This July Newsletter is a departure. The Board agreed that the interval (May to September) without any report from the Society was too long. The members are entitled to know of Society activities which, of course, continue throughout the summer. An interim Newsletter also gives us space for Historical Notes; this past year the Board felt that these should be printed at frequent intervals. You will find two in this issue. You will receive the usual Newsletter in September, preceding the regular October meeting. Again we shall print the 1977-78 reports of committees and officers, in place of verbal presentations, at this, the annual meeting.

BOB STIPE HONORED

ROBERT E. STIPE, a resident of Chapel Hill since 1953, a founder of the Historical Society and the driving force in persuading the Town and people of influence to set aside a Historic District, was honored in May by Cecil D. Andrus, Secretary of the Interior, for his activities in the field of historic preservation, at a ceremony conducted in Washington. All of us in the Chapel Hill Historical Society are proud that Bob has received recognition and happy that his labors have not only not been in vain locally, but are now known at the highest levels. He used to point out, and no doubt still does, that the best way to save an edifice of some antiquity is not to make it into another museum... too often a neglected white elephant... but into something self-supporting, concentrating, if necessary, on guarding the exterior at all costs. An excellent example of this is the restoration of the Carr Mill, now receiving attention far beyond the boundaries of North Carolina.

Headstone erected in 1886 in memory of Nancy Hilliard.
   (Photo by Hugh Brinton)

GRAVESTONE REPAIR. In the January Newsletter appeared a biographical sketch of Nancy Hilliard (1798-1873), proprietress of the old Eagle Hotel on the site of the present Graham Memorial building. We found that her gravestone in the old cemetery had been broken into two pieces. Last fall we removed these and John Macfie reassembled and strengthened them with reinforced concrete. The repaired stone is now in place. The Society appreciates the help of a crew sent by the Town in transporting and replacing it.
NEWS ITEMS

HISTORICAL TOUR. The Society's trips to places of historical interest have become so popular, (the Spring trip having required two buses), that the Board is planning a one-day trip in October to the Historical Museum in Greensboro and the Guilford Court House battlefield. As usual, arrangements are being made by Dr. Charles Hooker, skilled in this activity. More detail will be included in the September Newsletter.

CHAIRMANSHIPS RESIGNED. After faithful service of great benefit to the Society: Mrs. Charles E. Rush, Membership, and Dr. Paul Wager, Research and Study. We are fortunate to have able replacements: Mrs. Bruce Strowd for Mrs. Rush and Dr. Charles Blake for Dr. Wager.

NEW MEMBERS. The Society is happy to announce these new members (as of July 1). From Chapel Hill: Mrs. Harry Kear, 8 Flemington Road; Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Cameron, 404 Laurel Hill Road; Mrs. F. R. Higgins, 85 Willow Terrace; Mrs. J. B. Linker, 503 Dogwood Drive; Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Frankstone, 8 Powell Street. From Durham: Mr. and Mrs. Clarence McGregor, 712 A, Constitution Drive.

COMMENCEMENT SALES of our publications was successful. Each year our wares are sold in the Carolina Inn lobby with permission of Mr. Carl Moser, the manager. The 1978 effort resulted in the receipt of $131.15. We are indebted to the salesmen: Hugh Brinton, E. E. Caldwell, Almonte Howell, John Macfie, Stuart Willis and Ralph Watkins.

PROFESSOR JOHN ALLCOTT'S Old Campus Walk on Commencement Saturday, May 13, was "washed out". Rain fell most of the day.

There will be four vacancies on the Board of Directors on October 1st. The Nominating Committee, James Webb, chairman; Mrs. Helen Allen; Dr. Corydon Spruill, will offer a slate of nominees listed in the September Newsletter. Nominations from the floor will be in order. The membership at large elects Directors.

CORRECTION: Lawrence London detected a faulty statement in the May Newsletter to the effect that the church at Bath (1734) is the "oldest Anglican Church in the U. S." It should have read "in North Carolina". Dr. London states the oldest church of that denomination is located in Smithfield, Va. (1632).

SPEAKERS for the fall meetings as scheduled by E. E. Caldwell, Program chairman, are:
October 1, Dr. Charles Blake; November 5, James Wadsworth; December 3, Mrs. James L. Godfrey.

1979 CALENDAR. Again, the Society will print an old Chapel Hill Calendar, this for 1979. The format will be somewhat changed, the size larger; another set of 12 pictures of historical interest will be used. More details in later Newsletters. The Calendar Committee: Mrs. Marvin Allen, Mrs. Marion Alexander, Mr. Peter Wilson.

