After publishing *Some More Riddles Of North Carolina* in July 1994, I have been asked by many cousins to start a *Riddle Newsletter* so that our large extended family can keep in touch. I plan to publish it twice a year, one issue in November or December and one in June or July.

I hear from some who ask if *Some More Riddles of North Carolina* will be updated to include them and their family. I hope to publish an update in two or three years. As one can imagine I am not able to document all of the descendants of our patriarch John Riddle so I must depend on you to supply me with any information such as births, deaths, marriages or an ancestor who has escaped my attention. As the Riddle book circulates, I hope that our Riddle family will support the *Riddle Newsletter* by providing me information and stories that will serve as the nucleus for the update.

I would like to thank you in advance for your time and assistance and hope you not only find the *Riddle Newsletter* informative but also enjoyable.
Second Printing of Riddle Book
Now Available

The requests for copies of Some More Riddles Of North Carolina far exceeded the number of copies that had been published. By mid-August, 1994, the first printing had been sold out. Due to the many requests, the second printing is now available at the same price as the first printing, $29.00 per copy including mailing costs.

More Children of Benjamin Tyre Riddle

Through the graciousness of Jan Riggs Riddle and her husband Lee I have been given access to priceless information contained in the files of Judge Harry Lee "Chick" Riddle, Jr. of Morganton. Judge Riddle died September 29, 1983. Lee (Harry Lee III) is Chick's son and Jan worked in Chick's office for several years. Jan and Lee have preserved much of the information collected by Judge Riddle over his distinguished career as Chick was very interested in his ancestry and has spent many years researching the history of his Riddle/Rust ancestors. One letter in particular contained in his files was written by Chick's grandmother Mary Naomi Rust Riddle. Mary Naomi was the wife of Samuel Riddle (ed. see page III-3-6 of - Some More Riddles of North Carolina. Hereafter referred to as the "Riddle Book".)

The letter was written on June 14, 1927 and I believe it was written in response to a request by Harry Lee Sr., Chick's father for information about his ancestors. The first part of this letter concerns her Rust/Tate ancestry. The second part mentions the names of three children of Benjamin T. and Rachel Austin Riddle, Chick's great-grandparents. As shown on page III of the Riddle Book, ten children had been previously identified.

I now quote from Mary Naomi’s letter with a few editorial remarks: "Your grandfather Riddle came from South Carolina. His name was John. (John Riddle was Chick's great-great-grandfather. This John Riddle may have briefly been in South Carolina, but a strong case exists that indicates he came to what is now Yancey County, North Carolina from Stokes County, North Carolina) Your Grandpa Riddle (Benjamin Tyre Riddle) married Rachel Auston (Rachel Austin). Her mother was an Allen. Your

Old Homestead on Cattail Creek, Yancey Co., NC.
grandma had fourteen children. Pollia (Mary Riddle #63, b. 1818) married Sam McPeters, Jim (James Riddle #47) married Elizabeth Hensley (#48), Ben Riddle's Margaret (#64) married Leander Ray (#348), Bettsy (Elizabeth "Betsy" #577) married Carl Ray (John Calvin Ray #576) and died (Carl). He was Ben Ray's father. Then Bettsy Married Jim Mc (James McMahan #733). Tom got killed (not previously identified). He was thrown from a horse. Bob (Robert #58) married Froncy Burleson (Sophronia #223). John (John 360) married Nancy McKinney (Nancy E. #224). Nellie ("Nellie" Elendor Riddle, not previously identified) married John Arrowood and moved to Kentucky. Nancy (not previously identified) married John Banks (believed to be Jonathan Banks as shown in the 1850 Yancey County Census as family #1379). Jane (Lucinda Jane Riddle #62) married John Dillingham. Eliza (#57) married Alexander Penland (this marriage not previously recorded). Bill (William P. #61) married Addie Dillinger (Margaret Adeline #239). Your grandpa married the second time to Elizabeth Ray (Millisa "Elizabeth" Bennett Ray #215), she was a Binnett and raised in Georgia. She first married Hiram Ray, then your Grandpa married her. They had Ben Ervin (#216). he married Julia Wilson (#217) and was killed by lighting.

