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August 19, 201_

Hi:

I have completed the 10 hour research session. I hope you will be pleased with the results.

Your Goal:



Your goal was to learn about the previous owners of your house/home located at 189 Union Street North, Concord, NC, 28025. Known as the Charles H. Erwin House, your research has shown it was built around 1805. You have found some deeds referencing a one acre lot with house, but would like to learn about the families who lived there; specifically:

- 1.) Genealogy information about: M.A. Blackwelder/Leah Blackwelder
- 2.) Genealogy information about Charles Harris Erwin & his family
- 3.) Genealogy information about Brevard Harris & his family
- 4.) Information about the house/property itself going back beyond 1867.
- 5.) Information about the house/property itself as to how it passed from Erwin to Harris

To date, your research has shown the house was sold in 1867 to M. A. Blackwelder by W. A. Smith, E. C. Smith and Joel Reed. This is the first mention of the house you have been able to find in Cabarrus County deeds. The one acre house/property was owned by M. A. Blackwelder in 1872 when Leah S. Blackwelder (possible wife or daughter) sold the property to Aaron G. Lentz for \$700; money needed to pay debts. Lentz owned the property until 1879 when he sold it to Charles Harris Erwin and his second wife, Sarah Virginia Pharr for \$1300.

The house was purchased by Charles Harris Erwin (1822-1885) on September 29, 1879. Erwin was married first to Mary Eliza Bost (1837-1867) and second to Sarah Virginia Pharr (1843-1916). You have seen references to Erwin being a Confederate Soldier and wonder if this is true.

The property was sold to Brevard Ervin Harris (1861-1922) sometime in the 1920's. He was a bookkeeper by trade and served as the Secretary Treasurer of Cannon & Fetzer Co. He also served on the Cabarrus County School Commission in 1903 and was an Alumnus of Davidson College and Secretary of the YMCA. Harris' wife was Bonnie Savage (1860-1954) and they had one son, Brevard Ervin Harris Jr. (1897-1981) who became a local historian along with serving as Concord's Postmaster, City Clerk and Treasurer. Harris Jr. had one daughter, Jane Harris Nierenburg, now 94 years old, who you have met.

The House

The Charles Erwin House is listed on the National Register of Historical Places as part of the North Union Street Historic District. Per the National Register:

"The North Union Street Historic District consists of 190 properties that are found in a twenty-five block area that is located directly northwest of the city's central business district...The district has 190 buildings, of these 174 were originally intended for residential purposes. The majority of the residential structures were designed for single family occupancy...The earliest extant houses in the district are vernacular versions, those that fused Greek Revival and Italianate idioms..."

The description goes on to say the Erwin House (#50) is among the "finest surviving examples" of Greek Revival and Italianate Houses.

...The Erwin House (#50) was probably built soon after Charles E. Erwin purchased the lot in 1879. The most distinctive Italianate feature of the house is the tall, narrow façade. The Erwin House also maintains its original six-over-six sash windows and Italianate interior trimwork."

Your research has already shown a house existed on the property in 1872, so the Register date may be a little off.

W. A. Smith, E. C. Smith and Joel Reed

Your research had shown the house was sold in 1867 to M. A. Blackwelder by W. A. Smith, E. C. Smith and Joel Reed. I was unable to find anything on E. C. Smith, but W. A. Smith and Joel Reed were neighbors, business associates, and occasional business partners who were involved in one law suit that went all the way to the North Carolina Supreme Court.

Per the 1870 census, WA Smith was a 41 year old Retired Dry Goods Merchant living in Concord, North Carolina with his wife, Francis, and 5 children. Smith was wealthy by post-Civil War standards; he owned real estate property valued at \$25,000 and personal property valued at \$10,000. At age 41, he was a very young man to have already retired, but, as you will see, he tried his hand at investing which did not go well.

Age	Name	Sex	Marital Status	Occupation	Real Estate Value	Personal Property Value	Other
41	Smith, W. A.	M	W	Retired Dry Goods Merchant	25,000	10,000	A. C.
38	Francis	F	W	Keeping House			A. C.
12	Mary	F	W	At School			A. C.
10	Victor	M	W	"			A. C.
8	Jennette	F	W	At Home			A. C.
6	John	M	W	"			A. C.
3	Kate	F	W	"			A. C.

Source Citation: Year: 1870; Census Place: Concord, Cabarrus, North Carolina; Roll: M593_1126; Page: 467A; Image: 331; Family History Library Film: 552625

Joel Reed also lived in Concord, NC, in the same section of town where the Smith family lived. Joel was a successful druggist (pharmacist) which had made him a fairly wealthy man. In 1870, his real estate holdings were worth \$15,000 and personal property was worth \$5000. Reed's wife Ellen was 16 years younger than him. They had two small children and a "live in" domestic servant named Betty Harris. Shocking by today's standards, Betty was Mulatto and only 9 years old, possibly a former slave who had been orphaned or separated from her family by the War.

18	122	Reed Joel	42	M	W	Druggist	15000	5000	N. C.
		" Ellen	26	F	W	Keeping House			N. C.
		" John S.	2	M	W	At Home			N. C.
		" Kate C.	9	F	W	" "			N. C.
		Harris Betty	9	F	M	Domestic Servant			N. C.

Source Citation: Year: 1870; Census Place: Concord, Cabarrus, North Carolina; Roll: M593_1126; Page: 468A; Image: 333; Family History Library Film: 552625

Something New !

SMITH'S Lung Preserver is a newly discovered Medicine but by the thousands of endorsers of the good results it has attained, shows already that it is Superior to anything else for the sure and effectual cure of Consumption and in fact all diseases of the Throat and Lungs. All orders with cash or satisfactory reference filled promptly. Price \$1.00 per bottle, usual discount to the trade. Prepared only by

W. A. SMITH,
Concord, N. C.

For Sale by
N. D. Fetzer, Joel Reed, J. P. Gibson.
mar 29

Examples of Smith and Reed's business association are found in the newspapers local to Concord, NC. On Sunday, February 1, 1874 (page 3), The Bright Mason, Concord, NC, published the following advertisement. W. A. Smith had invested in a new medicine, The Smith's Lung Preserver, which could cure "in fact all diseases of the Throat and Lungs". This miracle cure was for sale at local drug stores including the one owned and operated by Joel Reed.

