

Iron ore was mined and processed in Chatham

On July 8, 1861 a Fayetteville newspaper, the *Observer*, mentioned that a furnace to process iron ore was being erected at Ore Hill, 10 miles north of Deep River. The article went on to say that the ore was of high quality and was from an area that had been previously mined during the Revolutionary War. The pig iron to be cast at this new furnace was to be converted into ovens, plow castings, gears for mills and factory equipment among other items. The furnace sent its first consignment of pig iron, weighing 1600 pounds, to a foundry in Wilmington during October 1861.

The furnace appears to have been operated under two names—The Chatham-Ore Hill Company and the Tick Creek–Ore Hill Company. It was eventually sold to the Sapona Iron Company. This latter business was incorporated in May 1862 by James E. Hoyt, William Murdock, John C. Washington and George Washington. Its purpose was to sell pig iron to the Confederate government. The new company was benefited by two advances of \$10,000, each in May 1862

toward an ordinance contract from the Confederate Government. The proceeds may have been used to purchase the furnace on 12 acres in addition to mineral rights on an adjacent 137 acre tract. The ore bearing tract had provided the raw material for manufacturing munitions during the Revolutionary War. During 1776, a small furnace was constructed at this site by John Wilcox and William England. Some of the ore from this site was also transported to a Wilcox Iron Manufactory on the Deep River during the Revolutionary War. The Fayetteville *Observer* newspaper described the ore from this source as “very superior.”

In the latter part of 1862 a group of investors owning the Sapona Iron Works found it necessary to build an extension of the Western Rail Road from Egypt to their furnace on the Deep River. The business names of “Sapona Iron Works” and “Deep River Iron Works” both appear to refer to the same furnace in correspondence and documents signed by Benjamin J. Jordan. He was the largest stockholder in the

Chatham's Historical Heritage

By Fred J. Vatter, Jr.



Endor Iron Company and the designer of its furnace in Chatham County. Jordan also used the name “B.J. Jordan & Company” to sell pig iron to the Charlotte Navy Yard, which is said to have received 31 tons of pig iron between the 4th and 5th of May 1863.

After the end of the Civil War, the production of iron at the Sapona furnace appears to have ceased based on an inability to find any operating records. The shattered economy and perhaps the end of slave labor may have caused the demise of the company. The business community that developed around the iron works became known as Ore Hill and

there was a post office by that name in 1871. In 1884 the CF and YV railway built a depot there and commenced service between Sanford and Greensboro. The Ore Hill Academy made private education available for males and females. A local machine shop owned by three Ellis brothers invented and sold the Ellis Portable Corn Mill.

The name of the town and post office was changed from Ore Hill to Mt. Vernon Springs in 1926 which displeased a number of residents but advertised a local health resort that attracted tourists seeking “health” and “beauty” from the local waters. The old “Ore Hill” sign board from the railway station was prominently displayed on the front porch of a house for many years where it could be seen from the highway.

A drive to this peaceful community allows one to experience the quiet beauty of small town life.

Fred J. Vatter is past president of the Chatham Historical Association and a board member.

Three reasons your to-do lists do not get done

It's Monday morning. You are starting your week and staring at your to-do list. (You do have a to-do list don't you?) If not, put making one at the top of your list.

You look at the items on your list and think: **(A)** “Sweet, look at all these great things I have to accomplish today. I am really going to enjoy and feel great accomplishing all this wonderful stuff!” **(B)** “Hmm, this stuff was on my list last week and I did not get it done. Maybe I will get it done this week.” **(C)** Golly gee, where did all these things come from, and who made this list? I don't remember any of these things! **(D)** No way I will ever get all this done! I may as well **(a)** Go watch TV, **(b)** See what's in the fridge, **(c)** Go play ____ (your favorite

distraction entered here), or **(E)** B, C and D.

If, like most, you selected B, C, D or E, you are not alone. In my experience working with clients, I have found that for most of us, a to-do list is a “to-do” in and of itself. Frustrating!

If you selected A, you can stop reading and get to work on your list, or feel free to read along with the rest of us. For those of you still reading, here is what I have discovered:

Top reasons to-do lists do not work:

- You put things on your list you just do not want to do!
- Your list is a mishmash of too many items requiring a behavior change in too many areas to accomplish.

- You have no drive to get the items done.

My approach to making all this work is as follows:

1. Put aside some time, at least 15–30 minutes where you can sit quietly, comfortably, and not be interrupted.
2. Imagine/visualize yourself 90 days from now. (I find this is a workable time increment, but change it if you must.)
3. Pick one area of your life—work, personal, relationship, etc.
4. Think about a result that, if achieved, would leave you feeling really amazing! You can imagine it, feel it, or put yourself in the place of having accomplished it. (Make sure it is a SMART goal.)
5. Take five minutes to write a note to yourself about this goal/vision and how it will feel; why it is important; why it will make a difference. Keep it short, to the point and simple.

6. Now re-read your goal. Still feel good? Then you got it. If not, re start at #3 above.

7. Now, with your goal/vision in mind, on a separate sheet of paper, work backwards and write down the steps you need to take to achieve the goal.

8. Keep the “to-do list” and the “vision” list separate!

You want to read your vision daily, before you look at your to-do list.

Then let the vision drive the selection of your action tasks for the day!

This is a simplified version of the methodology I offer in my free planning class. If you would like more information, feel free to email me or you can read more or register via my website.

Jerry Bergner, jsbergner@gmail.com



Tired of Waiting?

Most prescriptions filled within 10 minutes.

PITTSBORO DISCOUNT DRUGS

628 East St, Pittsboro • M–F: 8:30 am to 6:30 pm • Sat: 9 am to 1 pm • 542-7283
Closed Sunday • Hablamos Español • FREE DELIVERY! Call for select delivery areas.

FOR ALL YOUR PLUMBING NEEDS

Specializing in high efficiency water heaters, low flow fixtures, and greywater systems.





PO Box 1385, Carrboro, NC 27510

Phone 919-636-5950

Susan McDaniel
Pat Smith

www.ncgreenplumbing.com

Is your house too cold? too drafty? too hot?

Are Your Energy Bills too High?

YES? Then you need a thorough, professional energy audit!



Home Performance NC

(919) 360.1570 • homeperformancenc.com

energy audits • energy ratings • weatherization



Happy Holidays!

Look for the next issue of
Chatham County Line in February, 2014.

Manage Stress and Enjoy Life Again

“You don't have to settle for less than happiness.”



Betty W. Phillips, Ph.D.
Psychologist - Counseling and Life Coaching

FOREST GARDEN OFFICE
Chatham County
919.967.1860

BettyPhillipsPsychology.com



Color Your World

with an incredible eclectic variety of fabrics, tea towels, baskets, yard art, crafts, antiques and more...




FRENCH CONNECTIONS

where South Africa and France collide in Harmony and Art

178 Hillsboro Street, Pittsboro • 919.545.9296
SHOP ONLINE! www.french-nc.com
Mon–Sat: 10:30–5:30, First Sundays: 12–5.