



# April Topic of the Month

**P**rofessionalism  
**R**ecovery  
**O**wnership  
**A**ttitude  
**C**ommunication  
**T**eamwork  
**I**nitiative  
**V**alue everyone  
**E**fficiency

## *Growth of Hendersonville - Part 1*

Originally, Henderson County was part of a massive Buncombe County that reached to the Tennessee line. In 1838, the state legislature agreed to a new county, Henderson. It was named for a recently deceased state superior court judge, Leonard Henderson of Granville County. He never visited the area. This new county was made up of what would become Henderson, Transylvania and part of Polk counties.

Controversy soon erupted over where to put the county seat. The controversy lasted from 1838 to 1841 with two sides: the River Party and the Road Party. The River Party wanted to build a town and county seat near the French Broad River at what is now Horse Shoe. The Road Party wanted to build along the Buncombe Turnpike, the stagecoach route and the main road at the time. In 1841 a referendum election was held to determine the placement of the county seat. The Road Party won 463 to 354 votes. Appeals were filed by leaders of the River Party and the court case went all the way to the N.C. Supreme Court, which upheld the election results.

Judge Mitchell King of Flat Rock conveyed 50 acres, and John Johnson of the Horse Shoe and Mills River communities and James Brittain of Mills River conveyed 29 acres for the new town. This land was along the turnpike and included Chinquapin Hill, on which First Methodist now stands, and was surrounded by swamps and springs. In other words, land not suitable for farming.

There was little growth through the mid 1800s with only small businesses and farming. In 1844, the new Polk County was formed with land from Henderson and Rutherford Counties. Just prior to the Civil War in 1860, the county population was 8,981 whites, 1,382 slaves and 85 free blacks. In 1861, Transylvania County was formed from the western part of Henderson County.

While records are incomplete, verified deaths of those enlisted in the Civil war were 342 for the Confederacy and 19 for the Union. There was serious starvation and disease in the county as only women, the elderly and children were left to raise the crops and carry on. Crime was rampant as deserters from both the Union and Confederate armies hid out in the mountains.

From this time, several buildings in Hendersonville still stand. The oldest buildings on Main Street are 101 S. Main Street, ca. 1848, and 218 N. Main Street, ca. 1849. Three private homes are documented to be pre-civil war: Killarney House (1856) in Hyman Heights, 322 Killarney Street, the Columbus Mills Pace House (1860) at 813 Fifth Avenue and Brookland (1832), an estate in the middle of Brooklyn Manor off Greenville Highway.

For the person leading this session, please sign below and return to your department head, who then send it to Lu Ann.

Leader \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_