

## God always gives us time to witness

By FICKLEN GUIN  
Pastor and Columnist  
(Acts 27: 1-20)

After Paul gives his witness for Jesus Christ before King Agrippa and Festus, God brings an end to Paul's story in Caesarea, and he begins his journey to Rome to stand before Caesar.



Paul was never ashamed to give witness about Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, and mankind's Saviour from sins committed during mankind's earthly life.

Paul counted it a privilege to suffer for Jesus Christ during his life on Earth. He wanted everyone to become a believer in Jesus Christ as Saviour from sin committed during our earth life.

Paul was now ready to begin his earthly journey back to Rome, after Jesus had given him the opportunity to witness about Jesus to the Gentile world.

In verses 1-20 of the 27th chapter of Acts, we are given an orderly description of Paul's journey, including all the places they went through.

Life is like that for us as Born Again Christians. We are on a journey for our Lord Jesus Christ. All along the way we will meet different people in different places, and we need to be ready to give our witness for our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the way the Gospel is spread, one person at a time to another person, and we must see them as possible believers in Jesus our Saviour.

Paul always wanted to get the message about Jesus to as many as he possibly could. Acts 27:1 says, "And when it was determined that we should sail into Italy, they delivered Paul and certain other prisoners unto the named Julius, a centurion of Augustus."

At that point Luke, the author of Acts, begins his description of Paul's journey to Rome, going through many places and coming in contact with the people. Along the way, Paul had many opportunities to stand up and witness for Jesus Christ.

What about our daily journey

as Born Again Christians? Are we able to see each day an opportunity to give our witness about Jesus as the Saviour of all mankind?

Our journey in this life will be filled with many uncertain times, but as believers in Jesus, we can always count on Jesus to be with us through all our life on Earth and to give us directions for each day's situations.

Paul had a group surrounding him that represented all the walks of life on this Earth. Paul chose to be a leader before he was given an opportunity to be a leader, because he trusted Jesus Christ, who gave him the ability to lead people.

We need to always seek to get control of all our circumstances as Born Again believers in Jesus, because we have the wisdom of God in us through the gift of God's Holy Spirit when we are saved from our sins.

We know this, therefore we can have confidence that God will give us the best answers for any situation that we will face in our Earthly life's journey.

In several places in these verses, Paul was always ready to give advice because he knew he had the mind of God, through his faith in Jesus Christ as his Saviour.

As Born Again believers of today, we can still have this kind of faith because Jesus dwells in us through His Holy Spirit. We must never hesitate to stand up and be counted in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

### Corrections

To last week's edition: Information that was obtained and used in reporting the tragic passing of Jeff Hackney was acquired from the Hart County Coroner in an interview, not Hart County EMS.

In the Wilkes County MLK day parade, the Wilkes County Sheriff's Office supplied three vehicles to participate in the parade, not six as originally reported.

Also from the MLK day parade, UCAP was the event organizer for the event, not Adrienne Anderson, according to Adrienne Anderson.

To the February 3 edition: Mr. Horace Jordan was elected as vice chairman of the Board of Education, not Horace Johnson.

All errors reported here are purely accidental. We apologize for any inconvenience we have caused.

## The Mayor's Corner

### Celebrate our black history

By WILLIAM DEGOLIAN  
Mayor

Dr. Ben Carson, the former United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and an African American, recently published an editorial entitled "Black History Month is About More than Just Black Americans." The subtitle reads "Every Moment of Greatness in our History belongs to All Americans."

Dr. Carson urges that as Americans, we remain focused on what unites us as a nation regardless of our race and that it is wrong to assume that Black history must only involve Black Americans.

He states "Every Moment of Greatness in our History belongs to All Americans because the fruits of those triumphs have blessed all of us. This applies to George Washington's crossing of the Delaware River, to the Constitutional Convention, and other events not typically acknowledged as Black history; these all belong to the Black story as well."

For example, the celebrated Boston Tea Party of 1773 was spurred in part by British soldiers' killing of Crispus Attucks, a Black/Native American colonist, that had occurred three years earlier during colonists' protest against British military presence in Boston, an event that became known as the Boston Massacre. Dr. Carson urges all Americans to celebrate these and other such triumphs during

Black History month.

