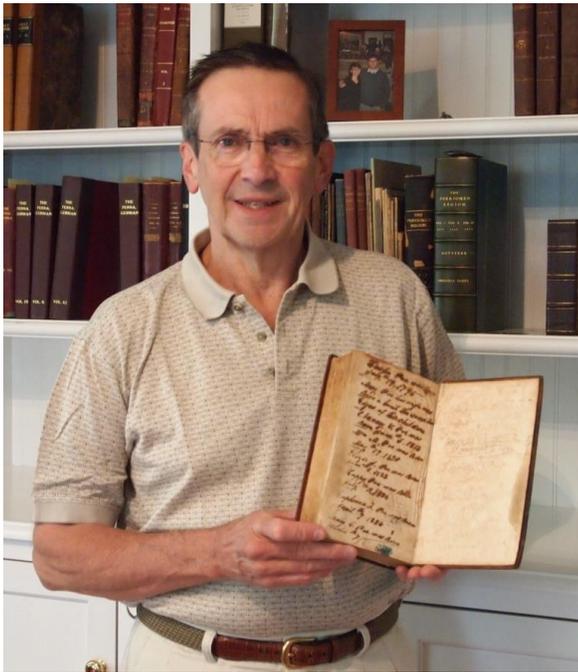


Farmer's Library and Chatham Family Info Found in Old Book



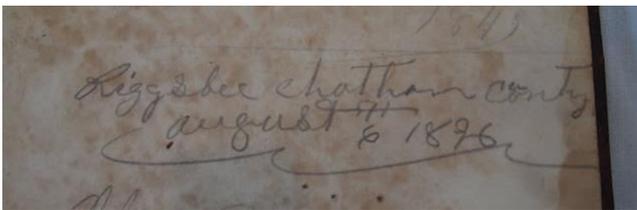
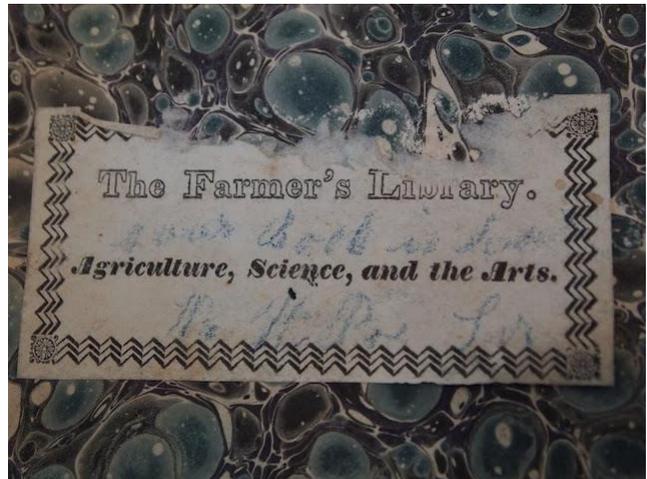
Dennis Dutterer is a collector of rare books. Occasionally, he finds a bonus in the books he has purchased-- interesting notes or family histories written on the end papers or in the margins. When that happens, he researches the notes for his own interest and then shares his discoveries with local history organizations.

Mr. Dutterer recently acquired a copy of John Marshall's *The Life of George Washington*, published by James Crissy in Philadelphia in 1834. There is a library bookplate pasted in on the inside of the front cover that reads "The Farmer's Library Agriculture, Science, and the Arts."

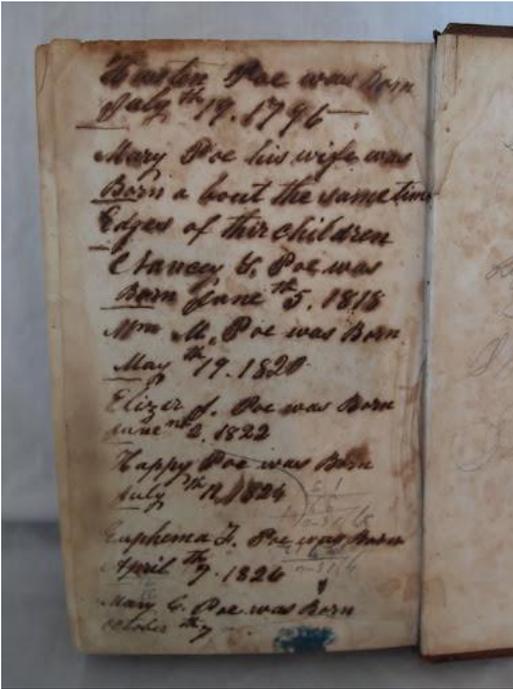
On the face of things, the book has no connection to Chatham County, North Carolina. But a note written in the book says "'Riggsbee, Chatham County August 6, 1896.'" Riggsbee was a

community in northern Chatham, near what is now Briar Chapel.

The reference to Riggsbee in Chatham County led Mr. Dutterer and historical association members to wonder whether the Farmer's Library referred to in the bookplate might have been an early Chatham County library association. Research into that question led to the discovery that, indeed, the Farmer's Library Association had been incorporated in Chatham County in 1833.



Little is known about the association, apart from the [act of incorporation](#) passed by the North Carolina General Assembly, but generally such societies were organized by men in a community who paid a small annual membership fee which was used to obtain books that then circulated among the subscribers. About thirty such societies were incorporated in North Carolina between 1794 and 1848. Chatham's Farmer's Library Association was one of these. These library societies were emblems of literate society and tokens of community pride.



