

The Scott Family Collection
presents



“The View from Kalm Krest”

James Edwin & Mary Belle Mebane Scott

The City of Mebane

- The City of Mebane, North Carolina, is located 23 miles northwest of Durham and 32 miles due east of Greensboro.

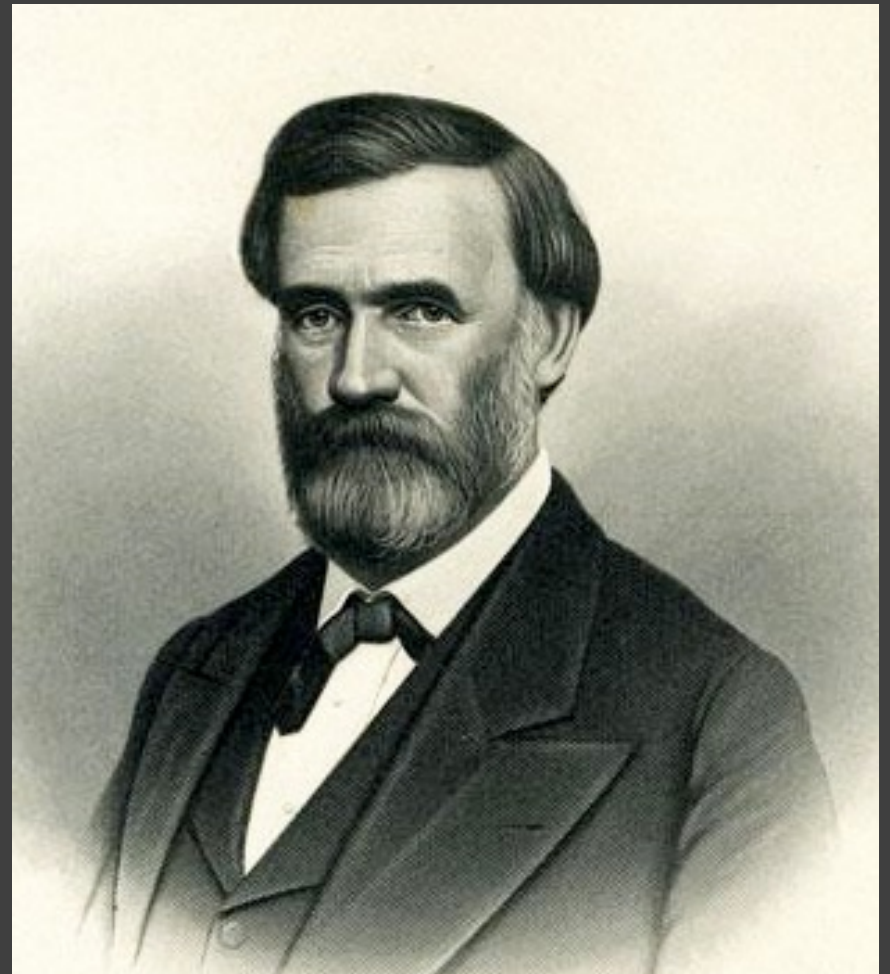


The New County of Alamance, North Carolina

Until 1849, the land now occupied by Mebane, North Carolina, was located entirely in Orange County and it was for the most part, undeveloped.

In 1849 Giles Mebane introduced a bill in the North Carolina House of Commons to create a new county from a section of Orange County.

[right, Giles Mebane (1809-1890)]



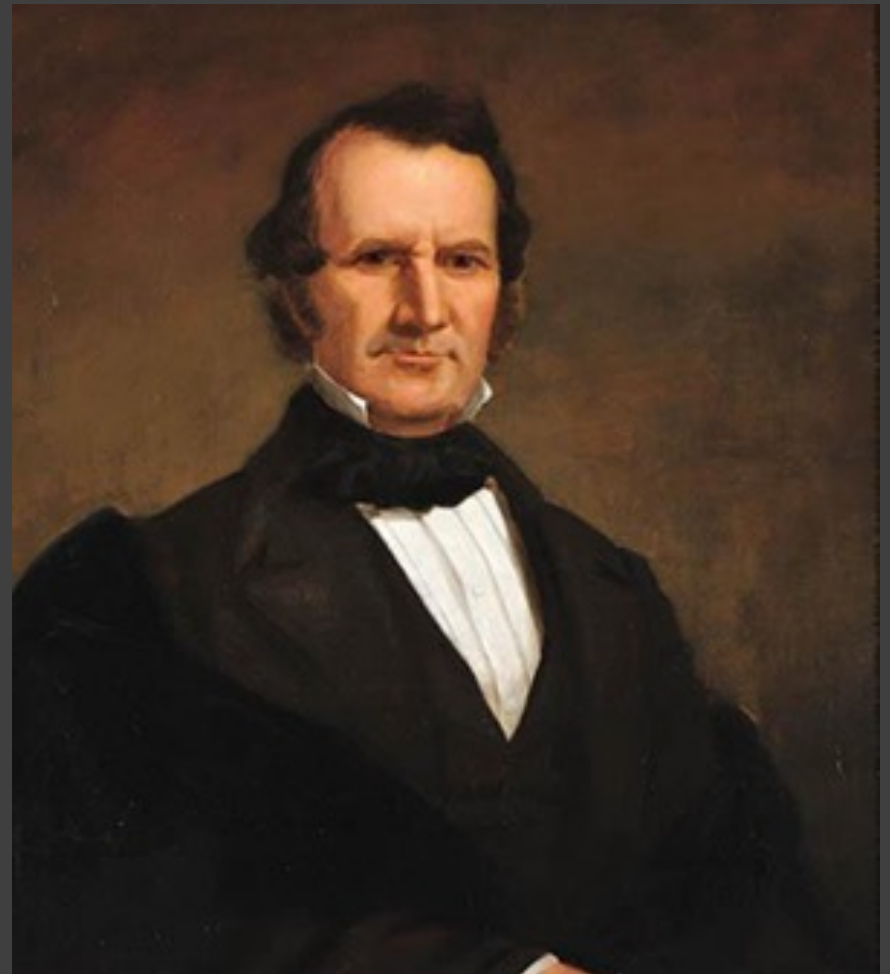
Mary Yancey Mebane
(1817-1905)

Suggested the name
“Alamance” for the
new county.