Joel Reed was, apparently, ready to peddle any type of new medicine. Of course, we need to remember

SHAKE, SHAKE! CHILL, CHILL!—
Now that the ague season is upon us it is well to remember that the Wabash Valley Ague Cure is a never failing remedy for all cases of chills and that an occasional dose sufficient to keep the Liver and Spleen acting properly during the malarial season will surely prevent all diseases which arise from malarial causes. Call on J. Reed for it and give it a trial. Mr. Reed also has on hand a supply of that never failing "Neuralgia Specific." Sufferers use it and be relieved.

"medicine" was a very rough term, a catch-all that included everything from old home remedies to quackery dreamed up by get-rich-quick schemers. Although Colleges and Universities were beginning to turn out educated doctors and pharmacists, it was still common for the neighborhood Barber to double as a Dentist when needed. One of the advertisements for Reed's medicines was published in The Concord Register, Concord, NC on Saturday, May 27, 1876 (page 1).

And "for cash and cash alone" you could purchase a wide array of goods from Reed, including alcoholic beverages.

OUR STOCK OF
Malt Liquors is now complete. Ale, Lager Beer, Porter, Wines, &c., will be sold at prices to suit the times, for cash and cash alone.
J. REED.

The Concord Register, Concord, NC, Saturday, June 10, 1876, page 1

W. A. Smith even got involved in politics, running for the newly created position (created 1868) of Lieutenant Governor on the Republican Ticket in 1876. He lost to Democrat Thomas J Jarvis of Currituck County.

Let the people of North Carolina remember, that W. A. Smith the Radical candidate for Lieutenant Governor, was a secessionist—That he was a member of the secession convention and signed the ordinance of secession.

Let them remember that when this man Smith—'Blow your horn Billy'—was examined under oath by the Legislative committee as to whether he knew of any one getting money for the lease of the North Carolina Railroad, of which he was President, that he replied that he 'could not say without criminating himself.' In other words, he admitted that he had been bribed himself—Remember he was under oath—now do the people of North Carolina of any color or race or party, wish such a man as this for such a high position?

Has this proud old State fallen so low, that bribe takers, are to be elevated to these high positions of trust and honor? We cannot—we will not believe it.

The Concord Register, Concord, NC, Saturday, August 19, 1876, Page 1

**NOTICE TO
TRESPASSERS.**

Concord, N. C., Feb. 28th, 1877.

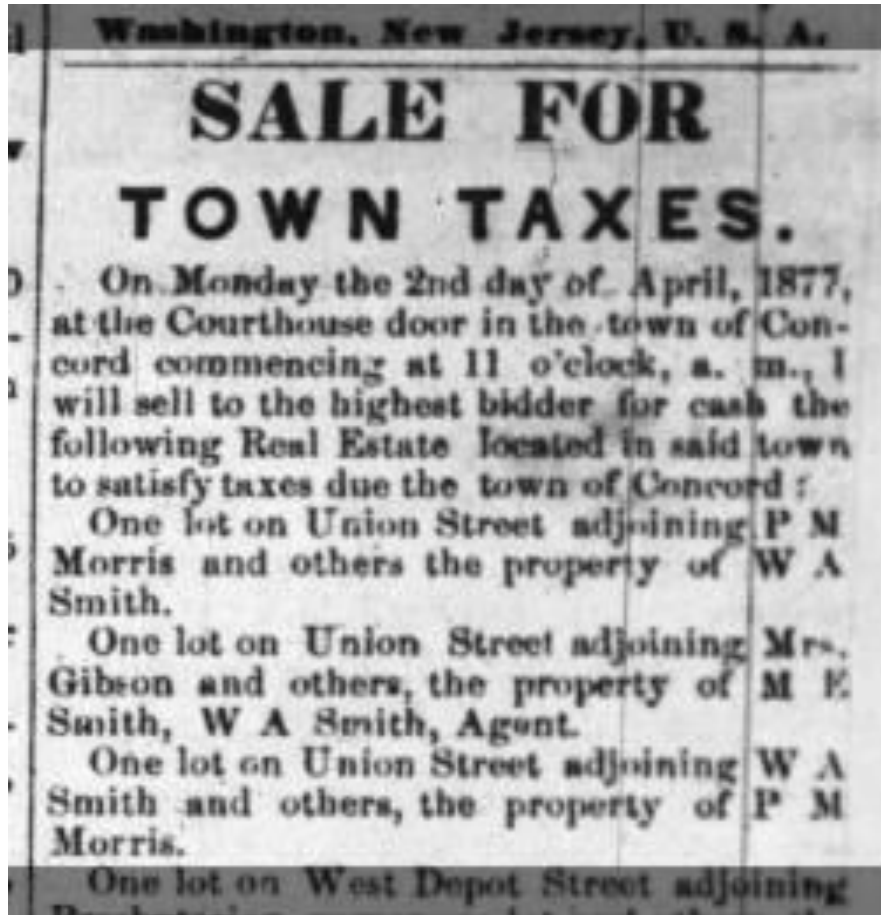
All persons are hereby forbidden from trespassing on our lands, situated in Townships Nos. 2, 11, & 12, or of fishing thereon, with hook or line, or with seine or otherwise; or of hunting with dogs, guns or otherwise; or using the water out of A. G. Lentz's spring: on pain of being prosecuted by us according to law.

M W Johnston, R W Allison, J Reed, A B Young, Daniel Fisher, W A Smith.	A G Lentz, Charles Wagner. John P Allison, C D Dowd, J S Fisher.
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In 1877, Reed, Smith and several of their neighbors banded together in an attempt to keep trespassers off their property and out of their neighborhood. The Concord Register, Concord, NC, Saturday, March 31, 1877, Page 4.

However, by the time this announcement was published, W. A. Smith's financial situation was falling apart. A Sale for Town Taxes was planned to take place on Monday, April 2, 1877, at the Courthouse door in Concord. Among the properties listed

for sale "to the highest bidder" was property owned by W. A. Smith located on Union Street, Concord.



