1792 Road between Bethabara and Germanton Historic Marker

In 1792, a seven-mile public road from Germanton to Bethabara was built by residents who lived along the road-way to bypass the heavy traffic on the Great Wagon Road, the main multi-state route to and from the northern states. The 1792 Road connected with the Townfork Road going into Bethabara and was used as a direct link to the courthouse in Germanton, when Forsyth County was part of Stokes County. This road also improved access to schools, churches, and local trades and services along the way and in Germantown.

One of the main reasons for the road was for county residents to travel to the courthouse. Citizens went to the courthouse for a multitude of reasons, including the appointment of local officeholders, jury duty, petitions, licenses, deeds and bills of sale, estate matters, coroner’s inquests, revolutionary war pensions, summons and executions.

Not much is known about this nearly forgotten roadway, mainly because it was abandoned and is now located on several separate private properties. However, many local citizens and descendants of early settlers of the area have combined research and local memory to bring awareness to this previously important traveling route.

The road is mentioned in several sources, including Travels in the American Colonies published in 1916, and Stokes County, North Carolina Court of Pleas and Quarter Session, Volume I: 1790-1793. However, because it was abandoned, the road is not well known in modern times. The documentation and recognition of the 1792 Road is a great demonstration of the many facets of local history that remain to be researched and documented.

This information is also available at the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission web site: www.ForsythCountyHRC.org