Governor William A. Graham (1804-1875)

- The new county of Alamance needed its own county seat.
- Giles Mebane proposed that the new county seat be named “Graham” for Governor William A. Graham.

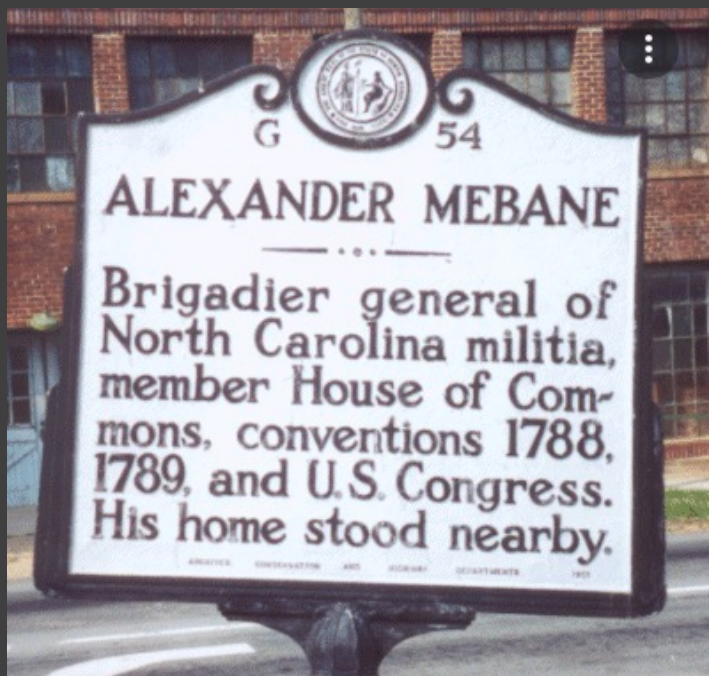


Also in 1849, Giles Mebane supported a charter to create the North Carolina Railroad and managed a contract to build 6 miles of rail bed.

By 1856 the railroad provided a 223-mile corridor from Charlotte to Goldsboro.

Passengers and freight were able to travel with relative ease.





A new town called Mebanesville grew up around the railroad. The new town was named for Brigadier General Alexander Mebane (1744-1795) who fought in the Revolutionary War.

The first house in
Mebane was built by
Stephen A. White

- His sons William E. White and David A. White would go on to found the White Furniture Company in 1881.



The White Furniture Company closed in 1993 but the building lives on as an apartment complex.

Then



Now



The second house built in Mebane was owned by Dr. Benjamin Franklin Mebane.

The house, called Kalm Krest by its owner, was completed in the 1850s.

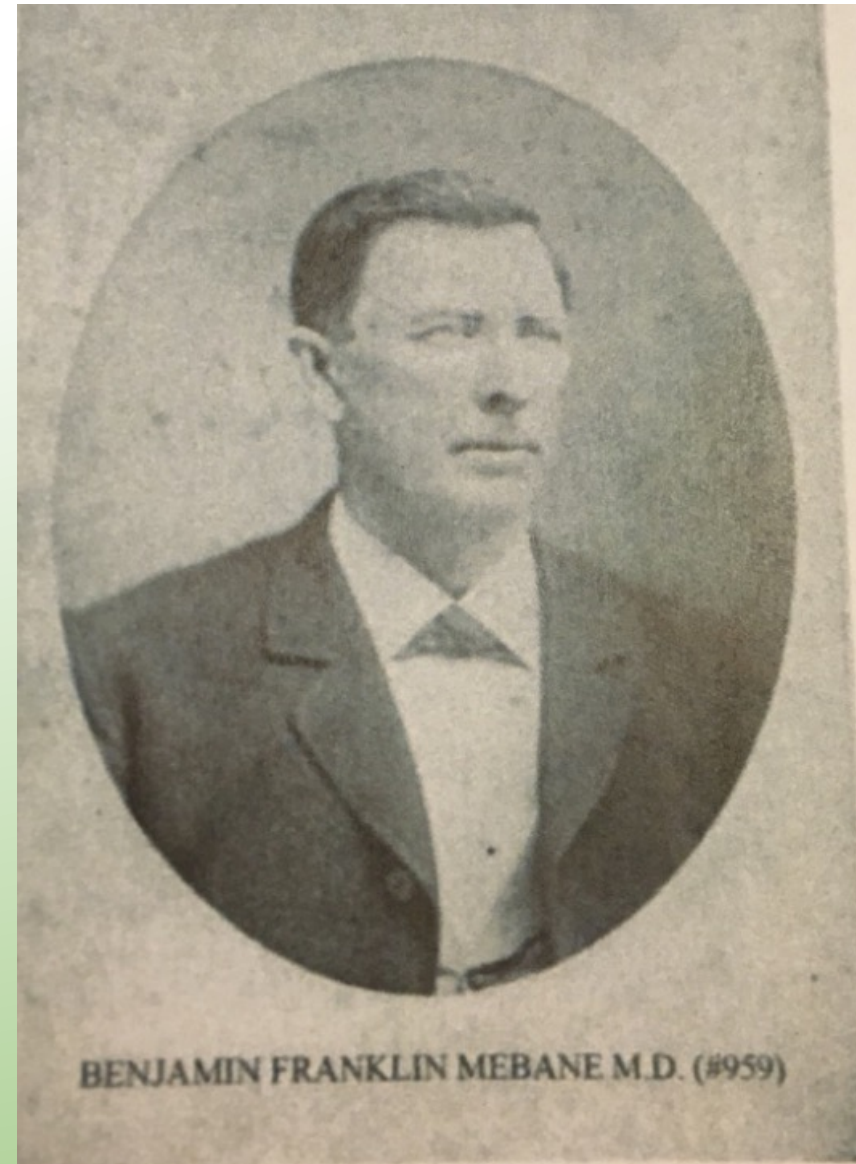


The house still stands and is now the home of several professional offices.