The Concord Register, Concord, NC, March 3, 1877, page 4

W. A. Smith's schemes and deals had finally caught up with him. On April 9, 1878, Smith found himself in the North Carolina Supreme Court receiving judgment. Per the book Cases Argued and Determined in the Supreme Court of North Carolina, June Term, 1878, page 310:

On the 17th of January, 1872, the defendant and his wife executed a mortgage deed to Elam King, to secure a debt the defendant owed King, with power of sale in default of payment at a certain time, and on the 3d of March 1873 they executed a similar deed to Joel Reed to secure defendant's debt to him. The deed to King conveyed a tract of land in and near the town of Concord in Cabarrus county, and the deed to Reed conveyed the defendants equity of redemption therein.

The plaintiff, having obtained a judgment against the defendant on a debt due him, had an execution issued which was returned unsatisfied, and thereupon he brought an action against the defendant and said mortgagees for a foreclosure of the mortgages and a sale of the land to pay his debt...

The affidavit of Mrs. Smith, wife of defendant, upon the injunction was granted, states that up to the time of the rendition of said order she was not a party to the action, but subsequently filed her complaint and moved to be made a party to protect her equities as surety of her husband, in that said order authorized the sale of a house and lot which was her separate property...

If I interpret this correctly, W. A. Smith had agreed to sell property belonging to his wife without her knowledge or consent and she wanted the sale reversed and made void. The Supreme Court agreed, stating:

...that she did not owe the creditors of her husband; that the indebtedness secured by the mortgages arose from the individual contract of her husband, and her separate property was conveyed with it as additional security for its payment; and that the debt of the plaintiff is also an individual debt of her husband. The affiant is advised that as the debts secured in the mortgages have been satisfied as aforesaid, her separate property is discharged from any further lien in respect to the execution of said deeds...

Thus W. A. Smith's wife, Frances, kept her property. I wonder what the conversations were like around their dinner table?

Of course, your property was sold to M. A. Blackwelder by W. A. Smith and Joel Reed in 1867, so not part of the law suit or public auction to pay Town Taxes, but this gives you an idea about what type of men Smith and Reed were.

M.A. Blackwelder and Leah Blackwelder

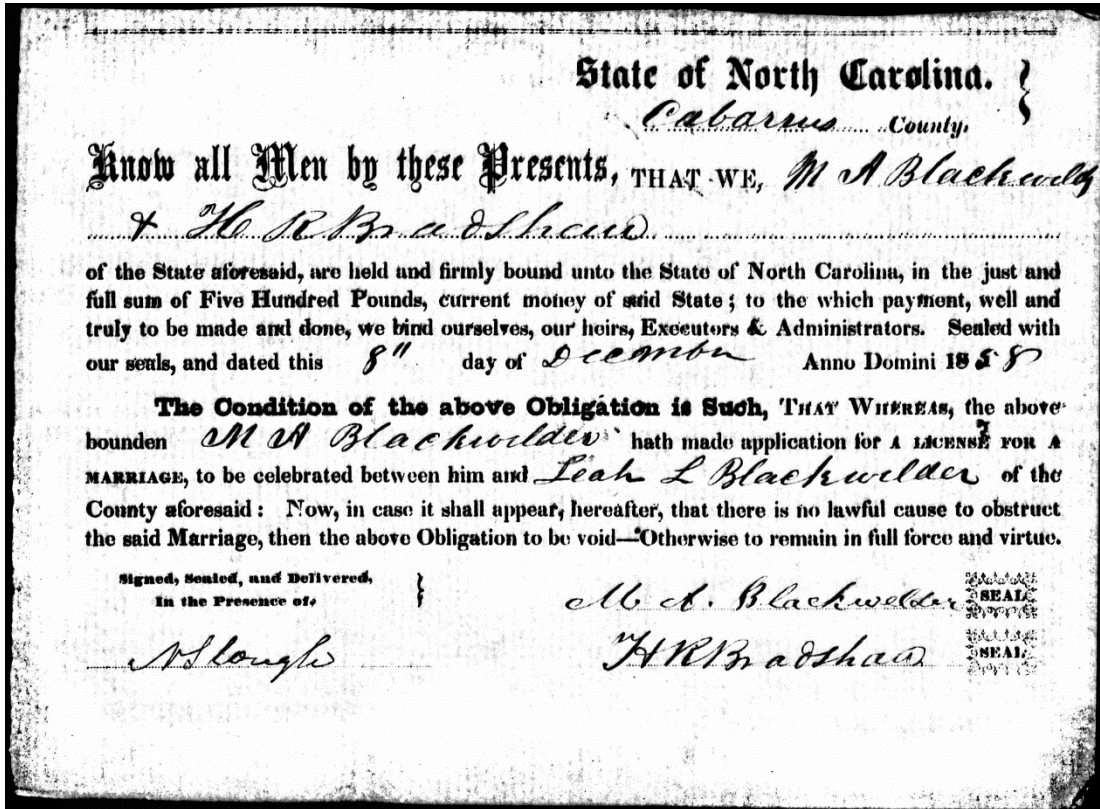
Per the 1860 Federal Census, there were 3 men named Martin Blackwelder living in Cabarrus County, NC. To add to the confusion, two of these men had the middle initial "A". However, only one had a wife name Leah. He was Martin Alexander Blackwelder, son of Henry and Margaret Blackwelder of Cabarrus County, NC as shown on the 1850 census below.

Henry Blackwelder	57	M	Farmer	2000
Margaret Blackwelder	52	F		
Martin A Blackwelder	27	M	Farmer	
Levitt Blackwelder	19	F		
Mary E. Harted	22	F		
Henry A Blackwelder	13	M		

Source Citation: Year: 1850; Census Place: Cabarrus, North Carolina; Roll: M432_622; Page: 418A; Image: 463

Martin posted/filed a Marriage Bond for "Five Hundred Pounds current money of said State" in Cabarrus County on December 8, 1858. His bride to be was Leah L. Blackwelder; same surname. H. R. Bradshaw was bondsman. Marriage Bonds were posted as a guarantee that there were no impediments to the

marriage and the groom made his offer of marriage in good faith; the bride and her family would not have to worry about a change-of-heart or scandal from being jilted or left at the altar. By tradition, the wedding usually took place within a few days of posting the bond.