Here in Washington, Stephanie Machia, head of the Washington Historical Museum, convened a meeting last month to address donations of artifacts to the museum (whether on a temporary or permanent basis) pertaining to the Black experience in Wilkes County. The committee talked about prominent black citizens from Washington. One of course is Dr. Fred Sessoms, a distinguished African-American physician and surgeon who was the first black physician in Wilkes County and practiced here for over 50 years. He died in 1963 and is buried in Resthaven Cemetery. I am proud to say that my law office at 108 South Jefferson Street was formerly Dr. Sessoms' medical office. I understand that the museum has recently acquired a book about Dr. Sessoms' life entitled "Struggling to Climb".

Stephanie is excited to report that Pastor Kathy Butler of the Cherry Grove Baptist Church has donated the church's original pulpit, which dates from 1875. This is a significant acquisition for the museum, around which Stephanie can build a new exhibition on Black history in Washington Wilkes.

Stephanie will convene meetings monthly to continue the effort to develop and improve the museum's collection of Black artifacts. The next meeting will be February 17, 2022 at the museum at 10:30 a.m.

Hearty congratulations to Rox-



anne Cobb and her 4E Youth Organization, who are the fortunate recipients of a school bus donated by the Twin Angels Street Ministry of Athens. Sheila Hill and Sharon Barnett are the twin benefactors behind this wonderful donation. I asked Roxanne who was going to operate the bus for her – Jontue Cofer is stepping up!

Let us highlight as well the ongoing effort of the Friends of Cherry Grove Schoolhouse to restore the historic Cherry Grove School. The Friends group recently received a \$30,000.00 donation from the Washington Wilkes Payroll of Development Authority that will be of great help in finishing out the restorations. Colonel Ed Anderson advises that project is well along now. While they are always looking for additional donations, they have enough funds on hand now to dry in the building and save it.

As we celebrate Black history in Washington, let us not forget the Black Patriots Monument on the Square, and Austin Dabney. The historical plaque reads: "Blacks, Native Americans, and Whites all fought for freedom for the American colonies." The monument highlights the valor of Austin Dabney, an enslaved Wilkes Countian, who, on August 14, 1776, received his freedom and a parcel of land from the government of Georgia, still at that time a colony in the ongoing American Revolution.

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your mayor!

### VINTAGE WILKES

## The Jacks: from one revolution to another

By SKEET WILLINGHAM  
Local Historian

The Jack name may have originally been spelled "Jacques," but by the time the family had settled in Wilkes it was simply "Jack."

James Jack (1731-1822) and his wife Margaret Houston (1732-1824) came with sons Patrick (1769-1820) and William (1771-1849) in tow. His sister, Jean Jack, had married William Barnett and was established



here. Though born in Pennsylvania, Militia Capt. James Jack was best known for his Revolutionary War exploits in Mecklenburg Co., NC. It was this brave patriot who carried the "Mecklenburg Resolves" on self-government to the Continental Congress in session at Philadelphia a full year before our American Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Once ensconced in Wilkes, he is recorded as witnessing a land transaction on Kettle Creek in 1785, selling a town lot to David Hillhouse in 1787, and purveying 300 acres to Abraham Simons in 1789 when Simons arrived from Spotsylvania Co., VA.

Son, Patrick Jack, was a colonel in the War of 1812. But it is Pat-

rick's sons, William Houston Jack (1804-44), Patrick Churchill Jack (1808-44), and Spencer Houston Jack (1811-40,) whose exploits in Texas command our attention.

William, a University of Georgia graduate, and his younger brothers, all Wilkes Co. born and bred, were also all lawyers. They lit out for Texas, then a part of Mexico. None, though, chose Washington-on-the-Brazos, where other Wilkes Countians had congregated, as their destination.

With his 17-year-old bride (Laura Harrison), baby daughter Harriet, and his two brothers, William Jack arrived in San Felipe de Austin on June 2, 1830. He became a leader of the resistance to Mexican authority after his brother Patrick had been arrested with William B. Travis in the Anahuac disturbances. He actively prepared resolutions in Brazoria against the government and participated in the capture of Goliad. Stephen F. Austin appointed him Major and brigade inspector for the Texas Army in 1835. He and James Bowie (the Bowie knife fellow!) commanded Texas troops at the Grass Fight on Nov. 26, 1835.

