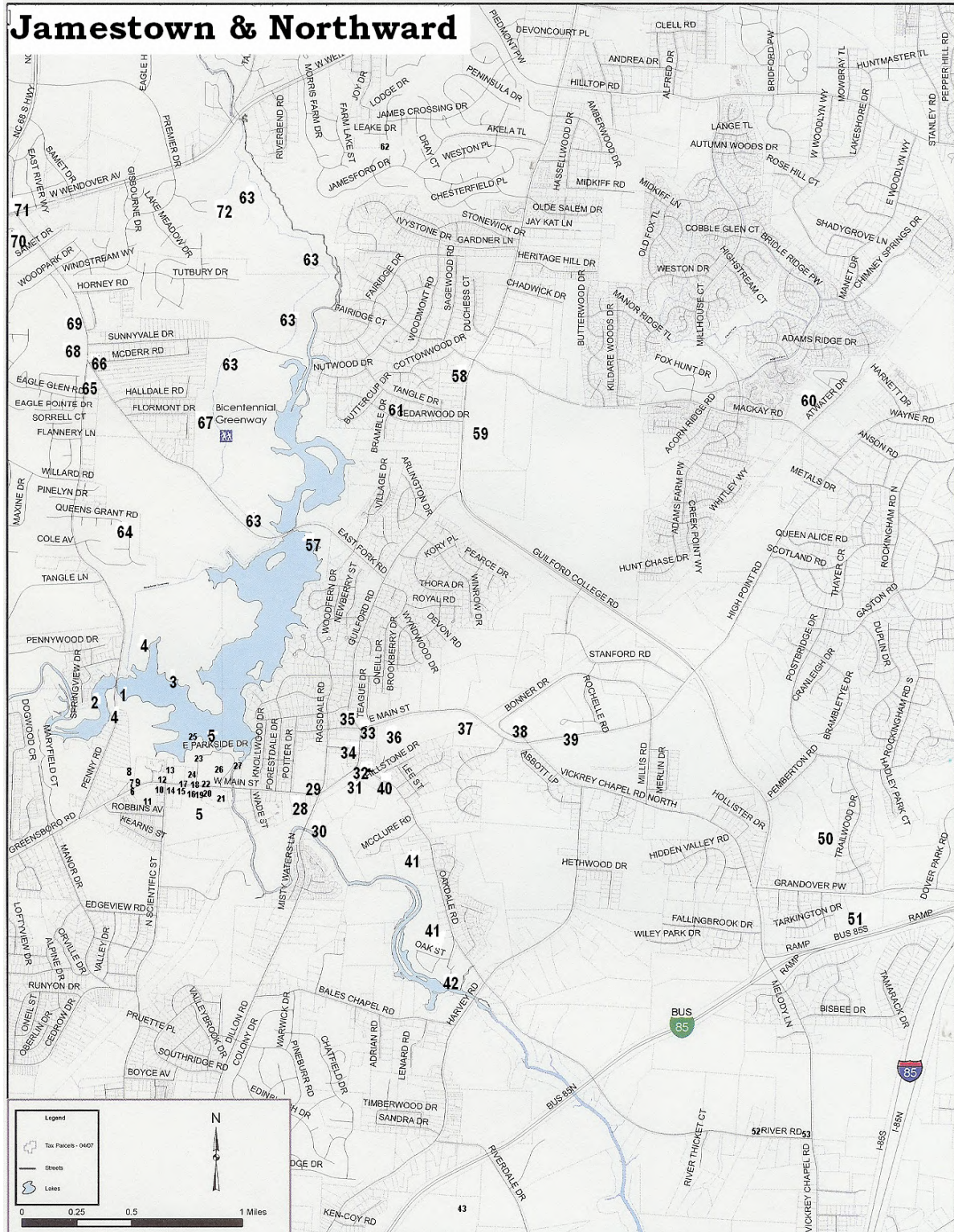
For many years a well-used path began at a foot log crossing the West Fork near the James Mendenhall house, and ran north along the west bank of the North Fork of the river, connecting the old gunsmiths and farmers who lived along the fork with Jamestown on the south, and Deep River Friends Meeting on the north. Much of that path is now incorporated into the Bicentennial Greenway.