North Carolina State Archives, Marriage Bonds, Cabarrus County

Leah was the widow of Martin’s older brother, Wilson Blackwelder. Wilson and Leah Cruse married in 1845 and had 3 children before he died in 1857. The 1860 Census shows Martin, Leah and 3 children living on their farm in Cabarrus County. The children were actually the son and daughters of Martin’s deceased brother, Wilson; therefore, Martin’s nieces and nephews – but also his step-children after he married Leah.

818	818	Martin, W. Blackwelder	38	M	Cabarrus	4000	10,000				
		Leah, L.	40	F							
		Margaret St.	13	F			4,800				/
		Collins, L.	8	F			4,500				/
		John W.	5	M			4,500				/

Source Citation: Year: 1860; Census Place: Subdivision East of NC RR, Cabarrus, North Carolina; Roll: M653_890; Page: 83; Image: 167; Family History Library Film: 803890

Martin wrote his will on December 11, 1871 and died January 3, 1872. In his will, he specifies "It is my will that my executors collect in all of the money that is owing me and pay all of my Just debts and if there is not enough then my executor sell the House and Lot in The Town of Concord and pay the remainder of my debts." This agrees with your research that Leah, as his Executor, sold the house to pay for debts.

Martin Blackwelder
last Will &
Testament

State of North Carolina } In Probate Court
Cabarrus County }

A Script or paper writing purporting to be the last Will and Testament of Martin A Blackwelder is exhibited in open Court and offered for Probate is in the following words and figures to wit

In The name of God Amen
I Martin A Blackwelder of the County of Cabarrus and State of North Carolina being of sound mind and good memory but knowing the uncertainty of life deem it my duty to make this my last will

+ thins

And Testament

M A Blackwelder
Last Will &
Testament

That my executor hereafter named provide my body with a good and decent suit of burial suited to the wishes of my friends and relations and that the funeral expences be paid with the first money that comes in his hand of my Estate

I will and bequeath to my beloved wife Leah I and all my children all of my property both real and personal to have and to hold as long as she keep my name if she my Wife Marries then in that event she only draw a child's part

I will and bequeath to my Wife One Hundred Acres of Land if she Marries to have and to hold her life time and at her death then it is to go to my children and that this hundred acres of Land be laid off by three free holders her choice and that they commence on the long line between my Brother H A Blackwelder and myself about two or three hundred yards south of the Sweet gum corner at the mouth of the mouth of the Martin Water branch and that it be laid so that it includes my House and Mill and Cotton Gin

It is my will that my executor collect in all of the money that is owing me and pay all of my Just debts and if there is not enough then my executor sell the House and Lot in the Town of Concord and pay the remainder of my debts

It is my will if my Wife and all of my children die then in that event that my Sister Pophia I Bost now the Wife of George Bost and her heirs first secure One Thousand dollars of my Estate

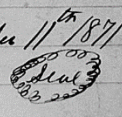
It is my will if my wife and children die as before stated that One Thousand dollars go to St James Church in Concord N.C. and that One Thousand to be put on interest and the interest to be taken to pay the Minister of said Church yearly

It is my will if my Wife and children die that One Thousand go to the N.C. Synod of the Lutheran church of N.C. and it be on interest as before stated

I hereby appoint my Wife Leah Executor of my Estate in full and that Dr J C McEachern assist her if his health admits of it if not R W Allison

Witness my hand and seal in the presence of
Deft
G C Goodman
Bentin Barnhart

December 11th 1871
M A Blackwelder



Martin A Blackwelder 1871 will, Cabarrus County, NC, Will Book 3, Page 54-55

State of North Carolina

Cabarrus County

In Probate Court

A Script or paper writing purporting

to be the last Will and Testament of Martin A.

Blackwelder is exhibited in open Court and offered for

Probate is in the following words and figures to wit

In the name of God Amen

I Martin A Blackwelder of the County of Cabarrus

and State of North Carolina being of sound mind

and good memory but knowing the uncertainty

of life deem it my duty to make this my last will

and Testament

*1st That my executor hereafter named provide my body with
a good and decent suit of burial suited to the wishes of my friends
and relatives and that the funeral expenses be paid with the first
money that comes in his hand of my Estate.*

*I will and bequeath to my beloved wife Leah L. and all my
children all of my property both real and personal to have and
to hold as long as she keep my name if she my wife marryes
then in that event she only draws a childs part*

*I will and bequeath to my wife one hundred acres of land if she
marryes to have and to hold her life time and at her death then it
is to go to my childrens and that this hundred acres of land be
laid off by three free holders her choise and that they commence
on the long line between my Brother H. A. Blackwelder and
my self about two or three hundred yards south of the sweet gum
corner at the mouth of the mouth of the Martin Walter branch
and that it be laid so that it includes my House and Mill
and Cotton Gin*

*I is my will that my executors collect in all of the money
that is owing me and pay all of my Just debts and if
there is not enough then my executor sell the House and Lot
in The Town of Concord and pay the remainder of my debts.*

*It is my will if my wife and all of the children die then in that event
that my Sister Sophia L. Bost now the wife of George Bost
and her heirs first secure one thousand dollars of my Estate*

*It is my will that if my wife and children die as before stated that
One Thousand dollars go to St. James Church in Concord NC
and that Thousand to be put on interest and the interest to
betaken to pay the Minister of said Church Yearly.*

*It is my will if my Wife and Children die that One
Thousand go to the NC Synod of the Lutheran Church of*

*No Ca and it be on Interest as before stated.
I hereby appoint my Wife Leah Executor of my Estate
in full and that Dr. J E McEachern assist her if his
health admits of it if not R W Allison.
In witness I have set my hand and seal in the
presence of
December 11, 1871
M A Blackwelder (seal)
Test
G C Goodman
Bentin Barnhart*

Charles Harris Erwin

In 1872, Leah S. Blackwelder sold the property to Aaron G. Lentz for \$700; money needed to pay debts as directed in Martin Blackwelder's will. As you saw in the newspaper ads above, Lentz owned property on Union Street and was a neighbor of the Blackwelders, W. A. Smith and Joel Reed. Lentz owned the property until September 29, 1879 when he sold it to Charles Harris Erwin and his second wife, Sarah Virginia Pharr for \$1300.

