

# Annual Reunion Held Last Sunday Morning 1944

The fourth annual Somers-Summers reunion was held at Bethlehem Christian church Sunday at 11:00 a. m. with a large attendance.

The morning program was opened by the congregation singing, "Bless Be The Tie That Binds," followed by the invocation by Ben H. Zigler. Mrs. Glendyn Moore welcomed the people on behalf of the church, and J. F. Somers of Clifton Forge, Va., gave the response for the Somer-Summers families.

C. G. Somers, president, gave a very inspiring talk, stating that Jacob Summers, the first ancestor of all the Somers-Summers in this area of the state was born near Ober Bexbach, Germany, in 1710, and that in 1751 he married Margaret Faust, sailing to America on the ship "Neptune," landing at Philadelphia on September 24, 1751, 193 years ago from the date of the reunion.

President Somers said, "I think that is a unique coincidence; that is, that this reunion is on the anniversary of his landing in America." He stated that Captain Peter Summers had played an important part in the Revolutionary War, and that ancestors had played a wonderful part in building the country. He reminded that examples so courageously set should be followed by 193 years ago when our ancestors came to this country, bringing out the query, "Our Generation"—"What are you and I doing for mankind?" He said "The thing that costs most today is what are you and I doing to make the world a better place in which to live."

The address of the morning was delivered by Dr. J. A. Hunter of Elon College. He, being very interested in family histories in early North Carolina, gave some very interesting facts concerning the Somers-Summers families.

After a picnic dinner on the grounds, the afternoon session opened with selections by the Tar Heel quartet.

Miss Hilda Somers, daughter of C. G. Somers, and a member of the Burlington school faculty sang two beautiful selections, "Come Ye Blessed," by Scott and "When They Ring the Golden Bells," by Marbelle, accompanied by Miss Vallie Johnson of Burlington.

Vallie Johnson of Darrington.

A general business meeting followed and the following reports were given: Secretary-treasurer report by Mrs. Frank Somers Matkins and the historian's report by Mrs. Roy Clark. The historian has started a permanent record of the Somers-Summers family and gave some informational data on Lord Somers of England, a Boy Scout leader, who died this year; the Destroyer Somers that sank the German ship Weserland in January of 1944 and of Mrs. Margaret J. Cobbee Somers, the oldest person to be buried at Frieden's church—102 years old. She was a member of that church for 90 years. A service record for World War II has been started.

The nominating committee chairman, J. F. Somers, recommended the following officers for 1944 and 1945: C. G. Somers, president; Jack Somers, Washington, D. C., vice-president; Mrs. Frank Somers Matkins, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Roy Clark, historian. If arrangements can be made, the 1945 reunion is to be held at Frieden's Lutheran church on the second Sunday in September, 1945. The recommendations were unanimously accepted by the organization.

At the conclusion of the business meeting, the pastor of Bethlehem Christian church, Rev. J. L. Neese, pronounced the benediction.