Dr. Benjamin Franklin Mebane (1823-1884)

- Was born at Mason Hall, located north of Mebane, in 1823. He was educated at the Caldwell Institute, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1846), and the University of Pennsylvania (1850).
- After completing his MD degree, Dr. Mebane returned to Mason Hall where he established a well-respected medical practice.
- In the 1850s the railroad came to Alamance County, running right through what is now Mebane, North Carolina.
- In 1855, Dr. Mebane moved a few miles south from Mason Hall to Mebanesville where he built a house, opened a medical office, and patented a medicine called Taraxacum Tonic. The Tonic was very successful and was shipped all over the country from the Mebane Depot.



One ingredient of Taraxacum Tonic was the dandelion plant, for which it was named.

- The dandelion plant has been known for centuries for its healthful properties.
- Dr. Mebane recommended Taraxacum Tonic over calomel, which caused unpleasant side-effects.



Taraxacum Tonic

- Dr. Mebane's tonic was shipped all over the United States.
- Even after Dr. Mebane's death, the tonic was produced and sold by his family.
- (image from the Mebane Leader, 1914)

**IF YOU NEED A SPRING
TONIC**

Give Mebane's **Taraxacum** Compound a trial and you will be convinced that it is the best medicine of the kind that you have ever used. Besides acting gently and pleasantly on the liver and bowels it will improve your appetite and tone up your system. At this time of the year the liver is more than apt to be torpid and the bowels frequently become sluggish. Under such conditions **Taraxacum** Compound is an ideal medicine. With none of the unpleasant consequences of taking calomel it will accomplish even better results. **Taraxacum** is on sale at the Mebane Drug Co's and at the Mecca Drug Store.

THE TARAXACUM CO.
MEBANE, - - NORTH CAROLINA.

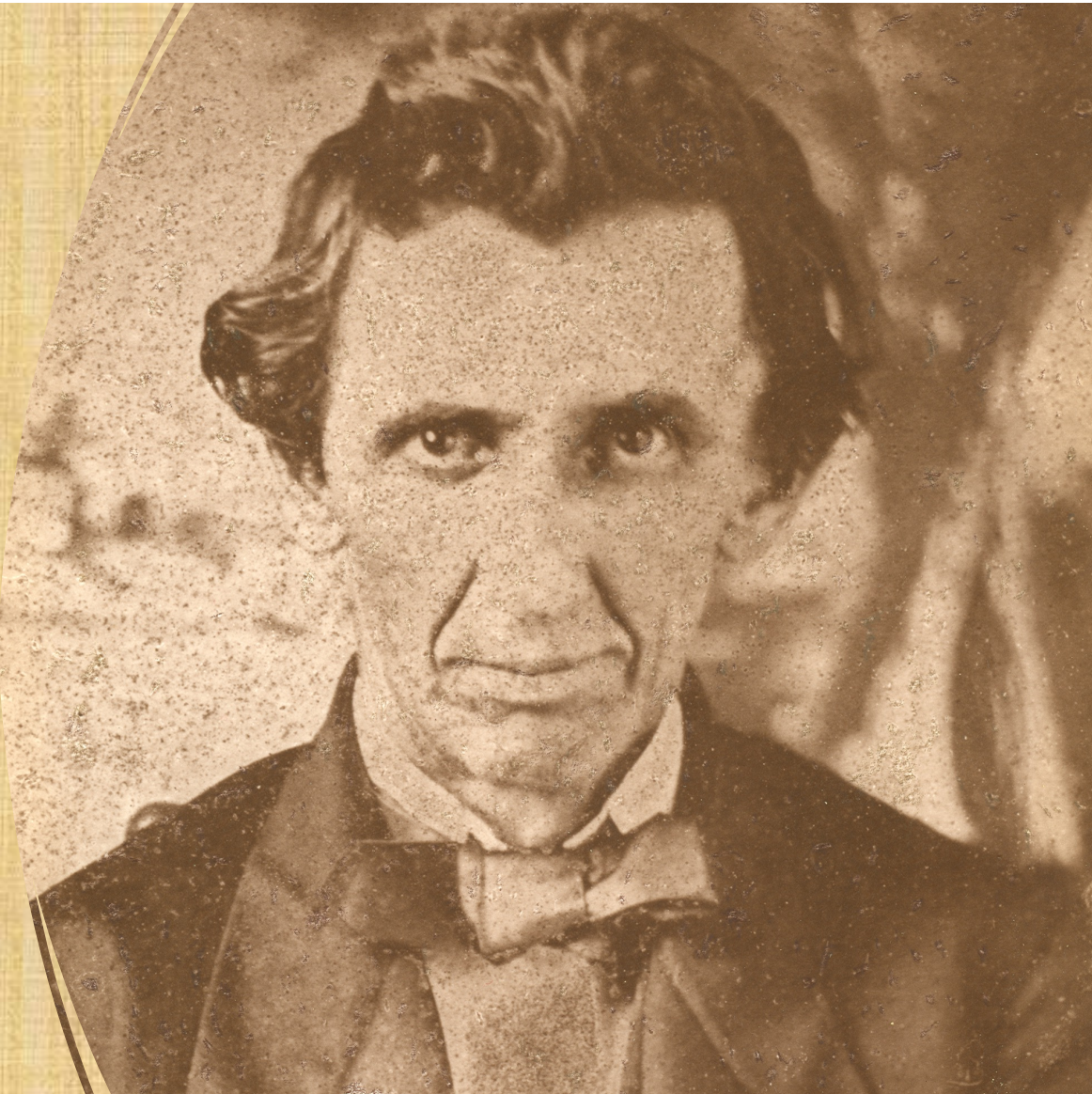
Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin Franklin Mebane
married in 1857. They had 10 children.