A large part of what is now High Point City Lake Park was in the original incorporated village of Jamestown.

The old places I know of in and surrounding the old village are numbered on two maps in this book, and their locations are identified and described briefly. The maps overlap and some locations show up on both of them.

Some structures are still there, some are just sites, all are dated as closely as possible. You can see for yourself the places still standing. For those that are gone, I have found and included photographs of many. Endnotes at the end of the book tell you the sources of the information.





Map of Jamestown and places north of the town.
(Base map by Matthew Johnson, Planner, Town of Jamestown)

❧ Section One ❧

Old Jamestown & New Jamestown

1. The James Mendenhall House

[Site: Near Penny Rd., underwater, east of the bridge, near its southern end.] *(Ca 1753-1928)*

The house was built on the south bank of the west fork of Deep River (now High Point City Lake).

It probably began as a simple log structure, but the only available photographs of it show it with additions, end-to-end because of its proximity to the river. It has been said that first were the house and a separate summer kitchen, and then the two were connected by the middle structure. The families of the earliest James Mendenhall, of George Mendenhall (son of James), and of George C. Mendenhall (youngest son of George) occupied the house. After the death of George C. Mendenhall's widow, Delphina Gardner Mendenhall, it passed out of the family, and was then used by a series of other owners or millwrights.

Martha Robbins Tilden, and her daughter, Sophie Tilden, rescued the 1765 mill house cornerstone from the rising lake waters in 1929 after the house was demolished and the dam was finished. They carried the stone from the shore of the lake to their home in the Coffin-Robbins-Tilden house on Main St. The cornerstone is now on display in the Richard Mendenhall house.¹ It, and a few photographs of the exterior and interior, are the only tangible evidence left of the old house.



James Mendenhall House demolished 1928.
Courtesy High Point Historical Museum

2. Mills and milldam

[Site: probably underwater, west of Penny Rd. bridge.] *(Ca 1763-1928)*

The structures were west of the present Penny Rd. Bridge. The millrace, which turned the wheel, was on the south bank.² James Mendenhall's son George operated the mill until his death in 1805. There were grist and sawmills. The third generation of the family to operate the mills and occupy the house was represented by George's youngest son, George C., who was instructed in his father's last will and testament to keep the mills repaired.

George C. Mendenhall rebuilt the mill in 1832 "with a rock foundation ten feet high and three feet thick", according to an article in *The High Point Enterprise* of Aug. 23, 1931. "The driving machinery was in this basement. There were three stories, above this heavily framed of the finest oak timber in the country and weather boarded with fine heart pine all sawn at the saw mill only a few feet up the mill-race. The weatherboarding, bolting chest, spouts and boxes were all dressed and jointed by hand. The machinery was driven by two overshot water wheels eighteen feet high. This was the best mill and water power on Deep River in this section."

George Mendenhall (c. 1751 - 1805), son of James and Hannah (Thomas), was most remarkable perhaps for his vision in planning the village of Jamestown, and ensuring through his last will and testament that at least part of his plan would become reality.³

He married Judith Gardner (- 1831) in 1774. She was a daughter of Stephen Gardner, one of the many Nantucket Quakers who migrated to the Deep River area.⁴

Of their eleven children, sons Richard, Nathan and George C. were most closely tied with Jamestown's history.

The 1860 census shows that Abel Gardner, a "millwright", was living in Delphina Mendenhall's household, and was apparently operating the mill at that time.

After the death of George C. Mendenhall's widow, Delphina, the mill property is said to have belonged to Paris Benbow, then to his son Oliver C. Benbow, who in 1902 rebuilt it on the same foundation after it had burned. L. O. Williard bought it from Benbow, and then sold it to Sam Stafford, who sold it to Ralto Horney. The property was finally acquired by the City of High Point and the mill site is now covered by an average of thirty feet of water.

