

April 18, 2016

City of Greensboro Planning Department

Greensboro, NC

Dear Planning Department and City Council:

Twenty-five years before there was a United States of America and more than fifty years before there was a Greensboro, the current New Garden/Guilford College community was a thriving Quaker settlement. In an unbroken line from the 1750s, that community has continued to be the site of one of the largest concentrations of Quakers and Quaker institutions in the United States.

Moreover, the community has been the scene of events significant internationally, nationally, and regionally. From battles of the American Revolution, innovations in education and agriculture, the birthplaces of political leaders, advances in civil rights, and even contributions to American sports, the New Garden/Guilford College community has a longer list of historical contributions than Williamsburg and Old Salem combined!

Increasingly, the community's resources of the Underground Railroad woods and Quaker cemetery are being used by schools, civic groups, and individuals as a living/learning laboratory. Regular tours of the area are given to share New Garden's rich cultural and historical offerings.

Enclosed in this packet are narratives and documented materials in support of an application for Greensboro Heritage Community designation. I am happy to respond to any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

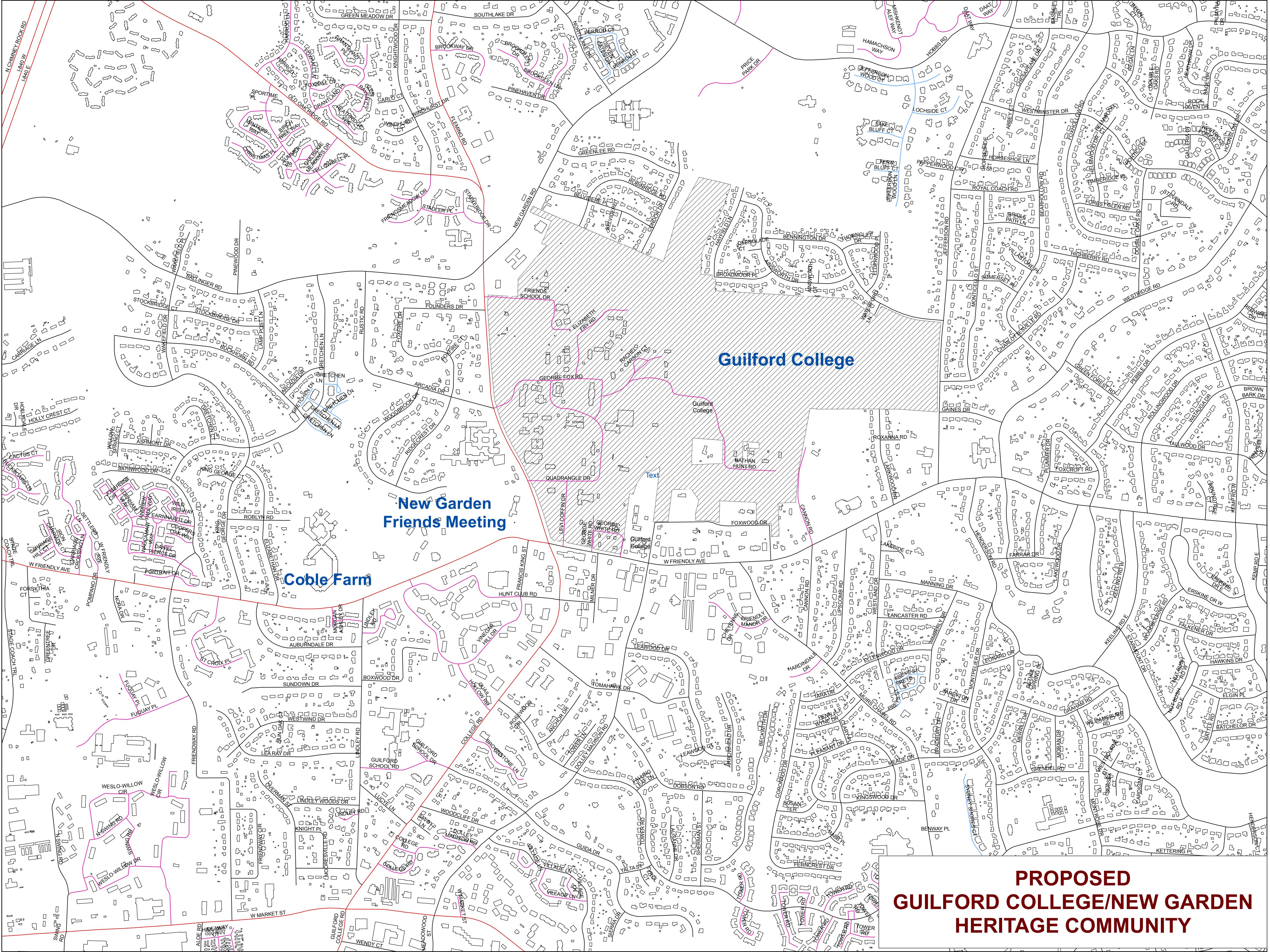
Sincerely,



Max L. Carter, Ph.D.

