

and Mechanic Arts (now North Carolina State University) at the age of thirty. She was the first woman to enroll in that institution. She returned to her home community to apply what she had learned to the Dixon farm and to use her influence to raise the standards in agriculture and cattle breeding in the community.

When Sylvan Academy was converted into Sylvan High School, the first public high school in the southern part of Alamance County, Eula Dixon became a member of its school board. Partly because of her influence an adequate building was erected for the school, quarters were provided for teachers, and school districts were consolidated to make the high school available to pupils of a wider area. One of her interests was for the school to offer courses in vocational training. For several years she coached the high school debating team; one of her teams reached the semifinals of the state interscholastic debating contest at Chapel Hill. While associated with the school she enjoyed a close rapport with teachers and pupils alike.

Following the lead of a long line of her ancestors Eula Dixon was a lifelong member of the Society of Friends (Quaker). She was a dynamic leader both in the spiritual life and work of Cane Creek Friends Meeting and in the statewide organization of Friends. She also was a leader of the temperance movement, then at the peak of its influence in that section of North Carolina. A supporter of the woman suffrage movement, she was a living demonstration of the liberated woman long before the term "women's liberation" came into use.

SEE: Cane Creek Monthly Meeting of Friends, *Minutes*; *Greensboro Daily News*, 3 Oct. 1954; Mary M. Hobbs, "In Loving Memory of Eula Dixon," *The Friends Messenger* 28 (1921); Records of Guilford College (Greensboro); George R. Ross, "Miss Dixon of Alamance," *State College News* 20 (1947).

ALGIE I. NEWLIN

Dixon, Elizabeth Delia. See Dixon-Carroll, Elizabeth Delia.

Dixon, Eula Louisa (27 Nov. 1872–21 Oct. 1921), leader in agriculture, local industry, school management, and community development, was born at Snow Camp where she lived most of her life. She was the daughter of Thomas Clay and Sarah Eleanor Albright Dixon and a descendant of Simon Dixon, one of the early settlers in the Cane Creek valley in the southern part of what is now Alamance County. The efforts of her Dixon ancestors to promote light industry in the Cane Creek valley produced a gristmill, the first in the valley; an iron foundry; and a textile mill for the manufacture of woolen goods established about 1886. Eula's cousin, Joseph Moore Dixon, was born and reared within sight of her home on the opposite side of Cane Creek. After graduation from Guilford College, he went to Montana and later served that state as governor and U.S. senator.

Eula Dixon's home was within a few hundred yards of Sylvan Academy, a preparatory school established by Quakers immediately after the Civil War. After completing her studies there she entered Guilford College at the age of seventeen; however, poor health prevented her from obtaining a degree.

Eula Dixon never married. She was the youngest of three sisters, one of whom married; the other was an invalid most of her adult life and remained at the Dixon home. At the death of her father in 1899, she assumed responsibility for the management of the Dixon farm and served as president of the Snow Camp Woolen Mill until it burned in 1912. Realizing the need of the people in her community for improved methods of farming, she entered the North Carolina College of Agriculture

Dixon, Henry ("Hal") (ca. 1750–17 July 1782), Revolutionary War officer, was born in the part of Granville County that later became Orange and then Caswell, the son of Henry Dixon, Sr. Little is known about his life before the outbreak of the American Revolution. In 1763 he married Martha Wynne in Halifax County, Va. That Dixon had received some militia experience is clear, for when North Carolina was charged to form its first units of the Continental line in September 1775, he was commissioned captain of the First Regiment. He rose through the ranks quickly, becoming a major in July 1776 and a lieutenant colonel in May 1778 (amidst some controversy from several more senior officers). In the spring of 1778 the North Carolina legislature appointed Dixon "Inspector General over Militia," a post he held for the remainder of the war. His considerable duties involved raising militia units, equipping them for action, and coordinating their service with the Continental command. He was in close contact with Generals Jethro Sumner and Nathanael Greene in the defense of the southern states.

In June 1779 Dixon was severely wounded at Stono Ferry near Charleston, S.C., in the campaign commanded by General Benjamin Lincoln. As the war moved into North Carolina, he played a key role in raising militia to meet the British advance. In 1781 he fought in the actions at Wetzell's Mill and Guilford Court House and was wounded again at Eutaw Springs, S.C. He never recovered from the injuries and died at home the next year. Dixon left his wife and

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seven children and apparently the family moved west to Tennessee and Kentucky. A grandson, Archibald Dixon, succeeded Henry Clay as senator from Kentucky.

SEE: Walter Clark, ed., *State Records of North Carolina*, vols. 12-22 (1896-1907); William S. Powell, *When the Past Refused to Die, A History of Caswell County* (1977); Phillips Russell, *North Carolina in the Revolutionary War* (1965); William L. Saunders, ed., *Colonial Records of North Carolina*, vol. 10 (1890).