3. Telmont Law School

[Site: Piedmont Environmental Center, probably near southwest portion of Bill Faver Lakeshore Trail.] (Ca. 1835-1845)

George C. Mendenhall (c. 1798 - 1860), a lawyer, youngest child of George and Judith, was disowned for marrying Elizabeth Dunn in 1824 out of unity with the Quaker faith. Elizabeth died about a year later, leaving a baby, James Ruffin Mendenhall, who would be George C.'s only child. Elizabeth also left a large number of slaves.⁵ His second marriage was to devout Quaker Delphina E. Gardner, "a whole Quarterly Meeting in herself."⁶ He served as a state senator in 1833, for one term. He died in 1860, drowned while crossing the Uwharrie River in a buggy, probably as he was going to or returning from a court session.

The map shows the probable location of George C. Mendenhall's law school. He took students to read law with him, and by 1845 had established Telmont, a law school, said by Mary Hobbs to have been in a new building "on the bluff beyond the river, opposite his residence." This is generally taken to mean that it was on the north bank of the river.⁷

4. British Troops

(March 13 & 14, 1781)

Redcoats were at George Mendenhall's mill on March 13 and 14, 1781, before the March 15 battle at Guilford Courthouse. The Order Book of Lord Cornwallis states in orders given on 13 March 1781: "A party consisting of one officer and fifty privates from the Brigade of Guards to parade immediately and march to Mendenhall's mills, a guide will attend from Head-Quarters."

The following morning's orders began: "The party at Mendenhall's mill to be relieved at 12 o'clock this day—a Serjeant and twelve of which relief will be sent immediately as an escort to the wagons to this mill, where they will remain and be joined by the other part of the guard. The Serjeant of this escort will inform himself where the wagons are."⁸

It is clear that this party was not all of the main British army, however, so it is unlikely that the bronze **Cornwallis plaque** in High Point City Lake Park (near the Main St. bridge) is wholly accurate in stating that "Lord Cornwallis with 2400 British soldiers Forded Deep River at this Point and camped on its left bank, one mile upstream, Prior to the Battle of Guilford Court House..."⁹

Nathan, son of George Mendenhall, born in Dec. 1776, would have been just a few months past four years old in March 1781, and his own memory of the event was probably enhanced by what he was later told. Nonetheless, his young brother George C. described Nathan's recollection as being that the troops were camped "on Deep river, on the hill, within sight of [the] mill and dwelling-house."¹⁰

Most people who are familiar with the geography, roads of the period, and studies made, believe that British troops were camped along the road leading to Deep River Meeting, but probably not in great numbers.¹¹ The road used was probably the path along the river, rather than present Penny Rd.

A story told by Mary Mendenhall Hobbs, daughter of Nereus Mendenhall, has it that the British drove off the family's last milch cow, but that George's wife Judith "went at once to the headquarters of the army and laid the situation before the officer in charge, who at once issued the order that the cow be returned to the owner. Judith walked down the hill leading her cow."¹²