Charles Harris Erwin

Charles was a Veteran of the Civil War. He officially enlisted as a Private on October 16, 1864. He was assigned to Company F, 1st Regiment, NC Calvary better known as "The Cabarrus Rangers". Although the 1st Regiment Calvary was made up of men from all over North Carolina, Company F was comprised of men from Cabarrus County so Charles probably knew and grew up with most of the men he served with. Per the book [NC Troops 1861-1865, A Roster](#), Vol. III Cavalry, pg 56, he was "*present or accounted for through December 1864*". Unfortunately, most of the records of this unit have been lost so there is no way of knowing if Erwin remained in service beyond December 1864 until the end of the War in April 1865. His unit was, however, involved in the Battle of Reams Station during the time period Erwin served per the National Parks Service web site for Civil War Soldiers and Sailors. Since Erwin did not enlist until October 1864, it is not known if he joined his unit in time to be involved in the battle.

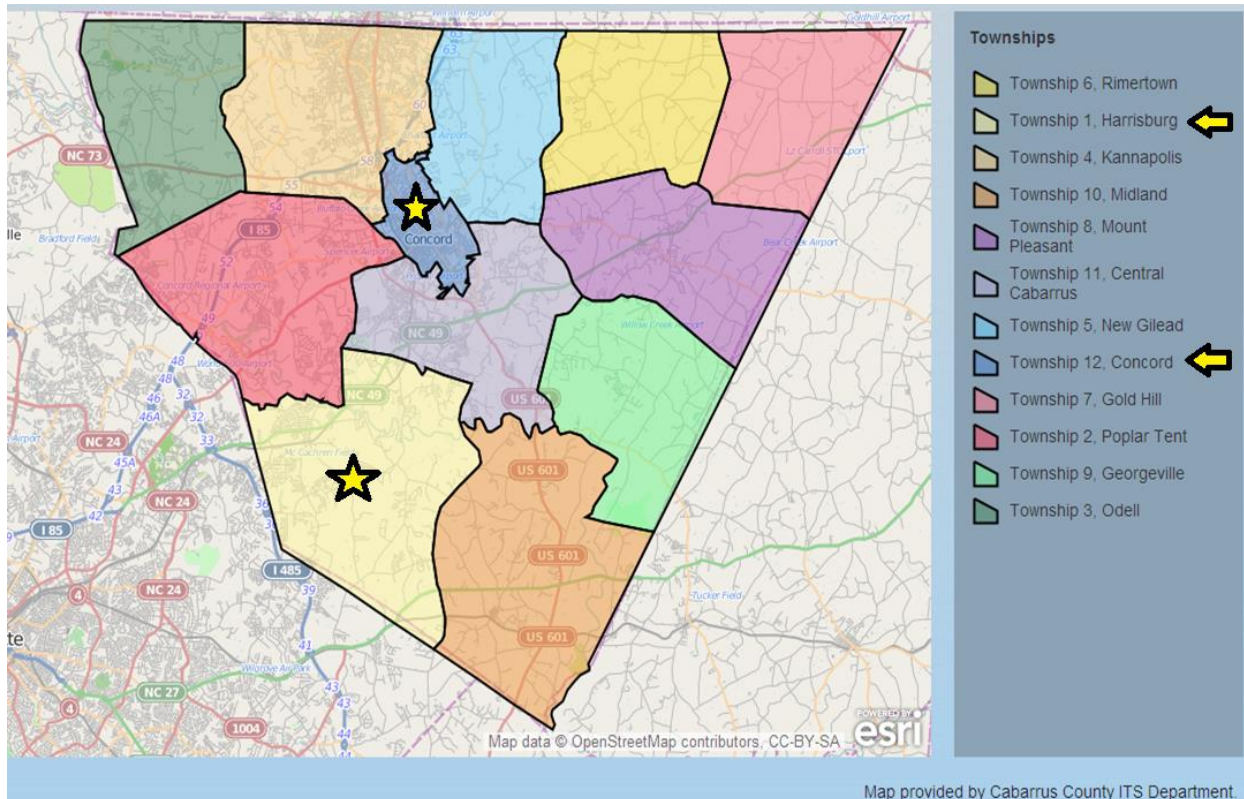
Reams' Station, part of the Richmond-Petersburg Campaign. June – December 1864

Early morning June 29, 1864, Brig. Gen. August Kautz's division reached Ream's Station on the Weldon Railroad, which was thought to be held by Union infantry. Instead, Kautz found the road barred by Mahone's Confederate infantry division. Wilson's division, fighting against elements of William H.F. "Rooney" Lee's cavalry, joined Kautz's near Ream's Station, where they were virtually surrounded. About noon, Mahone's infantry assaulted their front while Fitzhugh Lee's cavalry division threatened the Union left flank. The raiders burned their wagons and abandoned their artillery. Separated by the Confederate attacks, Wilson and his men cut their way through and fled south on the Stage Road to cross Nottoway River, while Kautz went cross-country, reaching Federal lines at Petersburg about dark. Wilson continued east to the Blackwater River

before turning north, eventually reaching Union lines at Light House Point on July 2. The Wilson-Kautz raid tore up more than 60 miles of track, temporarily disrupting rail traffic into Petersburg, but at a great cost in men and mounts.

Although his service was short, he survived the War and returned to Cabarrus County. Per the 1870 census, Charles Erwin and family were living in Township 1 (Harrisburg) of Cabarrus County. Charles was a successful farmer with real estate valued at \$2800 and personal property valued at \$1000. His younger children, including a ward (female Willie Johnson) attended school and he was financially able to afford one full time Domestic Servant and 2 full time Farm Hands.

