



## Remember Rockford Reunion Returns This September 10th

The 7th Annual Remember Rockford Families Reunion is planned for Saturday, September 10, 2016 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The day's events will begin at the Rockford Methodist Church. The Nonesuch Playmakers Theatre Group will be back this year led by Brack and Angela Llewellyn. The group will portray Rockford's earliest founders and community leaders in a living history drama. A few of the characters will include: John Thomas Longino, Jesse Lester, William Polk Dobson, Reuben Grant, Richard Horne and Valentine Holyfield.

Additional activities include sharing of family and local history, tours of our historic buildings, and traditional music by Ashley Holyfield and Devin Matthews. A BBQ lunch will be served at the Rockford Methodist Church and is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children.

This Reunion allows families whose ancestors were a vital part of the development of Rockford and Surry County to reconnect. Folks are encouraged to bring their family histories and photographs to share with Reunion attendees. A copier will be in the church.

Surry Community College has a local history/genealogy room available to the public for research and would be open on Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> until 2:30 pm.

Go to [www.rememberrockford.com](http://www.rememberrockford.com) to register online or to find a registration form to mail to the Rockford Preservation Society, Inc. at 4844 Rockford Road Dobson, NC. Or email Hannah Holyfield at [hannah@rockfordbedandbreakfast.com](mailto:hannah@rockfordbedandbreakfast.com). Call 336-374-3825 for more information.

**Our beloved Friend and Rockford Preservation Society Board Member passed away on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Below is his obituary.**

Jack R. Norman, 71, a former resident of the Tidewater, Va., area, died July 19, 2016, in Atlanta, Ga.

Jack had a remarkable career in marketing and television promotion. It began when as a 16-year-old volunteer at WYAH-TV in Portsmouth, Va., he operated the television camera the first day that the Christian Broadcasting Network went on the air on Oct. 1, 1961.

His first jobs in television were at WSOC-TV in Charlotte, N.C., and at WHRO-TV and WTKR-TV in Norfolk.

In the early 1970s, Jack was a publicity representative for Busch Gardens/The Old Country in Williamsburg and later served as manager of public relations for the Seamark Advertising Agency.

He returned to Christian television in 1979 as promotion manager for CBN's new cable network and later became Vice President of Creative Services for the Family Channel. His final post was as marketing director for In Touch Ministries in Atlanta.

Jack's professional career ended in 2005, when he was forced into early retirement by the progression of a lifelong physical disability. He then worked with non-profit organizations from home. **One of his most enjoyable projects was the creation of the "Remember Rockford" fundraising campaign for the restoration of his family's ancestral village in North Carolina.**

Jack also was an administrator of the "Living Whole With Chronic Pain" website, an online community for Christians in chronic pain. He shared what he had learned by personal experience — that it is possible to rise above suffering through an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.

Jack was born on March 10, 1945 in Greensboro, N.C., to the late Lloyd Oren Norman and the late Ola Mae Dunlap.

He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Susan Lockamy Norman; daughter Rebecca Lynne Engels of Cumming, Ga.; sons Michael Lloyd Norman of Zuni, Va., and Mark Christopher Norman of Soperton, Ga.; grandchildren Abby, Will and Samantha Nolan of Cumming; niece Susan Thompson, nephew Steve Thompson, and his beloved sister, Mary Sue Thompson, all of Virginia Beach.

Jack's tremendous talents and gentle spirit impacted many, many lives, and our loss of him is deeply felt.

A service honoring him was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 30, at the 1914 Rockford Methodist Church in the village of Rockford located in Dobson, N.C. Burial will be in the 19th-century Rockford Cemetery near the grave of his great-grandfather, Capt. William M. Norman. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to the Rockford Preservation Society, Inc., 4844 Rockford Road, Dobson, NC 27017.

## **Progress on the W P Dobson General Store/Masonic Lodge**

The new standing seam roof is coming together! Hopefully it will be finished before the September 10<sup>th</sup> Remember Rockford Reunion! We are so excited about the progress!



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### **"Andrew Jackson Desk" returns to Rockford!**

Thanks to Dr. Charles Burrus and Kitty Felts Burrus, a desk that has been out of state in the Burrus family for many years, has been donated to the Rockford Preservation Society. Originally it had been in the Grant-Burrus Hotel during the 1800's. Family history shows that it is the desk Andrew Jackson used when he visited and practiced law here. It is a beautiful piece of furniture and we so appreciate their generosity.

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### **Rockford Preservation Society, Inc Mission Statement and Scope of Work**

The Rockford Preservation Society is committed to the ongoing process of preserving the historical integrity of the Village of Rockford through documentation, restoration and presentation. The Society focuses on acquiring and preserving historical properties, collecting and maintaining historical documents and family lineage, and sharing the results of Society efforts through public programming, publications and special events. The Society works cooperatively with other organizations charged with preserving the history of Surry County and the Yadkin Valley region. As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, grants, and public/private contributions enable the continuation of the Society's work.

*7<sup>th</sup> Annual*  
*Remember Rockford Reunion*

**Saturday, September 10, 2016**

**10 am – 3:30 pm**

Join us again this year for an enjoyable day of sharing family memories, good food and music beginning at the Rockford Methodist Church.

**Schedule of Events**

- 10:00 – Registration and Welcome
- 10:30 – The Nonesuch Playmakers Theatre Group are back! Led by Brack and Angela Llewellyn, the group will portray Rockford's earliest founders and community leaders.
- 12:00 – BBQ Lunch at Rockford Methodist Church
- 1:30 – Music by Ashley Holyfield & Devin Matthews
- 2:00 – Family Stories, Histories, Photo Sharing, etc.
- 2:30 – Tour of RPS Properties – Progress Report
- 3:30 – Farewell until next year!

**Registration**

\$10 per adult and \$5 per child for BBQ Lunch

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

**ROCKFORD CONNECTION**

**CURRENT RESIDENT OF ROCKFORD/SURRY OR SURROUNDING COUNTY?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**FORMER RESIDENT OF ROCKFORD? WHEN?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**DESCENDANT OF WHICH FAMILIES?**

\_\_\_\_\_

The Remember Rockford Families Reunion  
is an annual event of  
The Rockford Preservation Society, Inc.

For questions or more information call 336-374-3825