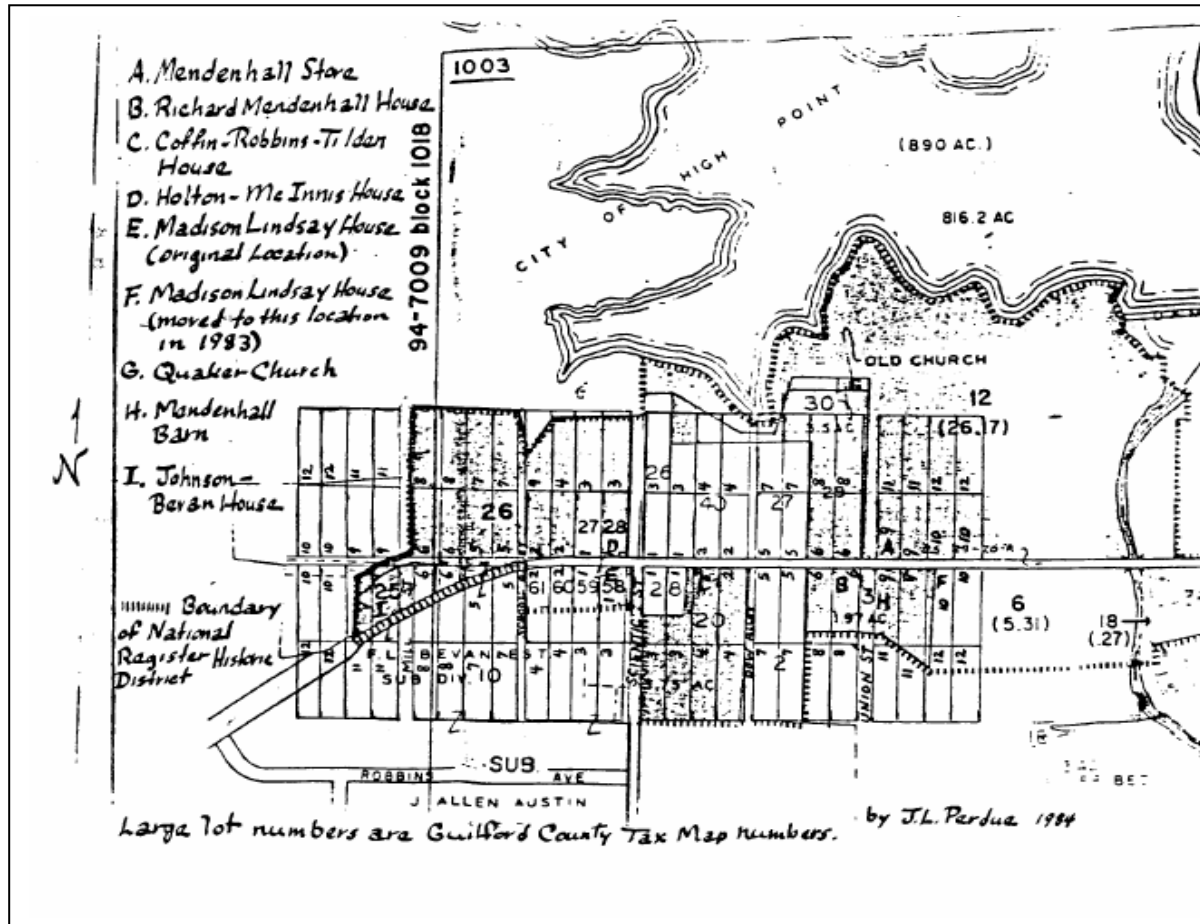
5. Jamestown

[Original western limit at Historic District sign on West Main St., original eastern limit about at present park swimming pool.] *(Ca 1800)*

Jamestown was planned by George Mendenhall, named for his father, and laid out west of Deep River, on the southern part of the old Granville grant. George sold the first lots about 1800, but it was referred to by name in Guilford Co. court records earlier than that.¹³ It

was chartered by the state's General Assembly in 1816,¹⁴ and a plat was recorded in Guilford Co.¹⁵ School Alley and "Scientific" [Scientific] Street were named before the school and the doctor were on the scene. But Mill St. led to the mill, and traces of its rough roadbed can still be seen.

A few details about the town can be found in George Mendenhall's will of 1805. It mentions "the ford of the River at the mouth of the tail race..." and son Richard's tanyard. The plat had probably been drawn up no later than 1805, even though it was not recorded until some years later.



The late Jack Perdue created the sketch map above in 1984. It places the 1816 recorded plat over a 1984 tax map, and shows the old plat's narrow lots, two deep, along the north and south sides of "Federal" (Main) St., and with Scientific Street running north and south in the center of the town.¹⁶

6. Reece - Johnston - Bevan House

[720 W. Main St.] (Early 19th century)

It was originally built on the south side of Federal or Main St., at its junction with Mill

St., before Main St. was moved. In 1834, Wm. H. Reece, constable and later agent for the N. C. Railroad, bought the property. Later owners were J. Harper Johnston, deputy sheriff and merchant; and F. L. Bevan, noted dog trainer. The road was moved south of the house in the early 20th century. There are front porches on both sides of the house. Reece later moved to “Jamestown Depot.”

