

CAROLINA SCOTS

'Tis true: More people in the state of North Carolina claim Scottish ancestry than currently live in the country of Scotland. In fields, churches, traditions, history books, beaches — and certainly in our surnames — our Scottish connections shine through and live on.

The Earl of St. Andrews tartan was adopted by St. Andrews University in Laurinburg for its color pattern.

THE MUSIC

St. Andrews University Pipe Band • Laurinburg

Bill Caudill (front, far left) leads the 16-member, student-based bagpipe band he founded 26 years ago through the leafy campus of St. Andrews University. The Scottish Heritage Center, with historical papers covered by Glasgow University itself, is also located on campus, and directed by Caudill.

PHOTOGRAPH BY STACEY VAH BIERBEL

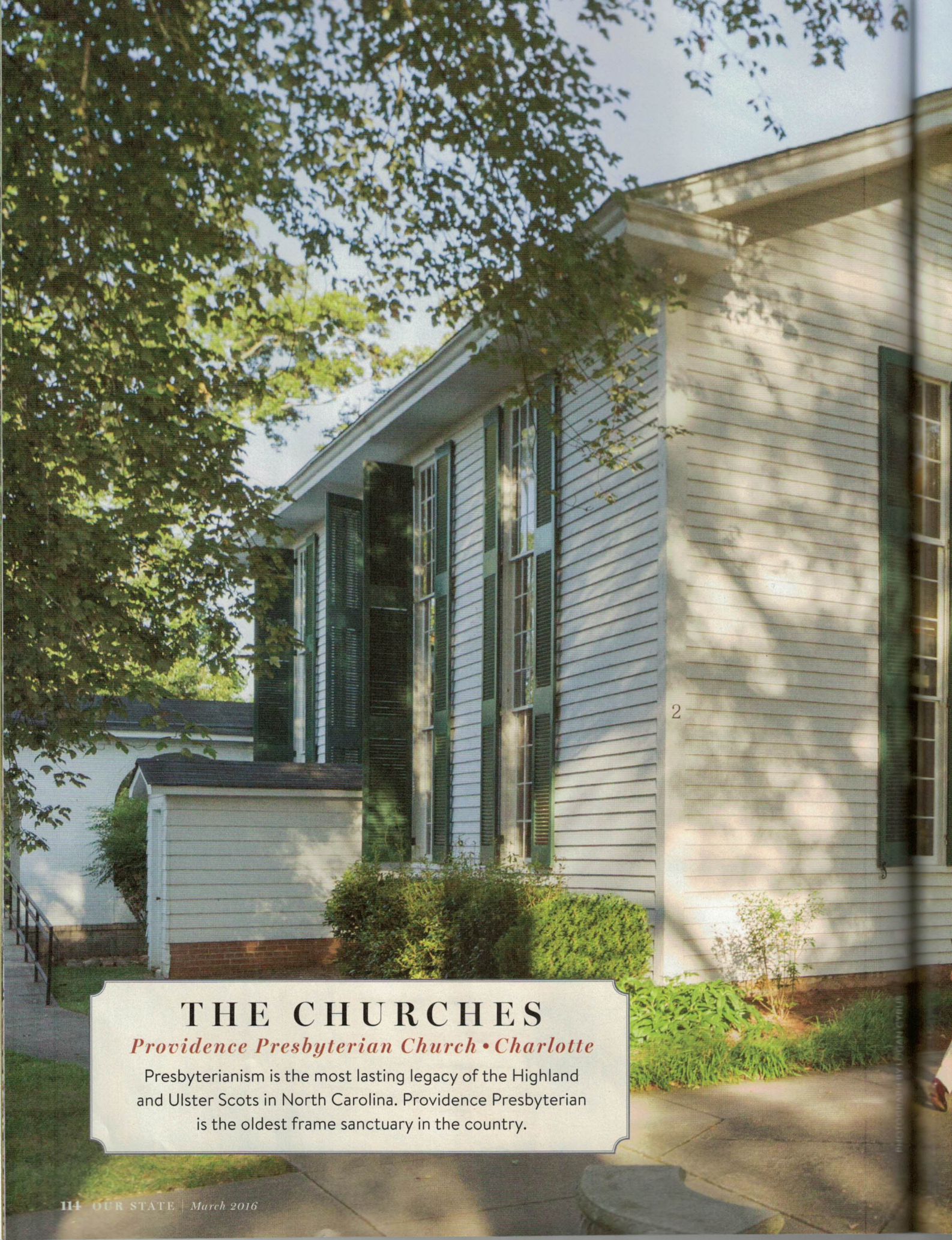


THE SHELL

Museum of Coastal Carolina • Ocean Isle Beach

Whelks and clams are fine, but finding a perfect Scotch Bonnet shell — like the prized specimens on this page — south of the Outer Banks is special. Named in honor of early Scottish settlers, and for its resemblance to the men's traditional woolen caps, the Scotch Bonnet became the state shell — and North Carolina the first state to name such a symbol — in 1965, thanks to an initiative by the North Carolina Shell Club.