William joined Sam Houston's army for the Battle of San Jacinto facing off against Gen. Santa Anna. As a precaution, Jack had removed his family to the Neches River, northeast, for safety.

William Jack did go the Texas "Washington" as the Republic's Secretary of State under interim President David G. Burnet. Jack became Supreme Court Judge, then compiler of Texas laws under President Mirabeau B. Lamar, another transplanted local Georgian. William Jack was Texas Republic Senator for two terms. Settling in Brazoria Co., he owned over 2500 acres and 17 town lots in Velasco.

Brother Patrick Jack was a member of the Republic's House of Representatives and served as District Attorney under President Lamar.

Brother Spencer Jack led a life of legend. A hot-headed young man, he was aboard the ship "Nelson" at the mouth of the Brazos River when it was fired upon by Mexican soldiers. Spencer fired back and killed one of the shooters, the first colonist to draw Mexican blood in the days preceding the Revolution. He later helped rescue brother Patrick and William Travis. In San Antonio, in another altercation, he severed the nose of a Mexican officer. He was a Commissioner to the "City of Mexico" negotiating the release for Stephen Austin who was being held prisoner. Still not even 30 years of age, Spencer died at Matagordo, TX in 1840.

### ACROSS THE SAVANNAH

## The best drink of water

By TOM POLAND  
A Southern Writer

Seems to me, as the old folks would say, an aluminum dipper delivered the best drink of water. You'd sink that dipper into a wooden bucket. And that wooden bucket had just been winched up from a hand-dug well. And when you drank well water it chilled the body and soul.



I rarely see dippers like the one pictured here. Oh, I've seen a few in kettles of simmering hash, and I've seen some hanging on the wall of an old smokehouse. They're out of use. Who drinks straight from a well? It'd be a tad awkward using an aluminum dipper with the kitchen faucet. Probably spill half the water on the way up. Just use a glass.

You can call it a ladle or a dipper and you can call it out of fashion. Times were many a kid and adult used a dipper to drink water so cold it made their teeth ache. My Maytag refrigerator's water dispenser isn't that cold. I seldom use it, but when I do, I just push the glass into place and out comes water. Not much effort in that, not like winching up a heavy bucket of water.

My dipper belonged to my parents. I found it several years



after Mom passed. I brought it home. It's a relic but not just any relic. If I could trace its history, its provenance, might I find that it was the dipper in Granddad Walker's wooden bucket? I like to think so, but I'm sure it isn't.

Reach way back with me now. Remember when gourds served as dippers? A drinking

gourd, they called it. You'd take a long-stemmed gourd and cut and hollow it to make it into a ladle. I see gourds on poles offering mosquito-eating purple martins homes. I read, too, that you can buy plastic gourds and use them instead of the real deal. No thanks. That's sad. Give me vintage goods, like old aluminum dippers.

I never hear anyone mention dippers. Vintage dippers are a good example of out of sight, out of mind. Show folks a photo of one, however, and the memories well up like water from a well. An old friend from back home saw the photo and had this to say. "I remember looking at the water and the shiny inside of the dipper while I was gulping it down."

A lady over near the coast saw my photo and it stirred loose a memory. "My paternal grandfather kept his by the kitchen sink when he no longer had to use it at the well. It was all he ever used. No cup or glass unless he was sitting at the table or visiting someones else's home. All the grandkids considered ourselves 'special' if we ever got to drink out of it."

A lady who once lived back home made an observation. "Everybody drank out of the same dipper." That's a fact. They thought nothing about it.

Do you miss the taste of well water? Can you? You can't miss what you never had but you can find new uses for old things. Come summer my dipper's perfect for adding water to the ant traps in my hummingbird feeders. Each time I use it my mind goes back to Lincoln County, Georgia, and an old well with a wooden housing supporting a winch and stout rope the color of dried cornshucks. I'd work the handle and the coldest, best drink of water was on the way. It didn't require electricity or a pump. All that was needed was thirst, a strong arm, a bucket and dipper.