905 King George Dr., Greensboro, NC 27410

mcarter@guilford.edu/336-292-7316



Guilford College

New Garden Friends Meeting

Coble Farm

**PROPOSED
GUILFORD COLLEGE/NEW GARDEN
HERITAGE COMMUNITY**

Narrative Description Continued

Agreement and Signature

By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete. I understand that applications will be reviewed for completeness and merit by the Heritage Community Review Committee and then by the Greensboro Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) where public comment is heard. The HPC makes a recommendation to the Greensboro City Council. The City Council hears public comment and formally authorizes recognition. Recognition as a Heritage Community places no restrictions on property and is not a form of zoning regulation. The contents of the application become public information.

Name (printed)	Max L. Carter
Signature/Date	Max L. Carter 04/14/2016
Address	905 King George Dr., Greensboro, NC

Name (printed)	Barbara A. Bell (North Carolina Friends Historical Society)
Signature/Date	Barbara C. Bell 04-15-2016
Address	3653 Cherry Hill Dr. Greensboro, NC 27410

Name (printed)	Willie Taylor (Member, WFA/GCA Alliance)
Signature/Date	Willie Taylor
Address	808-C Carrose Crossing Ln. (27410)

Name (printed)	Margaret Webb
Signature/Date	Margaret Webb
Address	901 New Garden Rd. Greensboro NC 27410

Name (printed)	Jane K. Fernandes
Signature/Date	Jane K. Fernandes 4/18/2016
Address	5880 West Friendly Ave, Greensboro, NC 27410

Additional signatures are welcome and may be attached to the application.

Greensboro Heritage Community Application



Contact Information

Name of Applicant	Max L. Carter
Street Address	905 King George Dr.
City, State, Zip Code	Greensboro, NC 27410
Phone	336-292-7316
E-Mail Address	mcarter@Guilford.edu
Neighborhood/Community	New Garden / Guilford College

Neighborhood/Community Basic Information

My neighborhood (check all that apply):

*Please provide documentation exhibiting one or more of these qualifications

is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization*

has elected officers and holds regular meetings with recorded meeting minutes*

is registered with the Greensboro Neighborhood Congress*

has the signatures and addresses of 5 community representatives interested in recognition as a Heritage Community*

is filing the application in conjunction with the City of Greensboro

Application Documentation

Please attach documentation exhibiting each of the below requirements:

Statement of Significance (500 words or less) summarizing the importance of the community.

Current Map of the general area of the Community to be recognized

Historical maps of the community.

Documented evidence that the community contributed significantly to the social, cultural, political, or economic life of Greensboro over a sustained period. *Documentation are items such as newspaper or magazine articles, books, photographs, archaeological surveys, scholarly articles, or oral histories gathered and archived from residents and/or their descendants.*

Narrative description of the community's activities and contributions (no more than 3 pages).

Additional documentation of the community's contributions to events of regional or national significance is also welcome, but not required.

"Statement of Significance"

Roughly encompassed by Bryan Blvd. to the north, Westridge to the east, West Market to the south, and I-73 to the west, Greensboro's New Garden community was settled by Quakers in the early 1750s, twenty-five years before the Declaration of Independence and half a century before Greensboro itself. It was the site of major engagements between the British and American forces in 1781, part of the southernmost land passage of the Underground Railroad, home to innovative agriculture, the South's first coeducational institution of higher education (New Garden Boarding School/Guilford College), birthplace of First Lady Dolley Madison and Speaker of the House Joseph Gurney Cannon, and other people and events of interest. These include the professional baseball Ferrell brothers, early Quaker farmhouse architecture still standing, a German POW-built dairy barn, and the site of a school opened for enslaved Africans in 1821.

GERMAN POWS LED RELATIVELY EASY LIVES IN CAPTIVITY

Posted: Sunday, November 10, 2002 7:00 pm

Picture the following on this Veterans Day. A stalag in Germany during World War II. Nazi soldiers stand on guard towers, rifles at the ready to shoot American POWs if they attempt to escape.

Now picture this, same time, same war, half a world away. A farm truck stops at the stockade area of the Overseas Replacement Depot (ORD) in Greensboro. A dozen German POWs pile into the back. No guards with guns climb aboard. Off go the prisoners for a day of work on a farm. "Only in America," as the late journalist and philosopher Harry Golden of Charlotte would say.