- Benjamin Franklin Mebane (1823-1884)
- Fannie Lavinia Mebane (1840-1912)
- Five of their children survived to adulthood:
- *Mary Belle Mebane (1858-1923) married James Edwin Scott in 1885*
- George Allen Mebane (1862-1921)
- Benjamin Franklin Mebane, Jr. (1867-1926)
- James Kerr Mebane (1870-1933)
- Fannie Kerr Mebane (1878-1925)



James Edwin Scott's father, Henderson Scott, lived several miles south of Kalm Krest.

-
- Henderson Scott (1814-1870) had inherited farm land from his father but his main interest was in setting up a series of businesses:
 - General store
 - Blacksmith shop
 - Tannery



Henderson Scott married Margaret Graham Kerr Glass in 1849

Her children: Mary Elizabeth Glass (1843-1856) and Ann Graham Glass (1846-1846)

Their children:

Samuel Kerr Scott (1850-1897)

Alice Jane Scott (1851-1852)

Fannie Josephine Scott (1853-1883)

David H. Scott (1855-1860)

Margaret Graham Scott (1857-1860)

James Edwin Scott (1858-1888)

Robert Walter Scott (1861-1929)

Sue Lizzie Scott (1863-1907)

Mamie White Scott (1865-1953)



Margaret Graham Kerr Glass Scott (1822-1892)
Henderson Scott (1814-1870)

Not everyone was content to stay in the Hawfields area.

- Henderson's nephew, George Allen Mebane, moved his family to Arkansas in the 1850s in search of a more prosperous future.
- "Grandfather's Letters" is a compilation of letters sent to George Allen Mebane and his family from those who stayed behind.
- The letters were written to the Mebane family between 1852 and 1889 and tell of life in the section of North Carolina called the Old Fields.

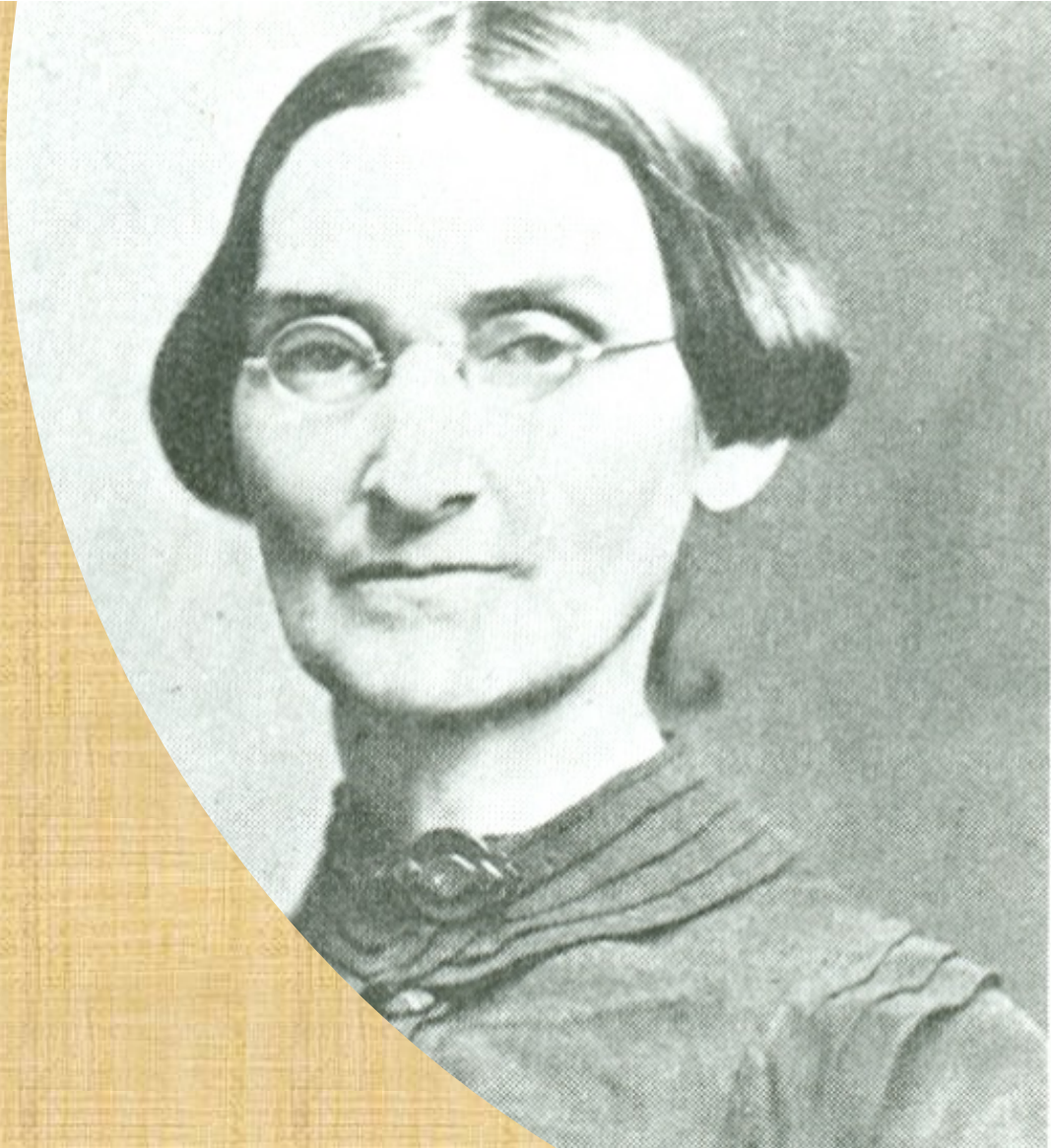
GRANDFATHER'S LETTERS

*Letters written to John Mebane Allen by
relatives and friends of the Hawfields
from 1852 to 1889*

*Collected and arranged by
Elizabeth White Furman*

Henderson Scott died in 1870
after surgery on an injured ankle.