MARK F. MILLER

Dixon, Howard Briten (19 June 1903-24 Mar. 1961), millworker and musician, attained recognition with his brother Dorsey as a country musician and recording artist. Born in Darlington, S.C., to William McQuiller (1875-1939) and Mary M. Braddock Dixon (1874-1939), he began work in the cotton mill there at the age of ten. In World War I, by concealing his age, he found work with his brother as a railroad signalman. In 1920, he married Mellie Barfield of Darlington; their children were Beatrice Smith, Elizabeth Pratt, Larry, Howard, Jr., Gordon, Alfred, and Hayden.

After the war, he returned to mill work, and followed his brother to East Rockingham in Richmond County, N.C. Here the brothers formed a singing partnership and enjoyed local success. Influenced by the country musician Jimmie Tarlton, Howard took up the Hawaiian guitar, and the Dixon brothers achieved a measure of success on Charlotte radio and in recordings made for RCA Victor. His instrumental ability was in demand by other musicians, and he also recorded several songs with Frank Gerald as the Rambling Duet.

When his brother moved to Greenville, S.C., Howard remained in East Rockingham to raise his growing family. A skilled loom fixer, he eventually acquired land in an area of Hamlet, N.C., which became known as Dixonville. There he was active in the Church of God of Prophecy, and with Lloyd Harris, Norman Walts, and James Collins performed gospel music as the Reaping Harvesters. Occasionally aided by his brother Dorsey, he continued to play with the group until his death from a heart attack at work. His work in religious music was carried on by his children in the Hamlet community.

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DOUGLAS DENATALE

Dixon, Hugh Woody (3 July 1825-6 May 1901), manufacturer and civic leader, was born at Snow Camp, the son of Joseph and Mary Woody Dixon. His father was of the line of Thomas Dixon, an English Quaker, who came to America about 1700 and located in Bucks County, Pa. Fifty years later Thomas's son, Simon, left Pennsylvania and settled in the Cane Creek community of what is now Alamance County, N.C. The Dixons acquired a large tract of land and began various business enterprises in present-day Snow Camp. This marked the beginning of a heavy Quaker migration into the colony that continued for the next quarter of a century. Thomas Dixon, the son of Simon Dixon, died in 1827, and his two sons, Joseph and Jessie, carried on the various enterprises initiated by the family. Joseph Dixon became a famous iron caster whose foundry produced most of the castings for multiple grist and sawmills in that section of North Carolina.

When Hugh Woody Dixon was thirteen years old, he was enrolled in the New Garden Boarding School (later Guilford College) near Greensboro, but apparently did not attend more than a year. He returned to New Garden in 1841, however, and after that spent three years teaching and surveying, supposedly in Alamance County. For the next thirteen years (1844-57) he was a partner in the Unthank and Dixon Foundry, except for the twenty-four months he worked in the construction of the Gulf and Graham plank road.

On 29 Nov. 1855 Dixon married Flora Adaline Murchison of the Cane Creek community. She was not a Quaker, but probably was a Presbyterian. Dixon was challenged for violating a Quaker rule and marrying outside the denomination. His reply to the Quaker committee has often been quoted—that he had no regret for having married Miss Murchison, only that friends felt compelled to frown on the marriage. In 1857 he left Alamance County and settled in Chatham County at Ore Hill. There he was busy operating gristmills, a steam sawmill, and a foundry.

As a community leader with a Quaker background, Dixon was tested sorely during the Civil War. In spite of his antislavery position, which he expressed freely and frequently, he held his job as postmaster at Ore Hill, paid the \$500 indemnity exempting Quakers from active military service, and lived through the war in a degree of peace and prosperity. He had accumulated some wealth, and in 1866 decided to return to Snow Camp where he had been a founder of Sylvan Academy, an educational force in the community for several years. In business he was also a respected leader. With his brother, Thomas, he established the Snow Camp Woolen Mill. In the community, he taught classes in adult education and Bible classes on Sunday; served as a trustee of New Garden Boarding School and its successor, Guilford College; and was active in the work of the Pleasant Hill Temperance Society after 1837, and later the Sons of Temperance.

Politically Dixon was never prominent, although he was twice named a candidate for public office over his protest but never elected. It was said of him, "Probably no member of the Quaker Church in North Carolina sacrificed more for religion, education and temperance than did Hugh W. Dixon." His life was happy and successful as he prospered in business and retained until his death a leadership position in many good causes in his community and state.

Dixon and his wife had four children of their own and an adopted son. Their daughters were Mary (Mrs. Z. H. Dixon), Roxie (Mrs. Alpheus White), Nora K. (unmarried), and a son, Joseph M. Dixon, governor and U.S. senator from Montana; their adopted son was A. H. Hinson, who later became a prominent citizen of Kansas City, Mo. His wife preceded him in death (1900), and both were buried at Snow Camp.

SEE: Samuel A. Ashe, ed., *Biographical History of North Carolina*, vol. 8 (1917); "Hugh Woody Dixon," *Guilford Collegian* 12 (1900).

C. SYLVESTER GREEN

Dixon, Joseph (9 Apr. 1828-3 Mar. 1883), congressman, was born in rural Greene County just across the county line from the town of Farmville in Pitt County. There apparently is no record of the names of his parents nor information on his early education. It is reported that he was tutored privately but his schooling probably did not include college. As a young adult he

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