We now know the names of three additional children of Ben T. and Rachel Riddle: Tom, Nellie, and Jane. In addition we are able to add the names of their spouses. Another interesting revelation is that Eliza married Alexander Penland. It was assumed that Eliza had never married and had lived with her father Ben until his death in 1875. Many of the folks in the Pensacola area knew Mary Naomi Rust as "Aunt Molly Tate."

An insight into her connection to the Tate name is revealed by the fourth line in her letter: My Daddy's mother was Rachel Tate Alexander, granddaughter of Rock Tate. (See the Riddle Book, page III-3-7 for more information on Rock Tate and the Tate connection.) Mary Naomi was 85 years old when she wrote this letter and was seven years after the death of her husband Sam. She died in 1930 and is buried beside Sam in an unkempt cemetery high on a hill behind the Pensacola High School, now Ray Miller's TV Cable facility.

Five of her children, Sally, William Houston, Robert Vance Tate, Bertie Riddle King are buried in the same cemetery. Another child, Cora B. Riddle Coffey is buried in the Riddle Cemetery just below the cemetery where Sam and Mary Naomi are interred. Dr. Joseph Bennett Riddle began the exodus of Mary Naomi's children from Yancey County. Dr. Riddle established his practice in Bridgewater near Morganton, Burke County the ancestral home of his mother Mary Naomi Rust. His younger brother Harry Lee soon joined him. More on the Riddles of Morganton in our next issue of the Riddle Newsletter.
July, 1994 was a busy month for this old Riddle man. I was invited to the Riddle Reunion in Italy, Texas. It has been held almost every year since 1928. It is known as the A. J. (Andrew Jackson) Riddle Family Reunion and is usually held on July the 4th each year. These Riddles are descendants of Randolph Riddle (1762-1832) the brother of our ancestor John Riddle (1764-1844). John moved from Stokes County and settled in what is now Yancey County, North Carolina in 1805. His brother Randolph moved from Stokes County to Franklin County, Tennessee sometime before 1812. Andrew Jackson Riddle born 1860 in Tennessee was a great-grandson of Randolph. In 1902, A.J. and most of his family, wife and seven children, moved west first to Texas, then to Oklahoma, and back finally back to Texas in 1928. Ed Riddle of Houston, Texas is a sixth generation descendent of Randolph and Ed and I have exchanged information about our Riddle families. He is planning on publishing a history of the Randolph Riddle family line. While doing research in Richmond, Virginia, Ed came to visit on July 31st. We had a great time trading tall tales about Texas and the Riddles.

I am sorry to report that I missed this Riddle Reunion as I was working continuously trying to complete the Riddle book in time for the Pensacola - Coming Home '94 celebration on July 16th. By 2:00 PM, Mary Cathryn Riddle Watts and I sold all of the books that I had brought. This was the first time that I had the honor of meeting many of my Riddle cousins.

**Benjamin Erwin Riddle Family Reunion**

On August 13th, I attended the Riddle reunion given by the descendants of Benjamin Erwin Riddle, son of Benjamin Tyre and Elizabeth Bennett Ray Riddle. Ben Erwin married Julia Wilson and they had five children: John, Kelse, Emory, Oscar, and Maggie. Oscar died as a baby. The other four children married and produced some of the best looking Riddle cousins I ever met. Sadie, Mrs. Charles Furr and Frances, Mrs. John Brinkley daughters of Kelse Riddle, have been working with me to expand the coverage on the descendants of the Benjamin Erwin Riddle Family. I hope others will assist me by sending updates and stories about their own families. I plan to publish an abstract of these updates in future issues of this newsletter. This updated information will also be published in the second edition of the Riddle book in 1996.
Riddle Reunion In Tennessee