7. Missionary Baptist Church

[Site: just north of **6.**] *(Ca 1825)*

The church was a branch of Abbot’s Creek Baptist in present Davidson Co. A meetinghouse was built at this same intersection with Mill St., but on the north side of Main. Or, as in another description, “The church lot was located at the elbow bend of the old Greensboro road, back of the J. Harper Johnson home in old Jamestown. It was bounded on the [east] by Mill Street which led to Mendenhall’s Mill nearby.”¹⁷ The “Missionary Society for Spreading the Gospel in the State of North Carolina” bought the eastern half of lot No. 9 northwest in 1825 to provide a place of worship for all denominations. Trustees were Jesse Field, David Lindsay, and Isaac Beeson.¹⁸ The church itself was said to be a small frame building.

The congregation moved in 1859-1860 to become High Point’s First Baptist Church. It is said that the church building was allowed to deteriorate until it finally collapsed.¹⁹

8. J. M. Weatherly’s Academy

[Site just north of **7.**] *(Ca. 1880-1908)*

According to the best available source the frame church mentioned above was built on the upper part of the lot facing the first curve. It stood until about 1875 and about 1880 the schoolhouse known as the Jamestown Academy was built on the lower part of the church lot. Professor J. M. Weatherly operated this school from 1880 to 1882. The building was torn down about 1908.”²⁰



The Guyer-Joyner House

9. The Guyer-Joyner House

[Site just east of **7.**] *(Mid-19th century)*

This was one of many two-story frame houses that are now gone from Jamestown. It stood on the northeast corner of the Mill St. intersection.

10. Madison Lindsay Medical School

[Original Site: 701 W. Main St.] *(Early 19th century)*

The building stood for at least 160 years on this two-acre tract that David Lindsay bought in 1817, at the southwest corner of Scientific - Main (old Federal) St. intersection. David Lindsay’s young nephew, Dr. I. J. M. (Isaac James Madison, usually called Madison)



Madison Lindsay Medical School at original site

Lindsay, practiced medicine here from about 1826 until about 1833, and took students who “read medicine” with him. Among these students were doctors Shubal G. Coffin and J. M. Worth.²¹ The property was sold to Alexander Robbins of Randolph Co., who came to Jamestown in 1857 to be secretary-treasurer of the Building Committee of the new Jamestown Female College.

Now, in its new location, the old Madison Lindsay Medical School adjoins the Mendenhall Plantation (see **20**), where it was moved to avoid demolition.²²

11. Jamestown Female College

[Site on Robbins St., probably near bakery water tower.] (1859-1861)

Important, but short-lived, the college stood somewhere in this neighborhood, on a hill, from 1859 until it burned in 1861, built by the Methodist Protestant denomination on land donated by George C. Mendenhall. By 1860 the establishment included four teachers, and forty-seven young women pupils, aged from 13 to 22, whose names are listed on the federal census taken that year.²³ The school was a four-story structure, 50’ by 84’. In 1861, it caught fire from a lighted candle near a curtained window. It was never rebuilt.²⁴ Some of its original bricks form the base for a **memorial marker** on the campus of High Point University.



Holton - Thad McInnis House

12. Holton - Thad McInnis House

[Site: 700 W. Main St.] (Mid-19th century)

This was a typical house of the period with wide eaves and exterior brick chimneys. It stood on the north side of Main St., on the west side of Scientific (which was never used as a through street here.)

13. David Lindsay’s Store House

[Site: 610 W. Main St.] (By 1816)

David Lindsay was the youngest son of Robert and Ann (Nancy) McGee Lindsay, and so related to the family that became prominent as merchants and businessmen in Guilford Co. David owned several lots around this same intersection in Jamestown, and apparently lived all his life there. He and his wife Sarah (Dillon) were buried in the **Jamestown Meeting House burial ground.**

It may have started life as Levin Charles’ dwelling house, and it probably dominated the activity around this junction of Main or Federal and Scientific streets for many years. It was standing by 1816 when Lindsay bought 2½ lots.²⁵ He

purchased it from Levin Charles, who had been licensed by the county court in Aug. 1799 to operate a “Tavern at his own Dwelling House in James Town...”²⁶ Since Lindsay served as postmaster from 1823 until (probably) 1847, the post office was likely located in the store house. The lot was vacant by 1916.