HISTORY OF CHAPEL HILL POST OFFICE

Although Chapel Hill has had a post office since 1795, or almost from the beginning of a federal postal service, it did not operate in a building owned by the U. S. Government until 1920. Prior to that time the post office sought space in some store or other private establishment. From June 1908 or possibly earlier, space was rented for a number of years in a building called the Lloyd Building on the south side of Franklin Street nearly directly across from Clyde Eubanks' drug store. From that location the post office moved to the building farther east in which Betty Branson later sold ladies' wear in her Little Shop. Not until 1920 did it move again, this time across the street to its own building.

The lot on which this now historic building was erected in the winter of 1919-20, has itself an interesting history. When Franklin Street was laid out and two-acre lots on both sides of it offered for sale in 1793, the purchaser of the most easterly lot on the north side of the street was Hardy Morgan, the price 75 pounds. He sold the lot within a year for exactly the same amount as he had paid for it. Perhaps frontage on Franklin Street had not appreciated as he had hoped, particularly if he had not paid for the property.

(continued on Page 3)
The owner was Samuel Hopkins.

Research to date has not disclosed what transactions may have taken place in the next few years, but President Battle states in his history of the University, and William Moseley, a graduate of the University class of 1818, later recalled that in his student days the lot was the site of Major Pleasant Henderson's large and rather imposing home and also a general store.

Much later, in 1881, Dr. William P. Mallett bought a portion of the lot and on it built a house (unless one was already there). Whatever its width, Dr. Mallett's home place extended all the way from Franklin Street to Rosemary Street. In 1915, heirs of Dr. Mallett—Caroline Eliza Mallett, William DeBerniere MacNider and George M. MacNider and Louise Lamar MacNider sold nearly half of the lot, with 100 feet frontage on Franklin Street and nearly 150 feet on Henderson Street, to the U. S. Government as a site for a post office building. The handsome columned building erected at this choice location served adequately until outgrown by the rapid increase in population witnessed in the last decade. The slightly larger portion of the lot which faced Rosemary Street, was eventually acquired by speculators, the last of whom, like many other Chapel Hill land owners, in the depression years of the thirties, found themselves unable to meet commitments and the mortgage holders foreclosed. At the foreclosure sale, October 6, 1936, the U. S. Government bought both the lot facing Rosemary Street, on which Orange County Building and Loan Association had a mortgage, and an interior lot on which the Bank of Chapel Hill was a creditor. At the time the post office was already in need of parking space for its vehicles. In 1969 a new and larger post office was built on lower Estes Drive and serves as a central office.

Although the Franklin Street unit serves a useful purpose, it is classed by the Government as surplus property and soon, it is expected, will make the property available, successively, to other federal agencies, to the State of North Carolina, and finally to Chapel Hill if not acquired by a higher unit in the political hierarchy. If no political unit is interested or in position to meet the terms of the General Services Administration, presumably private interests will be allowed to bid competitively for the property.

Paul Wager

JULIAN S. CARR was born in Chapel Hill on October 12, 1845, the year UNC graduate James K. Polk became President. His father was John Wesley Carr, a prominent merchant of the very small village, who owned property at the north-east corner of Franklin and Columbia Streets. The Carrs were descended from John Carr of County Down, Ireland, who settled in Virginia in 1728.

Julian enrolled at UNC but with the advent of the Civil War he enlisted and served with the Third North Carolina Cavalry. After Appomattox, Carr, like so many Confederate soldiers, was without money and made his way back home on foot. In the meantime Federal soldiers stationed at the little village of Durham tried the local tobacco and found it excellent. On reaching home they spread the word about "that good Durham tobacco". It is said that Ann Thackeray called on Tennyson and found him enjoying a pipe of Bull Durham. Thomas Carlyle was reported as another addict of the same period.

In 1870 the elder Carr bought a third interest in the small company of Blackwell and Day for $4,000 and Julian was made a junior partner at the age of 25. The company's fortunes, and Julian's, increased steadily so that by the turn of the century Julian was a man of considerable wealth, with an interest in various activities. Few men of his means were more civic minded. He was ever concerned about old Confederate veterans who had fallen on hard times. He gave liberally to his alma mater and aided University students in need of money. The Greensboro Female College, Wake Forest, Davidson, Elon College and St. Mary's, and above all Trinity College, later Duke University, were recipients of his grants.

After the turn of the century, Carr bought the cotton mill of Thomas Lloyd, illiterate entrepreneur who had created a fortune of his own. The area had been known as West Chapel Hill, then Venable, but in 1913 it was renamed after Julian Shakespeare Carr, called by his more ardent admirers "The Noblest Roman of Them All!".

John Macfie