Erwin Charles	43	M	W	Farmer	2800	1000	Ab.
" Virginia	26	F	W	Keeping Home			Ab.
" Jennie	7	F	W	At Home			Ab.
" Eddie	8	M	W	School			Ab.
Johnston Willie	8	F	W	School			Ab.
Sumner Nancy	40	F	W	Domestic Serv			Ab.
Smith James	12	M	B	Farm Hand			Ab.
Grier Andrew	12	M	B	"			Ab.
Alexander Obie	3	M	B	At Home			Ab.



In 1876 Erwin became involved in local politics, running and winning a Seat as Cabarrus County Commissioner.

number. The final ballot being taken the chairman announced the following gentleman as the nominees of this convention, for County Commissioners.

R. W. Allison
D. S. Caldwell
M. L. Bost
C. H. Erwin
H. C. McAllister

The unusual good order and harmony maintained throughout the proceedings, was a matter of no little surprise, and our venerable chairman, Dr. Columbus Mills, in his closing remarks, could not refrain congratulating the body upon the harmony and goodwill that characterized its proceedings. There was no disputes whatever, and the harmonious action, speaks well for our ticket. Let every Democrat in the county come out to the polls when the time of action comes and our majority will leap from the usual 300 up to—well who can say where it will stop.

The ticket is before you ; go work for it.

The Sun, Concord, NC, September 5, 1876, Page 3

OUR COUNTY TICKET.

For the Senate—28th District,
LAWSON G. HEILIG.
For House of Representatives,
ERVIN HARRIS.
For Sheriff,
RICHARD S. HARRIS.
For County Treasurer,
JOSIAH S. FISHER.
For Register of Deeds,
JOSEPH YOUNG.
For Coroner,
JESSE F. WILLEFORD.
For County Surveyor,
SOLOMON FISHER.
For County Commissioners,
ROBERT W. ALLISON,
DANIEL S. CALDWELL,
MARTIN L. BOST,
CHARLES H. ERWIN,
HARVEY C. McALLISTER.

The Concord Register, Concord, NC, November 4, 1876, Page 4

By the time the 1880 census was taken, Charles Erwin was listed as 54 years old (he was actually 56) with wife Virginia (37), 6 children, a boarder and 2 servants. The family was living in Township 12 of Concord which was within the city limits; most likely in the house now named after him. Although his occupation was still listed as Farmer, he had apparently moved his family to town so they could enjoy a more urban lifestyle. Note Willie Johnston is now listed as his daughter.

Erwin Charles	W m 54		1	Farmer
Erwin Virginia	W F 37	Wife	1	Keeping House
Edd	W m 17	Son	1	Clerk in Store
Willie	W F 17	Daughter	1	At School
Minna	W F 18	Daughter	1	At School
Jennett	W F 18	Daughter	1	
Sallie	W F 6	Daughter	1	
Estell	W F 1	Daughter	1	
Witgen Glemma	W F 52	Boarder	1	
Earnhart Caroline	B F 71	Servant	1	Servant
Bost Ann	B F 16	Servant	1	Servant

Source Citation: Year: 1880; Census Place: Concord, Cabarrus, North Carolina; Roll: 955; Family History Film: 1254955; Page:406B; Enumeration District: 031; Image: 0083

Erwin was among a list of 67 men added to a list of corrections to a previously printed Roll of Honor published on March 25, 1881 on page 3 of The Sun, Concord, NC.

Our Roll of Honor—Corrections.

In publishing for the first time a list of names, dates and events, like that of the famous Cavalary Co. "F." of this county, necessarily, errors will occur; and we, therefore, add a list of such corrections as have come to our knowledge, and would be glad to add any others brought to our attention.

TO BE ADDED TO LIST OF ORIGINAL MEMBERS.

C H Erwin.

Charles Harris Erwin died October 20, 1885. He is buried in the Rocky River Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Rocky River, Cabarrus County, NC.

Brevard Ervin Harris



Per your research, the property was sold to Brevard Ervin Harris (1861-1922) sometime in the 1920's.

Brevard Ervin Harris was the son of William Shakespeare Harris and Jane Witherspoon Ervin.



www.findagrave.com

Per the 1920 Federal Census, Brevard and his family were living on North Union Street, Concord, NC.

Harris Brevard E	head	W	38	M	1920	1920	North Car.	North Car.	South Car.	See N. Jones	Hamberly Co. W.
Bonnie S	wife	W	37	M	1920	1920	Pennsylvania	England	English	Pennsylvania	W.
Brevard E Jr	son	W	22	S	1920	1920	North Car.	North Car.	North Car.	Pennsylvania	W.
Elizabeth	daughter	W	16	S	1920	1920	North Car.	North Car.	North Car.	Pennsylvania	W.
Erwin Samuel Jr	brother	W	16	M	1920	1920	North Car.	North Car.	North Car.	North Car.	W.

Source Citation: Year: 1920; Census Place: Concord Ward 2, Cabarrus, North Carolina; Roll: T625_1288; Page: 2A; Enumeration District: 57; Image: 620

Brevard's wife, Bonnie, stated her father had been born in England and her mother was born in Pennsylvania. Brevard worked as the Secretary Treasurer of a Lumber Company.

The Harris family was very popular in the Concord, NC, Social Scene as evidenced by an article published on the front page of The Concord Daily Tribune on Friday, January 3, 1913.