The Germans, it must be said, did good work on Piedmont farms and more than earned the 80 cents a day Uncle Sam paid under the Geneva Convention.

William Coble's barn stands as evidence of German craftsmanship. It's so picturesque that artists have painted it through the years.

In 1944 or 1945, William Coble's brother and farming partner, Walter Coble, drove to the big Army Air Corps base off Summit Avenue each day to pick up German workers.

From William Coble's farm, the POWs crossed West Friendly Avenue and dismantled the top of a barn on the Lindley farm. They brought it across the road and up the hill to the Coble Farm, then called Sunnyhill Dairy, and rebuilt it on terra cotta walls.

Wasn't she scared looking out the back door at enemy soldiers 100 yards away? Not a bit, says Ruth Coble, William Coble's wife.

"They were as nice of people as you would ever want to see," she remembers.

She and her husband still live in the farmhouse on the hill. They've sold most of the farm's original 120 acres for developments, including Friends Homes West and a subdivision called Coble Farms. They've kept about 18 acres of pasture and the barn. They long ago replaced dairy cows with beef cattle.

Ruth Coble says the POWs took a liking to her son, Sam, who was a toddler.

"He was a very friendly child," she says, "and he wore overalls. They thought he was precious."

"They liked to see me, I've been told, because it reminded them of their own families back home," Sam Coble says nearly 60 years later.

Small children have a universal appeal wars can't touch. In Winston-Salem, German POWs for the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. made a sleigh for a little boy they saw sliding down a snow-covered hill on a shovel.

Some Americans argued then and now that the United States coddled German prisoners. But the government apparently saw the captives as an asset, not people to keep locked up. Why waste money, manpower and other resources guarding them? Where would they escape to anyway?

For sure, some did. Professor Robert Billinger of Wingate College, an expert on the German POWs in America, says one prisoner fled the Camp Butner Army base near Durham and wasn't found until nine years later, when the war was long over.

Most Germans didn't want to escape. They were getting three meals a day, a comfortable bunk and plenty of exercise. Many camps were in the sunny South. The Germans liked to tan by working with their shirts off. Best of all, they toiled far from where German comrades were being shot at.

In return, the United States got cheap labor at a crucial time. Many American farm boys had been drafted and sent overseas.

Professor Billinger says guards accompanied work details when POWs first arrived in America in 1943. Late in the war, he says, prisoners may have been allowed out on their own. The Cobles say they can't remember any guards watching the prisoners.

About 430,000 enemy POWs were at 510 locations in the United States, about 10,000 of them in North Carolina. Four locations were designated as main camps for them: Camp Butner, Camp Davis near Wilmington, Fort Bragg near Fayetteville and Camp Sutton near Monroe, all American military installations.

According to Billinger, a network of POW branch camps were established within the state. Camp Butner had 15 branches. No. 14 was at Greensboro's ORD, built during the war and closed afterward.

Billinger's research indicates that Branch Camp 14 had 397 German enlisted men. One American officer and 18 enlisted men were assigned to them.

The ORD opened in 1943 as a basic training camp before becoming a replacement depot for men going overseas. At its peak, 40,000 American troops were stationed at the camp, which occupied about 1,000 acres split by East Bessemer Avenue.

Many American soldiers probably didn't know German POWs were quartered in an area in the southeast corner near what's now English Street. Most Greensboro residents didn't know either. The local newspapers wrote little, if any, about the POWs.

Some people who did encounter the prisoners thought they had it too good compared to certain

Americans. In a 1995 New York Times story, historian John Hope Franklin, who is black, recounted a trip to Greensboro during the war to attend commencement ceremonies at Bennett College.

Afterward, he and his friends boarded a train to return to Durham and were squeezed into a 'Jim Crow' car for black passengers. It was half coach, half baggage car behind the steam locomotive. Passengers had to put up with soot from the boiler of the locomotive.

Franklin noticed up ahead a group of white men had a whole coach to themselves. They were laughing and smiling. They were German POWs. He was outraged they could travel in greater dignity than American black people.

Many American GIs came home from Nazi captivity eager to put that ugly experience behind them. Not the Germans. Many have returned to visit old camp sites and to embrace Americans who befriended them, although the Cobles say they haven't heard from anyone who worked at their farm.

Reportedly, 5,000 former German POWs immigrated to America and became citizens.

Scholars say America got more than cheap labor from the Germans. College professors went into the camps to conduct seminars on democracy. Many POWs had been small children when the Nazis came to power and had no concept of basic freedoms. They were astonished Americans openly criticized President Roosevelt and other leaders without fear of arrest.