14. Logan Lodge, A. Y. M.

[Site: Probably 609 W. Main St.] (Ca 1849)

The lodge was in a “substantial brick house”.²⁷ The Methodist Protestant Conference met here when the Jamestown Female College was being planned in 1858.²⁸ Logan Lodge 121 was chartered as a member of Ancient York Masons in 1849, forfeited its charter in 1880, had it restored in 1895, and then surrendered it in 1902.²⁹

The photograph was made by N. M. Bales and sent in 1910 to Thomas A. Mendenhall of Greenville, Ohio, who published it in a volume of family history. Bales said it was a corner building, and that in 1865 “the Stars and Stripes were raised” between the Old Masonic Hall and Richard Mendenhall’s residence “just after the war.”³⁰



Logan Lodge

15. Coffin-Robbins-Tilden House

[607 W. Main St.] (Early 19th century)

This handsome house was built in the early 19th century and extensively remodeled about 1840 by Dr. Shubal G. Coffin, one of Dr. Madison Lindsay’s medical students. The house was built on a lot originally owned by Dr. William Mendenhall, son of George, who moved to Anson Co. and remained there. He was the father of Coffin’s wife, Laura, and it is thought the property perhaps came into Coffin’s hands through that connection, as there is no deed establishing the transfer. Handsomely proportioned and carefully maintained through the years, this is probably the finest Greek revival structure in the county. It is sometimes called the Coffin House I, because Dr. Coffin’s name is also associated with his second home, in “New Jamestown” or Jamestown Depot. Following Coffin’s departure, Dr. J. L. Robbins occupied the house. It has remained in the hands of Robbins family descendants, from Alexander Robbins’ daughter Martha Robbins Tilden, to her daughter, Miss Sophie Tilden, to Martha’s granddaughter, Martha Tilden Hay, and so on.³¹

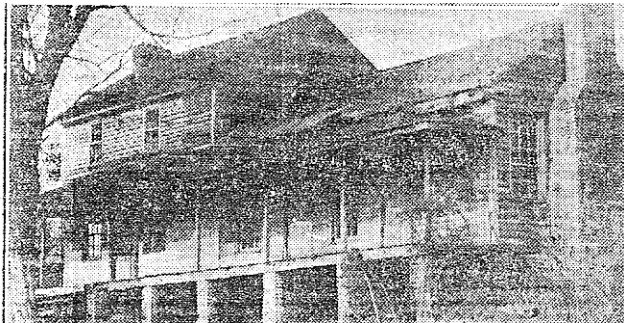
Martha Robbins Tilden kept Jamestown history and traditions alive through her colorful newspaper articles of the 1930s and 1940s. One of her articles speculated about the origin of the town’s name, and it prompted a lengthy and detailed rebuttal by Mary Mendenhall Hobbs, a granddaughter of Richard Mendenhall, and great-great-granddaughter of James Mendenhall. Hobb’s history of the Mendenhall family in Jamestown set the record straight. Martha Robbins Tilden should be given credit for that, and for all of her other stories that give us glimpses of old Jamestown.

16. A Potter's Shop [Site: east of **15.**] (1841)

A potter on this lot is referred to in a deed of 1841.³² The soil of the east-side garden of the Coffin – Robbins -Tilden house has plentiful evidence of a kiln in the glazed chunks of material found here. Exactly who operated the kiln, and when, is unknown.