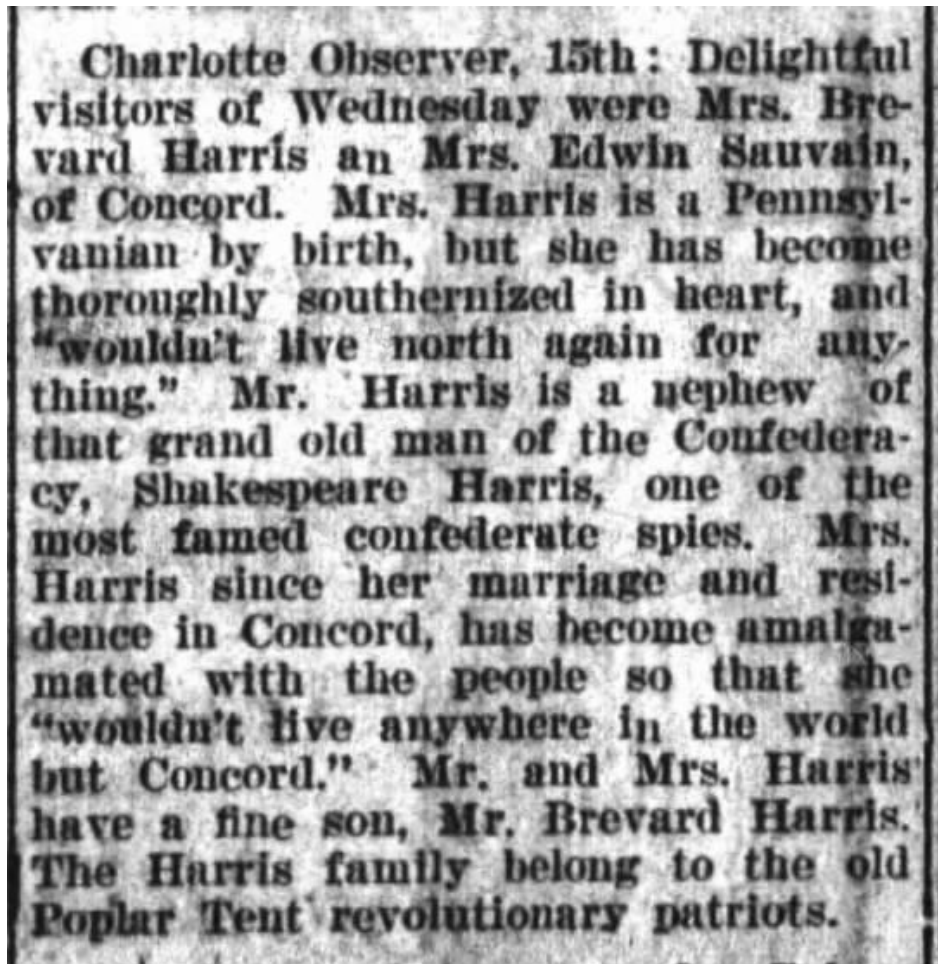
PARTY LAST EVENING.

Master Brevard Harris Entertains a Number of Young Friends.

Master Brevard Harris, Jr., was host at a most enjoyable party of young people at his home on Spring street las night from 8 to 11 o'clock in honor of Miss Ruth Porter of Charlotte. Cubical Hearts was the game of the evening. At the close of the game the prizes were awarded. The guest of honor prize was awarded to Miss Porter, David Pemberton making the presentation. The prize for the highest score was won by Miss Margaret Virginia Ervin, being presented by Brevard Harris. Refreshments were served during the evening. The guests were:

Misses Ruth Porter, Elizabeth Black, Margaret Virginia Ervin, Marie Caldwell, Helen Marsh, Nannie Lee Patterson, Mary Branson Coltrane, Lillian and Evelyn Holt, Lena Fisher and Helen Troy; Masters David Pemberton, William Glass, Sam Fetzer, Greenlee Caldwell, Charles Watson, Fred Dayvault and Frank Brower.

Their social happenings continued to be the "talk of the town" on August 15, 1919 when The Concord Daily Tribune published the following on page 5:



Charlotte Observer, 15th: Delightful visitors of Wednesday were Mrs. Brevard Harris and Mrs. Edwin Sauvain, of Concord. Mrs. Harris is a Pennsylvanian by birth, but she has become thoroughly southernized in heart, and "wouldn't live north again for anything." Mr. Harris is a nephew of that grand old man of the Confederacy, Shakespeare Harris, one of the most famed confederate spies. Mrs. Harris since her marriage and residence in Concord, has become amalgamated with the people so that she "wouldn't live anywhere in the world but Concord." Mr. and Mrs. Harris have a fine son, Mr. Brevard Harris. The Harris family belong to the old Poplar Tent revolutionary patriots.

Brevard Ervin Harris died on May 21, 1922. An announcement of his death was published on page 5 of The Concord Times on May 22, 1922.

BREVARD HARRIS—A TRIBUTE

"Brevard Harris is dead." This is the brief message passed from lip to lip all over Concord this morning. And wherever and whenever these words were uttered, there was heard an expression of sorrow and of appreciation of the deceased. But a few days ago he walked these streets as genial as ever, and only a few friends realized that he was a sick man.

Brevard Harris was born a gentleman, in the truest sense of that much misused term. He was a Christian gentleman, the highest type of manhood. A son of Cabarrus, a citizen of Concord, he worthily wore the mantle of his responsibility.

His Church (the First Presbyterian) will miss him. He is the fifth elder of that church to pass beyond within the past two years. When a good man dies, it is but a promotion to higher and better things. C.

The Concord Times (page 5) also published a death announcement and tribute on the same day.

Brevard Harris.

Charlotte Observer.

The business and social community of Concord has suffered a loss which it keenly felt in the death of Mr. Brevard Harris, which occurred at the Charlotte Sanatorium at an early hour yesterday morning, the termination of a sudden brief attack of meningitis with which he had been seized only the day before. He was the youngest son of William Shakespeare Harris, of a family that was among the earliest settlers of the Poplar Tent neighborhood of Cabarrus, and a cousin of Shakespeare Harris, a widely-known and popular Confederate veteran. Mr. Harris moved to Concord about 40 years ago and had since been closely identified with the commercial and social life of that town. Concord has known few more popular citizens, nor one who has lived through the unbroken afflictions of its whole people in a long life marked by uprightness and integrity.