Many went back home and became leaders in democratic post-war Germany. According to a recent newspaper story in Georgia, one former German POW, Rudiger Von Wechmar, held in a Colorado camp, became president of the United Nations General Assembly.

The former German POWs apparently held on to memories of the Sam Cobles and other American children. In 1998, a German who had been in a camp in Seattle wrote a Christmas letter to the mayor enclosing \$100.

'I would like to say thank you for my good times in Seattle,' he wrote. 'Please give the amount to a family in Seattle with children.'

Again, as Harry Golden would say, 'Only In America.'

\ Contact Jim Schlosser at 373-7081 or jschlosser@news-record.com

(no subject)

1 message

Max Carter <mcarter@guilford.edu>
To: Max Carter <mcarter@guilford.edu>

Fri, Apr 15, 2016 at 3:11 PM

New Garden Cemetery Tour on Halloween by Max Carter ...

▶ 49:30

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NPsjxg6fqGU>

Aug 6, 2015 - Uploaded by Bernetiae Reed

This Annual Halloween Tour of New Garden Friends Cemetery was conducted by Max Carter. It provides ...

New Garden Cemetery Tour (Daytime) conducted by Max ...

▶ 56:16

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7I07msOzI4>

Aug 4, 2015 - Uploaded by Bernetiae Reed

This tour was conducted by Max Carter for a class at Guilford College. It

"Narrative Description"

In the mid-1700s, Quakers from Southeastern Pennsylvania began settling in the Piedmont seeking abundant and cheap land, religious liberty, and freedom from the growing violence on the Pennsylvania frontier. A group from the New Garden Friends community in Chester County settled in the "new garden" of present-day Guilford County and established a Quaker worship group in 1751. New Garden Friends Meeting became an official monthly meeting (congregation) of the Religious Society of Friends in 1754. Fifty-three acres for the meeting's house of worship and burial ground were purchased in 1757 from Richard Williams, a boundary marker of which remains on a part of the Guilford College campus. Descendants of these Ballingers, Mendenhalls, Armfields, Coxes, and Williamses still live among us.

By the 1770s, these early settlers were joined by numerous Friends from Nantucket, bringing the names of Macy, Coffin, Folger, Gardner, and Starbuck with them. That island had been among the first communities in America to adopt opposition to slavery, and Nantucket Quakers brought that sentiment and commitment with them.

On the morning of March 15, 1781, soldiers under the command of American "Light Horse Harry" Lee and British Banastre Tarleton engaged in three separate skirmishes in the New Garden community prior to the Battle of Guilford Court House. Hundreds of dead and wounded were left along New Garden Road, at the crossroads of Ballinger and New Garden Roads, and around the Friends meetinghouse. Quakers tended to the fallen of both sides, some 125-150 buried in mass graves in the Quaker cemetery. The meetinghouse was used as a field hospital, and hundreds were tended in farmhouses and on the grounds of the meetinghouse. Richard Williams contracted smallpox from a British soldier, died, and is buried near the site of the old meetinghouse and mass graves. Correspondence between General Nathanael Greene and New Garden Friends Meeting about care for the soldiers in the aftermath of the battles is preserved in the archives of Guilford College.

Following the war, the devastated community rebuilt and flourished. Small farms, businesses, mills, forges, and a school dotted the community. Trouble came again, however, as Friends committed themselves to the anti-slavery cause, and the community became known as a safe haven for fugitives from slavery. Levi Coffin writes in his autobiography of finding fugitives in the New Garden woods as he did farm chores as a little boy in

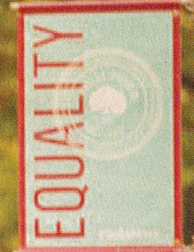
the early 1800s. By 1819, he and his wife Catherine and his cousin Vestal Coffin and wife Alethea, along with others, were actively aiding fugitives in their escape to the North on what became known as the Underground Railroad. Levi Coffin and his family left for Indiana in 1826, the year Vestal Coffin died and was buried in the New Garden cemetery. Before this, both Levi and Vestal were active in opening "the little brick schoolhouse" in the Quaker community as a "Sabbath School" in 1821 in an effort to teach literacy to enslaved Africans - an activity that was illegal.

Quaker anti-slavery activity so compromised the Friends community in North Carolina and the South that thousands began emigrating to the North, leaving fewer than 2,000 adult Friends in the South by the conclusion of the Civil War. The lack of Quaker teachers and schools to serve the remnant community necessitated the establishment of a boarding school at New Garden in 1837. It opened with 25 boys and 25 girls, the first coeducational school of its kind in the South. In 1888, it became Guilford College, one of its first graduates being the noted mathematician Virginia Ragsdale, and another being T. Gilbert Pearson, the Audubon Society environmentalist.