I attended a Riddle reunion in Kingsport, Tennessee on August 21st. My host was Mac Riddle of Kingsport. These Riddles are descendants of Tyre Riddle possibly a brother of John Riddle (1764-1844). John named his third son Benjamin Tyrie in honor of Tyre. Regrettably, it was raining that day and only about 85 people attended. I understand that had it not been for the inclement weather there would have been more than the usual 130. What a joy it was to me to be welcomed into this Riddle family. While there I met Charlotte Riddle Muench, who has done extensive genealogical research into this branch of our Riddle family and hopes to publish a family history soon. I hope to learn more about this Riddle family.

Descendants Of Altha Riddle Today Live as Presnells

Thanks to the information provided by Lowell T. Presnell of Burnsville, North Carolina we now are able to identify the descendants of Altha Riddle. Altha was the daughter of Lewis Riddle (page III-3-4, Riddle Book). When the Riddle book went to press in July, I was able to identify only the children of Lewis and Minerva Riddle. With Lowell's contribution we have learned considerably more about this Riddle family. Lewis was the son of John "Johnny" W. Riddle, Jr. and "Nellie Cook, Indian Princess" (see page III-2-4. Riddle Book). Johnny and Nellie are believed to be one of the first families to settle on Brush Creek. Lewis joined the Army of the C.S.A. on September 25, 1861 and was assigned to Company C, 16th North Carolina Infantry known as the "Black Mountain Boys." After a battle near Richmond, Virginia, on June 26, 1862, Lewis was reported missing in action. He later rejoined his unit and was still with them in 1863.

Amos Presnell, b. July 18, 1848 and d. Aug 28, 1942 married Altha Riddle b. Sept. 7, 1847 and d. on August 2, 1871. Amos and Altha had at least seven children. Many of their descendants live today. Lowell Thomas Presnell is the great-grandson of Amos and Altha. He has
compiled an extensive genealogy on his Presnell/Riddle family. Future issues of the Riddle Newsletter will explore this Presnell/Riddle connection.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Lowell and his Presnell family in the loss of Lowell's mother May Bell Wiseman Presnell on November 3, 1994.

Is Mountain Heritage High School on John Riddle's Land?

Sadie Riddle Furr, daughter of T. Kelse Riddle, has offered an interesting hypothesis that suggests the land that is now occupied by the Mountain Heritage High School once belonged to John Riddle (1764-1844). Her hypothesis is as follows:

[11 As reported on page III-3-10, Riddle book, the area that is now the Mountain Heritage High School's football field was once a hill where Benjamin Erwin Riddle was struck by lighting and killed. This hill and surrounding land was owned by Benjamin Erwin and was passed to his son Kelse. The heirs sold the land to Yancey County School System and the Mountain Heritage High School was constructed on this property.

[21 The back side, southwest of this land extends to the Cane River. Sadie suggests that this land may have been part of the land that John Riddle purchased from George Wilson in 1805. A copy of this land deed is provided on page III-1-4A through III-1-4C in the Riddle Book. We know that Benjamin Erwin's father Benjamin Tyre Riddle was appointed as the executor of his father John Riddle, Sr.'s estate. It is possible that Benjamin Tyre retained a part of the land that John Riddle bought from George Wilson and it passed to his son Benjamin Erwin. Benjamin E.'s mother Millis died in 1872 and his father in 1875. By the time the 1880 Yancey County Census was taken only Eliza Riddle who gives her age as 45 and Benjamin E., age 17 remain in dwelling #33 of Pensacola Twp. Dr. Lloyd Bailey states the Benjamin E. lived at the site of the present Haven Heights Nursing Home in Burnsville. The 1900 Yancey County Census shows Benjamin E., his wife Julia and children living in #120, Burnsville Twp. I hope someone can help with this subject.