Harris' obituary was published on the same day, May 20, 1922, page 1 of The Concord Daily Tribune.

the Charlotte Sanatorium.
 This morning at the Sanatorium in Charlotte, the soul of Brevard Ervin Harris passed into the presence of an all-wise and all-loving Creator. To hundreds in Concord the announcement of his death came as a distinct shock, inasmuch as his illness was of short duration.
 Funeral services will be held at the home on North Union street Monday morning at 11 o'clock, conducted by Dr. J. M. Grier, former pastor of the deceased. Interment will be made in Oakwood cemetery.
 The active pall bearers will be: C. W. Swink, Edward Sauvain, George Richmond, T. T. Smith, J. L. Hartsell, W. W. Morris, C. B. Wagoner and W. W. Flowe.
 The Elders of the first Presbyterian Church will be the honorary pall bearers.
 Brevard Ervin Harris was born April 16, 1861, at the old Harris homestead in Poplar Tent, where his grandfather, the eminent Dr. Charles Harris, conducted a famous medical school, and where later the courtly William Shakespeare Harris kept open house to his hundreds of friends in both Carolinas. The deceased was a son of Wm. Shakespeare Harris and Jane Witherspoon Ervin. His father was one of Cabarrus county's most prominent citizens, having represented the county in the Legislature for many years. His mother was a native of Darlington district, South Carolina. He was graduated at Davidson College as the third honor man of his class. He taught school in Concord with Prof. J. P. Cook and later was also associated with Mr. Cook in the publication of the Concord Standard. Turning his attention to mercantile pursuits, he became an active member of the well-known firm of Cannon & Fetzer, of Concord.

In 1896 he was married to Mrs. Bonnie Savage Messenger, of Scranton, Pa. To this union were born Brevard E. Harris, Jr., and Elizabeth Harris, now a student of Mary Baldwin School in Virginia. Two brothers also survive, Everard Harris, of Mississippi and Charles J. Harris, of Concord.
 In early life, Mr. Harris became a member of the Presbyterian Church. His education was consecrated to the service of his church. For many years he acted as superintendent of the Sunday school of the First Presbyterian Church of this city, of which he was a ruling elder. He was ever faithful in his attendance upon the weekly prayer meeting, and the last time he was present, two weeks ago, he was called upon to pray. Now that he is dead, many of those present will recall how reverently he approached the throne of grace and how near he seemed to be talking to his Master face to face.
 The death of Brevard Harris makes a vacancy in Concord that will be felt, especially in his church.
 The hearts of all the people beat in sympathy with the bereaved widow, and the two devoted children, but "they sorrow not as those who have no hope." We know that this life is but the threshold to the "ivory palaces of the King."
 C.

Harris' widow, Bonnie, was listed in the 1952 Concord, NC, City Directory still living in the house on Union Street.

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<p>ROOFERS</p> <p>Sheet Metal Workers Heating Air- Conditioning Contractors</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">ANY "ALL"</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>SALES SERVICE 25 E. CORBAN Tels. 2216 - 2217 - 2218</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>CARS TRUCKS USED CARS WRECKER SERVICE NIGHT TELS 6107 and 9127</p> </div> </div> <p>Harris Allen H (Lanelle G) member County Bd of Educ r RD 2 -Ava L (c; wid Romeo) h1pr Priebe & Sons h Shankletown rd (S) -Blanche L (c; wid Walter) h100 Young -Blanche W Mrs nurse Mem Hosp h416 Spencer dr -Bonnie S (wid Brevard E) h192 N Union -Brevard E (Virginia M) postmstr PO h189 N Union -Buddy F USA r935 New Row (BM) -C Frank (c) driver BS Mtrs r10 Archibald Pasture -Carl (c; Ochie B; 4) lab Cannon Mill h379 Lincoln -Carol B Mrs slswn Belk's h208 E Corban -Cath S Mrs cash Imperial Life Ins r Monroe hwy (RD 1) -Cenie A Mrs ofc sec Am Oil (Charlotte NC) h77 Brumley -Chas (c; Minnie M; 1) lab h21 Hartsell (HM) -Chas (c) lab r311 High -Chas L clk Texaco r Monroe hwy RD 4</p>
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1952 Concord, NC City Directory, page 178

While wrapping up the research session, I found the following information about the Harris family posted online at http://genealogytrails.com/ncar/cabarrus/hist_county.html. Dr. Charles Harris was the grandfather of Brevard Ervin Harris, Sr. The photo (c1980) is of Dr. Harris' house, Favoni, which was built in 1791 in Concord, NC. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places but, unfortunately, burned down in 1990. The photo is posted online, made available by the Preservation North Carolina Historic Architecture Slide Collection of the North Carolina State Library.



Dr. Charles Harris, of this county, was distinguished as a patriot, a soldier and physician. He was born in this county, when Mecklenburg, in 1763. While pursuing his studies at Charlotte, the invasion of the British caused him to exchange the gown for the sword. He joined the corps of cavalry under Colonel Davie, and was with that active officer in his brave and daring career. After the war was over he resumed his studies at Clio Academy, in Iredell. He commenced the study of medicine under Dr Isaac Alexander, at Camden, SC and finished at Philadelphia. On his return he settled at Salisbury, and practiced with success; he then moved to Favoni, his seat in Cabarrus, where he ended his days.

Devoted to his profession, he was unrivaled as a physician and surgeon. His reputation was widely extended, and his skill and success justified this celebrity. He had a medical school, and instructed ninety three young men in the healing art. His temper was cheerful and his manner mild. He died Sept. 21, 1825. He left several children, William Shakespeare Harris, Esq. one of them, in 1836, represented Cabarrus in the House of Commons. I copy from his tombstone the following: "This monument is erected to perpetuate the memory of Charles Harris, M.D., born 23rd November 1762, died 21st September 1826 aged 63 years. Dr. Harris was engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery forty years; eminent in the former, in the latter preeminent. HE was a man of extensive reading, of an acute inquisitive mind, friendly to all and beloved by all.

His heart entered deeply into the sufferings of all his patients, mingling the medicine he administered with the feelings of a friend. He lived usefully, and died resignedly, and we humbly trust, through the sovereign virtue of the all-healing medicine of the Great Physician, he was prepared to rest in this tomb, where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest.

Thus the 10 hour research session has come to an end. I hope I have been able to give you some interesting information about the previous owners of the house you now call home. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I have enjoyed the project and thank you for hiring me.

Linda Allred Cooper