THE CHURCHES

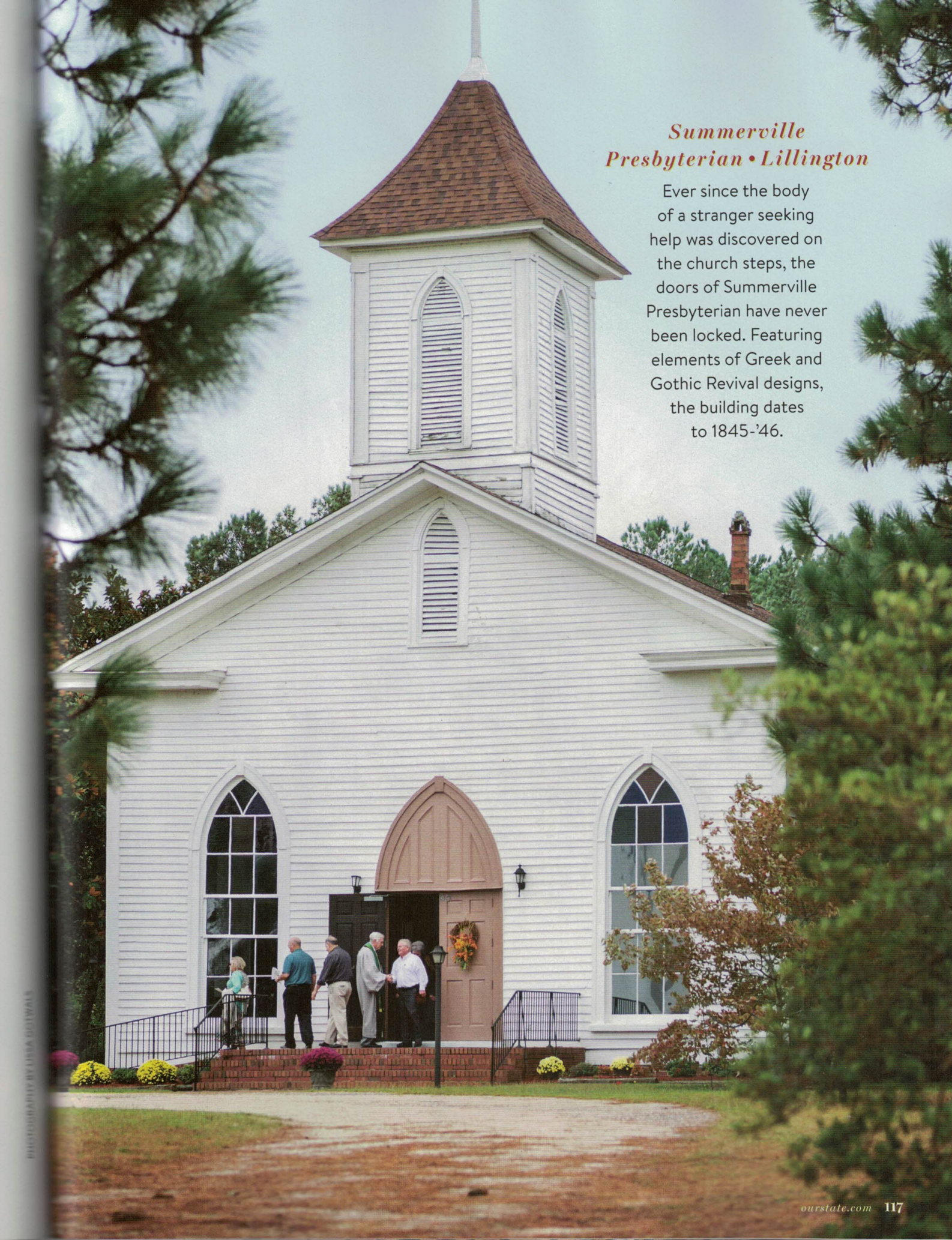
Providence Presbyterian Church • Charlotte

Presbyterianism is the most lasting legacy of the Highland and Ulster Scots in North Carolina. Providence Presbyterian is the oldest frame sanctuary in the country.



Old Bluff Presbyterian • Wade

First ministers of Old Bluff church — organized in 1758 — included a McBryde, a McDiarmid, and a McDougald. For nearly a century, its services were conducted in Gaelic.



*Summerville
Presbyterian • Lillington*

Ever since the body of a stranger seeking help was discovered on the church steps, the doors of Summerville Presbyterian have never been locked. Featuring elements of Greek and Gothic Revival designs, the building dates to 1845-'46.



THE FLOWER

Thistle

Romantic and historic — if a bit prickly — the symbol of Scotland that grows wild in our Sandhills was stitched onto North Carolina Confederate flags as a means of declaring, “This is who we are: the Scotch Boys.”

PHOTOGRAPH BY STUART KELLY / ALAMY

PHOTOGRAPH BY LISSA GOTWALS

THE ANCESTRY

Barbecue Presbyterian Church • Harnett County

From McLean to McDonald, cemetery tombstones across the state bear Scottish surnames. The prefix “Mc” means “son.”





THE HORSE

Hunting Creek Farms • Hamptonville

Long before Super Bowl and Christmas ads for Budweiser, Clydesdales were draft animals in the Clydesdale district of Scotland. Originally bred with imported Flemish stallions, the well-muscled horses boast extensive feathering on their legs. Great numbers of Clydesdales were exported from Scotland in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Hence this bonny lad, Brumby, one of 16 show Clydesdales at Hunting Creek Farms in Hamptonville.



PHOTOGRAPH BY STACY FISH BIRCH