17. Mezeriah (Martin) Fuller and Ezekiel Fuller³³ [Site: probably 604 W. Main St.] (19th century)

This African-American family owned their house on Main St. by 1900. The lot along with the adjoining lot, known as the Stanley lot, was mentioned as a bequest in the will of Minerva Mendenhall. The Fullers had two sons, William, and Walter. Ezekiel listed his occupation on the 1900 census as “draysman.” Tradition says that “Aunt Mez’s” full name was Mezeriah Matilda Jane Mary Ann Virginia Martin Fuller. On 13 Dec. 1933, she was one of five surviving trustees of the Jamestown Primitive Baptist Church who sold to the City of High Point the old brick meeting house and the tract it was on, on Union St. in Jamestown. Mary Mendenhall Hobbs had sold this property to the Primitive Baptist Church in 1915. The other church trustees were Nat Martin and wife Bessie, and David “Hobson,” probably Hopkins, and wife Roda.³⁴



Stanley House

18. Stanley House [Site: W. Main St. just west of City Lake Park entrance.] (early 19th century)

This house, pulled down sometime after 1945, was the home of William Stanley until after 1850, and then of his son Adolphus. When Union Army raiders burned the woolen mill in 1865, the mill workers were taken to the Stanley House

and detained there.³⁵ William Stanley’s father, Joseph, was one of the Nicholites who migrated to this area about 1778.³⁶

The Nicholites were a small and little-known group of people who migrated about 1778 from the Maryland-Delaware border area to Deep River where the Quaker settlements had already been established. These people were called Nicholites because they had been followers of a man named Isaac Nichols. Other Nicholites included several members of the Charles family, and Valentine Pegg whose daughter Mary would marry Richard Mendenhall. Many members of the small group eventually became Friends (Quakers).

19. “High log house”

[Site: just west of **20.**] (*Early 19th century*)

The building was on the south side of Federal (Main) Street in Jamestown, and was mentioned in the 27 June 1851 description of the dower land laid off to Mary (Pegg) Mendenhall after the death of her husband, Richard. The metes and bounds of the house tract begin at a stake, eight feet north of the North-east corner of the “High log house,” and then run south and east, so the log building was not included in Mary Mendenhall’s dower.³⁷ Henry Humphrey, later a prominent businessman of Greensboro, is said to have sold leather goods here in the early days.³⁸

20. Richard Mendenhall House & Tanning Shop

[603 W. Main St.] (*Ca 1811*)

The house is a familiar landmark, and probably looks better now than it ever had during its earlier life. Its eastern portion was built in 1811 with a space-saving enclosed corner stairway, and other typical features of hall-and-parlor architecture of the time. Subsequent additions have been made to the house, which is now owned by the Historic Jamestown Society, serving as a museum along with the remainder of the “plantation”, or farm, and its outbuildings.

As a youth, Richard, son of George and grandson of James, was sent with his brother Stephen to Pennsylvania to serve apprenticeships, Richard to a potter, and Stephen to a tanner. When Stephen died, Richard took over his apprenticeship and returned home to build a tannery, this house, and the storehouse across the street. A journal that he kept has notes on chemical solutions and processes used in his trade.³⁹ His estate papers indicate clearly that the tanning shop was on Union St., which ran between his house and his barn, and that the shop was south of, or downhill from, the house.⁴⁰

The tanyard was at the base of the hill below the house, where a small branch flows east toward the river.

Richard married Mary Pegg, daughter of Valentine Pegg, a Nicholite. Their daughter Minerva became the last of the family to live in Jamestown. She died many years ago, but is sometimes seen or heard moving around the old house, or so it is said. She was postmistress for many years, and the post office is said to have been in an enclosed portion of the porch.

21. Bank Barn

[On grounds of Mendenhall Plantation.] (*Early 19th century*)

Here is a fine example of the Pennsylvania-style barn built to take advantage of the steep hillside. There is access to the building on two levels. Fortunately, very little had been changed in the old building over the years, so original construction details are easy to see and appreciate.

The lot on which it was built originally belonged to Richard Mendenhall's brother James, a waggoner, and it is very possible that he, rather than Richard, built the barn. It was well suited to James' occupation, with its wide floor space, and several stalls underneath. For most of its history, however, it has been part of the Richard Mendenhall property.

22. Richard Mendenhall's Store House

[602 W. Main St.] (1824)

It is sometimes called "the counting house," is dated 1824 and initialed "RM," and seems clearly to have been intended as a commercial building, although it has also been used as a dwelling. The entrance to High Point City Lake Park was allowed to cut dangerously close to the foundations of this important old building.