- Henderson's wife Margaret was known as a practical and loving mother.
- She made sure that her children all received a good education.
- Three of the Scott children went into business: Sam, James Edwin, and Robert.



Samuel Kerr Scott and Lenora Josephine Graves

- Samuel (1850-1897) and Lenora (1850-1873) had one child, Walter Henderson Scott (1872-1897).
 - After Lenora passed away, Samuel married Hettie Anabella Neal (1855-1946) and had nine more children.
 - Samuel was a merchant. He died in 1897 at the age of 47.
-



Robert Walter Scott (1861-1929)

- Robert and his wife Elizabeth Hughes Scott, known as "Lizzie," took over his father's farm and developed it into the Alamance Stock Farm.
- Robert worked for his brother James Edwin's tobacco business for a few years.
- He was a salesman, or "drummer."
- Robert disliked being away from home and quit sales to focus on his stock farm.
- Robert and Lizzie had 14 children, 11 of whom survived to adulthood.



THE ALAMANCE STOCK FARM,



OWNED BY ROBT W. SCOTT,

Robert went into business with his older brother James Edwin for a time, selling tobacco.

- Robert gave up drumming (sales) and started his own stock farm.
- He was known for his fine horses, cows, sheep, and pigs.



James Edwin Scott (1859-1888)

- James Edwin was educated at the Bingham School in what is now Mebane, North Carolina.
- He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for one year (1877-1878) before traveling to Poughkeepsie, New York to attend the Eastman College of Business.
- His goal was to run a cotton factory. James Edwin hoped to get some experience in business before returning to North Carolina to carry out his plans.
- James Edwin opened a tobacco factory in Mebanesville, North Carolina (now Mebane).

Eastman College, Poughkeepsie, New York

Founded in 1859 by Harvey G. Eastman.



The Eastman College provided theoretical and practical training in business. These students are seated in the model bank.



James Edwin's company was located in Mebanesville, NC

- The company sold smoking tobacco and plug tobacco.
- Customers were given a free pouch made by his wife Mary Belle and her friends.
- James Edwin and his brother Robert traveled around to major markets to sell tobacco.
- At one point, the company employed 35 hands making plug tobacco and smoking tobacco.



James Edwin
Scott and Mary
Belle Mebane
marry in 1885.

—James Edwin Scott and Miss Mary B. Mebane were married at Mebaneville Tuesday afternoon and left on the West-bound train on a bridal trip. Mr. Scott is a very enterprising business young man and Miss Mebane is a daughter of the late Dr. B. F. Mebane, and a most excellent young lady. We wish them a happy and successful voyage over the stormy sea of life.

Alamance Gleaner September 17, 1885 page 3

James Edwin and Mary Belle moved into this house in 1886.

- A few months after their daughter, Margaret Graham Scott was born, James Edwin and Mary Belle moved into this house just a few blocks away from Kalm Krest.
- James Edwin wrote to his mother, Margaret, for whom his daughter was named, thanking her for the many gifts she provided to make the new home comfortable.
- Her gifts included: furniture, bedding, money, a flock of chickens and even a cow.
- She left some bread and butter in the larder for him as he got the house ready for his family to move in. He ate this tasty snack as he wrote the thank-you note.



James Edwin Scott (1859-1888)