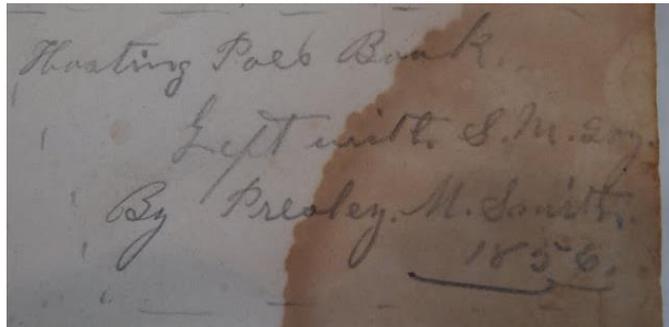
Inked on the back endpaper of Mr. Dutterer’s book are the birth dates for Hasten Poe, his wife and children. The note reads as follows:

Hasten Poe was born July th19, 1796 Mary Poe his wife was born about the same time [unclear word] of their children Chancey [Clancey?] G. Poe was born June th5, 1818 Wm. A.[M.?] Poe was born May th19, 1820 Elizer J[?] Poe was born June nd2, 1822 Happy Poe was born July th11[?], 1824 Euphema F. Poe was born April th7 [9?], 1826 Mary C. Poe was born October th7 [page torn and date missing]

According to Mr. Dutterer, the notes appear to have been written by one person at one time—rather than over a period of years as would be the case if the events were recorded as they happened. They are written, he says, “in the dark brown ink of the early 1800s.”

A quick check of available records shows the Poe and Ivey families in Chatham and Orange counties during the 1800s. Hasten Poe and Mary Loyd were married on 21 July 1817 in Orange County. It appears that several Hasten Poes lived in Chatham in the early 1800s and one Hasten Poe was in Orange County during that time. Since other family names are not recorded by the Censuses of these times, it is difficult to sort out which, if any, of these households might be the family recorded in Dutterer’s book. However, by 1850, a Hasten Poe was living in Orange County with daughters Happy and Mary Poe, as well as daughter Euphemia Cheek. The names and ages of the three daughters almost certainly make this the Hasten Poe family listed.

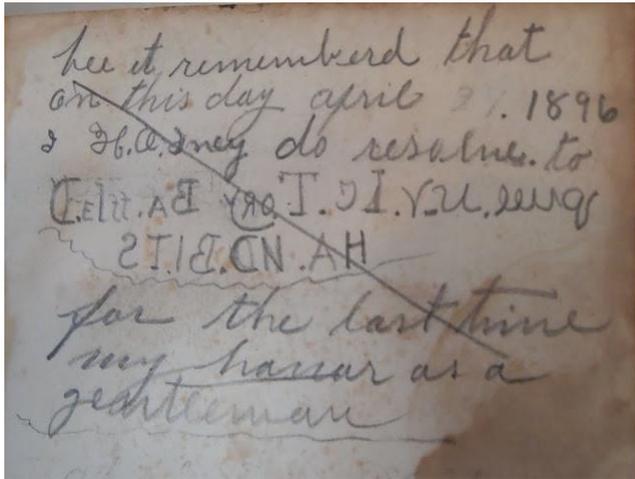
By 1856, the book appears to have been in the possession of Sidney M. Ivey, according to the 1850 census, was son of Thomas and Sophia Ivey, residing in Lower Regiment, Chatham County, NC. One note reads, “Hasting Poe’s book left with Ivey by Presley M. Smith 1856.” Additional notes suggest that S.M. is “Sidney M. Ivey, born 28 October, 1841.” Presley Smith, age 6 in 1850, lived nearby with parents Martin and Nancy Smith.



been who, the

S. M.

Ivey



Also penciled on the front and rear endpapers are the following notations:

'S. M. Ivey's book 1857'

'A.L. Ivey was born 25th [month missing and year marked out]'

'C.J. Ivey was born [no date listed]'

Several later entries in the book, apparently by H.A. Ivey, are pledges to refrain from some unspecified bad habit. There are four such entries. The first, written partially in some kind of code, is dated April 1896 and the last February 1897. It is unclear if Mr. Ivey was

successful in his efforts to improve himself.

When Mr. Dutterer discovered the notes and bookplate in his book, he notified the Chatham County Historical Association and encouraged the group to share the information with the Poe and Ivey families or anyone interested. The Historical Association regularly receives requests for information about old Chatham families, but seldom receives information like that Mr. Dutterer offered.

"We were delighted to receive this information," said Jane Pyle, who responds to inquiries for the group, "and are so grateful that Mr. Dutterer took the time and effort to share it. Apart from grave markers, sources for birth and death information from the early 1800s can be very difficult to find. It's possible that the information that Mr. Dutterer has sent to us isn't recorded anywhere else."

"We are also very pleased to learn about the early library association in the county. We would love to hear from anyone with more information about it. Perhaps others have books with the Farmer's Library Association bookplate and can help us identify other members of that group," Pyle said.

Mr. Dutterer has kindly supplied [photographs of the book](#) and of the pages with notations. CCHA researchers have compiled some [additional information about the Poe and Ivey families](#).

Mr. Dutterer has offered to be contacted by anyone who has additional questions:

Dennis Dutterer
1300 Thistle Down
Keswick, Virginia 22947
Dutt526@msn.com

The Historical Association would like to hear from anyone who has information to add about the Poe and Ivey families, or about the Farmers' Library Association. Email us at History@chathamhistory.org.