23. Old Jamestown Meeting House

[Lakeside Dr., High Point City Lake Park] (Ca 1815)

Built by the Quaker Mendenhalls, it was used for many purposes, not the least of which was for weekly worship services when bad weather prevented attendance at Deep River Monthly Meeting of Friends. On at least one occasion, Sept. 14, 1832, the N. C. Manumission Society met there.⁴¹ George C. Mendenhall's will of 1860 left it to the Commissioners of the Corporation of Jamestown. However, Jamestown subsequently lost its charter so the building reverted to the heirs. In 1915, the church was sold to the Jamestown Primitive Baptist Church (see also **17**), and in 1933 ownership passed to the City of High Point. A small **burial ground** is just west of the meetinghouse.

24. Brick Schoolhouse

[Site: On west side Lakeside Dr., about midway between W. Main St. & Old Jamestown Meeting House.] (Ca 1815)

In 1815 and 1816, George Mendenhall's daughter Judith taught a "Seminary of Learning" in a brick schoolhouse that had been built on the west side of Union Street, on the second lot north of Federal (Main) St. The building was owned by the Mendenhalls, and was used as a school for many years after that. It is likely that Judith J. Mendenhall, Richard Mendenhall's daughter, taught a Freedman School for freed slaves there in 1866-1870. Just when the building was removed isn't known, but Minerva Mendenhall still listed it as a taxable property in 1883.

25. Woolen Mill

[Site: Probably near children's playground, High Point City Lake Park.] (1861-1865)

The mill was owned by James Ruffin Mendenhall, George C.'s son, and was built in late 1861 and early 1862, by Adolphus E. Stanley, who held the construction contract.⁴² An anonymous and unidentified newspaper article says that Mendenhall and his partner Duncan

A. McRae of Cheraw, S.C., had a contract with Maj. James Sloan, quartermaster at Greensboro, to manufacture grey cloth for Confederate uniforms. In April 1865, when Union army raiders sought the location of the gun factory, which they intended to destroy, they were directed to the woolen mill. They subsequently seized and burned the building. (The gun factory, located at the modern site of Oakdale Cotton Mill, escaped untouched.)⁴³

The woolen mill is said to have stood about where the children's playground is now in High Point City Lake Park. About 1916, at or very near this same site, at the top of a steep bank dropping down to the river, the "Campbell farm barn" stood, which was said to have been a fine old house on a hill. A sketch map dating from that time shows Union St. running directly to it, and ending there. Just south of the slope, downstream on the riverbank, a ford and foot log allowed access to the other side of the river.⁴⁴

26. Farmhouse

[Site: Probably northeast of the Old Meeting House.] (*Ca 1829-1928?*)

A three-room house stood about 150-200 feet behind the church. The house had a large fireplace with the date 1829 carved on the mantle. Most of the land belonging to the farm was across the river, accessible by a foot log.⁴⁵ About 1915 this was called the "Campbell Farm." The John Ham family lived in the house about 1895.⁴⁶

27. The Dam

[Off E. Lakeside Dr., High Point City Lake Park] (*1928*)

The structure that caused the northern edge of the neglected old village to drown was built in 1928 to provide a reservoir and water supply for the City of High Point.

28. Potter House

[211 W. Main St.] (*Ca 1819*)

This log and frame house was probably begun about 1819, when Isaac Potter bought the land upon which it was built. Additions were made about 1890. Tradition says the original log building was used as a store and then after 1826 as a residence. Mary Edna ("Aunt Mary") Potter, a popular teacher, kept a small subscription school here before 1913.

The family owned the large **Potter Farm**, which extended north directly across the road from the house as well as south of it to the railroad. From that acreage, school officials purchased the farm for the **Farm Life School** of 1911, and then bought more land in 1915, when the large brick school, now the Jamestown Library, was built upon it. In the mid-1900s, smaller tracts for homes and businesses on the west side of Main St. were sold.

The **Davis-Frazier House**, and the **Hendricks House**, east of the Potter House, are sturdy survivors of early 20th century, pre-Depression development out of the Potter Farm along Main St.