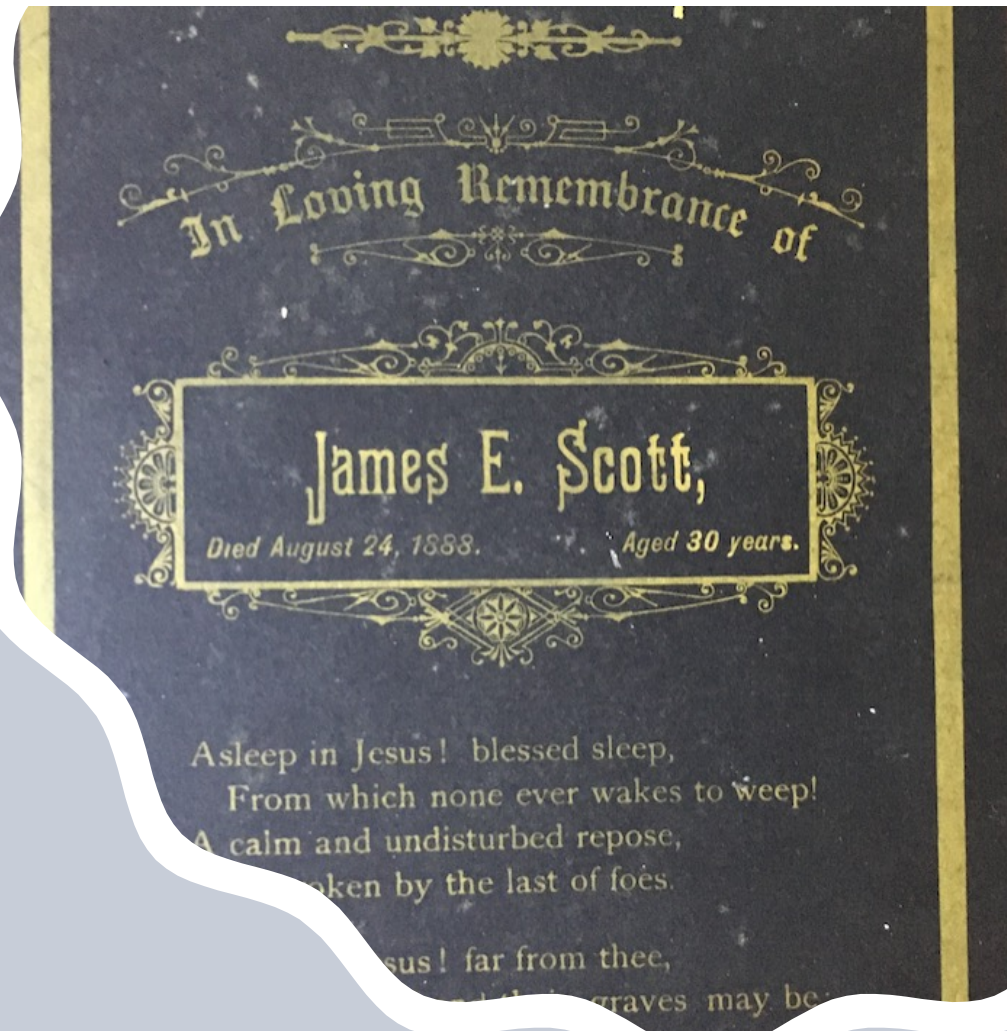
- It came as a terrible blow to the Scott and Mebane families when James Edwin passed away in 1888 after several months of declining health.
- He was buried alongside his ancestors at the cemetery of Hawfields Presbyterian Church in Mebane, North Carolina.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/24606570/james-edwin-scott>



After James Edwin died, Mary Belle was uncertain about her future.

- Mary Belle considered moving to Greensboro to be closer to her brother George and his family.
- Eventually she moved back to Kalm Krest to raise little Margie in familiar surroundings.



The household at Kalm Krest

- The household consisted of Mary Belle, her mother Fannie, her sister Fanny, and her daughter Margie.
- Guarding the ladies were two pit bull terriers, Tempest and Fury.
- [left to right: Margie, Fanny, Fannie, Mary Belle]



Mary Belle's brothers and their families were frequent visitors to Kalm Krest.

[Left to right: George Allen, James, B. Frank, and a pastor friend]

George Allen was a doctor

James worked in Washington, D.C.

B. Frank was a wealthy mill owner



Like her mother, Margaret Graham Scott grew up at Kalm Krest.

Margie Scott as a child.



Margie Scott grew up and attended Peace Institute. She became a teacher.



Margie Scott married John Rumple Ross, a businessman. The wedding took place at Kalm Krest.

April 8, 1914

*Mrs. James Edwin Scott
has the honour of
announcing the marriage of her daughter
Margaret Graham
to
Mr. John Rumple Ross
on Wednesday, the eighth of April
One thousand, nine hundred and fourteen
at Kalm Krest
Mebane, North Carolina*

The happy couple.

4-8-14

WEDDING IN MEBANE

Ross-Scott Marriage Interesting Occasion.

Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock at the home of the Bride's mother, Mrs. M. B. Scott took place a wedding of rare simplicity and beauty, when the daughter, Miss Margaret Graham Scott was married to Mr. John R. Ross. Only the near relatives and intimate friends were present, but owing to the prominence of the family and the wide circle of friends of both the contracting parties the affair was of unusual interest. The bride is a young lady of rare culture and charming personality, exceedingly popular throughout the State. The groom is a well known young business man of Charlotte, more recently of Thomasville.

"Kalm Krest" the dignified old

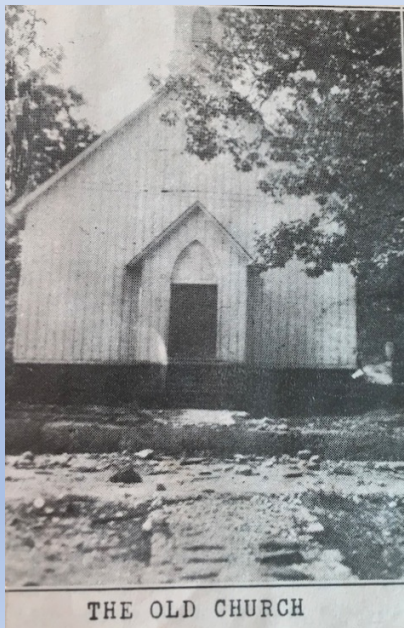
After a stay in Philadelphia, the Ross family moved to Haddonfield, New Jersey.

It was in Haddonfield that their daughter, Mary Belle Mebane Ross was born in December of 1923.



By 1912, the number of Presbyterians in Mebane had grown to the point that a new church was planned. The effort was spearheaded by David A. White.

The old church was located east of town, across from the Bingham School.