During the Civil War, the New Garden Boarding School remained open, as there were dedicated faculty and staff who remained, and the young men refused to join the army. The New Garden woods again became a refuge - for students avoiding the draft and escapees from the war. While finding it difficult even to feed their families and the boarding students, Elizabeth Cox and Orianna Mendenhall hung baskets of food in the woods for those hiding there. Elizabeth is buried in the New Garden cemetery.

Again rebuilding from the devastation of war, the boarding school transitioned into a college. Knight, Motsinger, Hodgkin, Lindley, Cummings, Coble, and Ferrell dairy farms flourished. Addison Boren developed an industry of "horsepowers" - advanced horse-powered agricultural equipment - and his sons developed the terracotta pipe and brick industry that bore the Boren name. John Van Lindley developed a flourishing nursery business and advocated for improved roads throughout the region.

World War II brought further challenges as the community welcomed Japanese-American students at the College and Jewish refugees into the faculty. Area Quaker farmers hired German POWs interned in Greensboro to work on their farms, the dairy barn they built on the Bill and Ruth Coble farm still standing along West Friendly Ave.



Quakers played a prominent part in Greensboro's religious history

BY TAMMY HOLOMAN
Special to the News & Record

The history of Guilford County would've been vastly different without the presence of the Quakers. Among our area's earliest settlers, they arrived in the mid-1700s. The county still has a large Quaker population with several worship gatherings, called "meetings," throughout the area.

Also known as the Society of Friends, the Quakers fled England to escape intolerance because of their opposition to the Anglican church, which was established by King Henry VIII after the pope refused to grant him an annulment from Catherine of Aragon so he could marry Anne Boleyn. Most of them settled in North Carolina, Maryland, Rhode Island and Pennsylvania because those areas that offered religious freedom at the time.

Early Quakers in Guilford County trav-

eled to worship at the Cane Creek Friends Meeting, established in 1751 in what is now Snow Camp. Cane Creek is considered to be the first Quaker meeting in the Piedmont and is still attended today.

The Quakers believed (and still do) there was a "light of God," or "inner light," in each person that connected him or her to God and fellow men. They emphasized individual prayer and meditation on the teachings of Jesus rather than salvation, rituals or the need for clergy. They were also pacifists who were devoted to education and who made a political impact.

In 1754, the New Garden Meeting House was established in what is now Greensboro. During the Revolutionary War, in 1781, Gen. Nathanael Greene's troops met at the meeting house in preparation for the Battle of Guilford Courthouse, just a few miles away. The British forces led by Lord Cornwallis defeated them, and there were several injured on both sides. The Quak-

ers, who faced criticism and persecution because of their refusal to fight, used the meeting house to treat all of the wounded soldiers. One Cane Creek member, Simon Dixon, even provided a resting place for Cornwallis and his men.

In later years, Guilford County native Levi Coffin, who grew up at New Garden, created a sort of Underground Railroad to help runaway slaves reach freedom. Many Quakers provided refuge for escaped slaves.

Two historical dramas produced annually at Snow Camp Theatre in Alamance County — "Sword of Peace" and "Pathway to Freedom" — tell the history of the early Quakers in Guilford County, the opposition they faced, and their many contributions to a more peaceful and free society.

In 1837, the Quakers opened New Garden Boarding School, which became Guilford College in 1888, the only Quaker-founded college in the Southeast.

Courtesy of Guilford College

Postwar Quaker activism for integration saw Eleanor Roosevelt speak on civil rights in 1955 in the Quaker meetinghouse that is now Guilford College's New Garden Hall, and the College integrated in 1962 ahead of hosting the worldwide gathering of Friends on campus, a majority of whom are people of color. United Nations Secretary General U Thant was a featured speaker at that gathering.

And we still haven't mentioned First Lady Dolley Madison and Speaker of the House "Uncle Joe" Cannon, both born in the New Garden community - or the Ferrell Brothers baseball players whose dairy farm was where Hidden Lakes Apartments now stand.

Resources available to corroborate this narrative include: Gilbert, "Guilford, a Quaker College;" Hilty, "New Garden Friends Meeting;" Levi Coffin, "Reminiscences;" Addison Coffin, "Travels of Addison Coffin;" Newlin, "The Battle of New Garden;" papers of Mary Mendenhall Hobbs; videos and oral history of the New Garden community by Max L. Carter. Maps of the area from the 1700s are in the Friends Historical Collection of Guilford College.