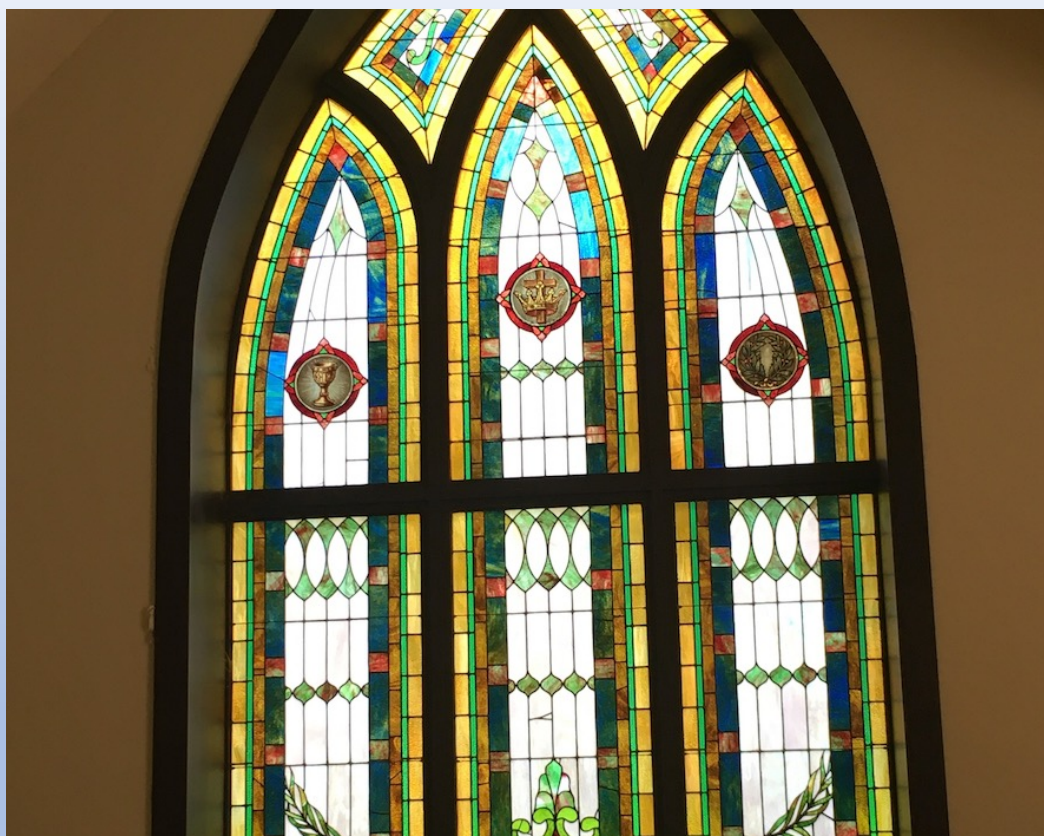


The new church was completed in 1914 and dedicated in 1917.

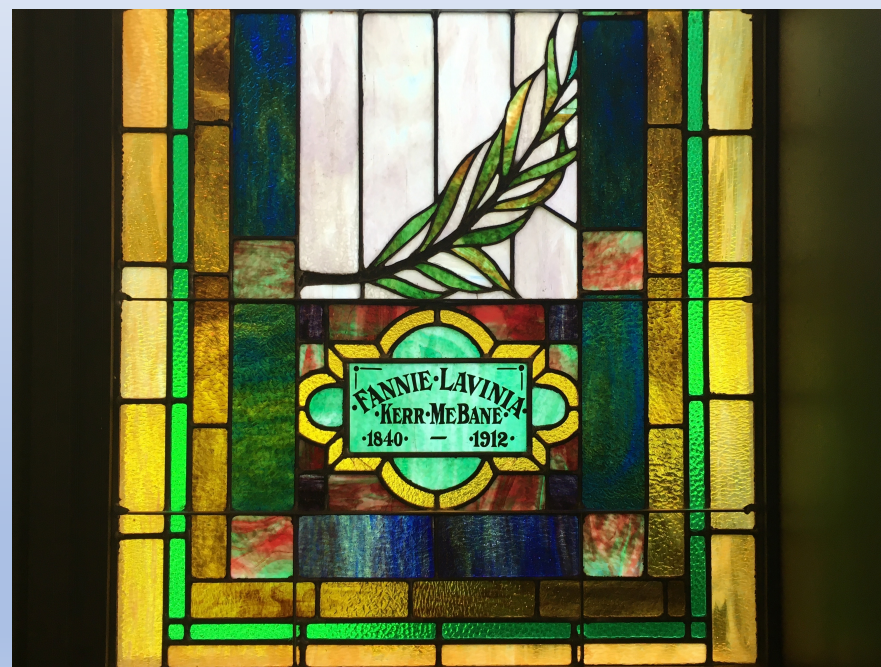


Memorial Window

This beautiful window is located in what is now called The Baker Building.



Sections of the window honor the memory of Mary Belle's parents, Dr. B.F. Mebane and Mrs. F. L. Mebane.



Mary Belle Mebane traveled to Haddonfield, New Jersey to meet her new granddaughter, Mary Belle Mebane Ross in December of 1923.

Mary Belle Mebane

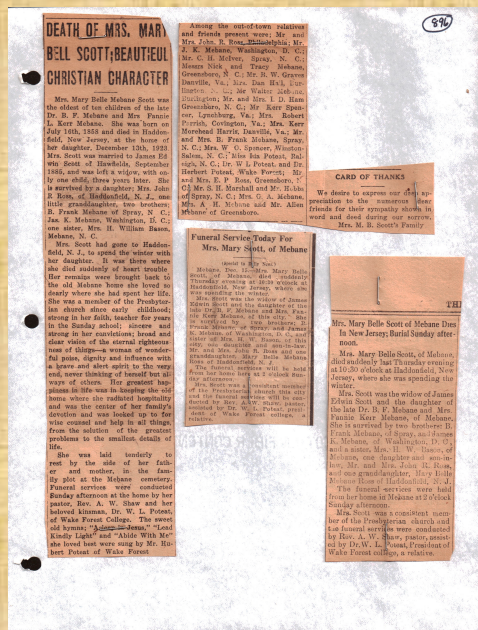


She passed away suddenly on this trip.



Her remains were returned to Mebane and after a funeral at Kalm Krest, were interred in Oakwood Cemetery.

Obituary



Her final resting place



Kalm Krest has been a witness to the growth of a community which through the years has been called Mebanesville, Mebane, and is now known as the City of Mebane.

Kalm Krest in Mary Belle's day.



Kalm Krest today.



IMAGE CREDITS

1. Kalm Krest, [photograph], photo provided by M. Bruns Taylor; poster by Abby Redding
2. Mebane City Hall, [photograph], 106E Washington St., Mebane, NC, 27302
3. Giles Mebane, [portrait], https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giles_Mebane
4. Mary Yancey Mebane, [portrait], <https://www.flickr.com/photos/ncccha/441262301>
5. Governor William A. Graham, [portrait], <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/graham-william-alexander>
6. Downtown Mebane, [postcard], University of North Carolina, North Carolina Collection: https://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/nc_post/id/6986/rec/2 and, White Furniture Company, [photograph], <https://www.loc.gov/item/2017805309/>
7. Alexander Mebane Highway Marker, [photograph], <https://www.ncdcr.gov/blog/2017/02/07/alexander-mebane-patriot-and-unc-trustee> and, Alexander Mebane, [photograph of painting], <https://www.geni.com/people/Alexander-Mebane/6000000018447892362>
8. White Furniture Company, [photograph], <https://www.loc.gov/item/2017805309/> and “The Lofts at White Furniture,” [photograph], <https://www.apartments.com/the-lofts-at-white-furniture-mebane-nc/8zcyz13/>

9. Mebane Train Depot, [photograph], Library of Congress: <https://www.loc.gov/item/2017805327/> and Mebane Train Depot, [newspaper article], Enterprise Journal 25, Jan 1973
10. Kalm Krest, [photograph], photo provided by M. Bruns Taylor; Kalm Krest today, [photograph], photo provided by M. Collins
11. Dr. Benjamin Franklin Mebane, [photograph], from the book: Taylor-Ross Genealogy by John E. Taylor. Printed privately.
12. Dandelion plant, [photograph of drawing], US National Library of Medicine, <https://circulatingnow.nlm.nih.gov/2016/06/07/the-dandelion/>
13. Taraxacum Tonic, [photograph of newspaper advertisement], The Mebane Leader, May 7, 1914.
<https://newspapers.digitalnc.org/lccn/sn91068488/1914-05-07/ed-1/seq-2/#words=TARAXACUM+Taraxacum>
14. Dr. and Mrs. B. F. Mebane, [photograph], photo provided by M. Bruns Taylor
15. Henderson Scott, [photograph], Scott Family Collection, ACC
16. Mr. and Mrs. Henderson Scott, [photograph], Scott Family Collection, ACC
17. "Grandfather's Letters," [book cover], Letters written to John Mebane Allen by relatives and friends of the Hawfields from 1852 to 1889, Collected and arranged by Elizabeth White Furman. 1974

18. Margaret G. K. G. Scott, [photograph], Scott Family Collection, ACC
19. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel K. Scott, [photograph], photo provided by M. Bruns Taylor
20. Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Scott, [photograph], Scott Family Collection, ACC
21. Alamance Stock Farm stationery, [document], Scott Family Collection, ACC
22. James Edwin Scott, [photograph], Scott Family Collection, ACC
23. Eastman College, [photograph], <https://poklib.org/no-longer-standing-buildings-of-poughkeepsie-gone-but-not-forgotten-eastman-business-college-and-mansion/> and Eastman College, classroom, [photograph], <https://poklib.org/no-longer-standing-buildings-of-poughkeepsie-gone-but-not-forgotten-eastman-business-college-and-mansion/>
24. Tried and True Tobacco, [box] Scott Family Collection, ACC
25. Newspaper article, Orange County Observer, October 14, 1882, p. 2, photo provided by L. Kobrin
26. Margaret Graham Scott, [photograph], from the book: Taylor-Ross Genealogy by John E. Taylor. Printed privately.

27. James Edwin Scott, grave marker, [photograph], <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/24606570/james-edwin-scott>
28. James Edwin Scott, In Memoriam, [memorial card], card provided by M. Bruns Taylor
29. Three Generations, [photograph], from the book: Taylor-Ross Genealogy by John E. Taylor. Printed privately.
30. The Mebane Brothers, James, George, B. Frank, plus unidentified pastor, [photograph], from the book: Taylor-Ross Genealogy by John E. Taylor. Printed privately.
31. Margaret Graham Scott as a young child, [photograph] from the book, Taylor-Ross Genealogy, by John E. Taylor, printed privately, and MGS as a young woman, same source.
32. Wedding Invitation, [photograph], photo provided by M. Bruns Taylor, and wedding announcement, [newspaper clipping], provided by M. Bruns Taylor.
33. The Ross Family, Mary Belle Mebane Ross, Margaret Scott Ross, John Ross, [photograph], from the book: Taylor-Ross Genealogy, printed privately.
34. The Old Church, [photograph], photo provided by Mebane Presbyterian Church, Mebane, NC, and Mebane Presbyterian Church, [postcard],
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mebane_NC_Presby_PHS1055.jpg

35. Memorial window, Mebane Presbyterian Church, [photograph], photo provided by M. Collins
36. Detail, Memorial Window (Dr. B. F. Mebane), Mebane Presbyterian Church, [photograph], photo provided by M. Collins and Detail, Memorial Window (F. L. Mebane), Mebane Presbyterian Church, [photograph], photo provided by M. Collins
37. Mary Belle Mebane Scott, [photograph], and In Memoriam card, [photograph], both provided by M. Bruns Taylor
38. Mary Belle Mebane Scott, obituary, [newspaper clipping], provided by M. Bruns Taylor, and Grave Marker, Oakwood Cemetery, Mebane, NC, [photograph], photo provided by M. Collins
39. Kalm Krest in the late 1880s, [photograph], photo provided by M. Bruns Taylor, and Kalm Krest today, [photograph], photo provided by M. Collins

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