

“OLD TIMERS”

(By Patsy O'Brien)

The year 1838 marked an epoch in the history of the Old North State. During that year was born a new county. Henderson County is indebted for its name to Judge Leonard Henderson a man of influence in the history of the State. We will but briefly touch on the "before the war" history.

It seems that in these early days the men of this section were as prone to argument and dissension as they are now. In 1841 after much wrangling the legislature provided that an election should be held to establish the new County seat. Thus it came about that Hendersonville is situated on the main thoroughfare instead of on the banks of the French Broad River. Judge Mitchell King conveyed the fifty acres which were laid off into town lots. The first Court House was a plank building which was later destroyed by fire and in its place was erected a building suitably decorated with Moorish architecture, to lend dignity to the growing community. This was replaced by the present Court House in 1904.

The romance of this era is largely centered about the stage coach which in those days was the only mode of travel. Along the stage road passing through Hendersonville lumbered three times a week the mail coach. This enterprise was bought in 1845 by Col. V. Ripley a large land owner, the father of Mrs. Lila Barnwell well-known as a writer and public-spirited woman, and the step-father of the late Judge Ewart. This stage line he continued to operate between Greenville, S. C., and Greenville, Tenn., until 1853 when the railroad crept in to connect the mountains with the outside world. His run was then shortened to Asheville.

Col. V. Ripley owned and ran the Ripley House which stood on the corner where the late St. John's Hotel stood. It was a noted tavern the country round. He also owned one of the oldest buildings now standing in the town, the Old Rock Store on First Avenue and Main Street which was erected in 1853 and now owned by his daughter.

In 1851 was issued a charter for a plank road running from Greenville, S. C., to Asheville. This was the first step towards good roads but 1855, after the war, found the road much run down, its charter was repealed and the road was allowed to run to neglect.

1855 marks the rise of literary endeavor in Hendersonville and the County, when Rev. James Blythe with W. C. Berin and J. M. Bryan started the first newspaper, called the Carolina Baptist. As the name indicates it was published by a Baptist for the Baptists who were in a large majority.

About three miles out from Hendersonville on what is now known as the Shaws Creek Road stands the oldest house in the county, probably built about 1829 or 30. The Johnstons owned and built it and living still in the "Old Homestead" is "Aunt Cate" Johnston well in her eighties, who boasts of having lived through eight wars.

Further out in the Horse Shoe bend of the French Broad River stands the old brick house built by Judge Avery one among the oldest settlers whose original grant comprised thousands of acres. The bricks of which the house is built were made from the clay on the place. The Horse Shoe Farm as it is designated has passed through many hands since then and seen much history. The slave quarters have entirely disappeared and the house has been remodeled but the age-old trees still stand in the front yard and the bricks that have held out through the storms of passing years still uphold the house.

Of Flat Rock chapters could be written. We have only time and space to touch lightly on the subject. Judge Mitchell King from Charleston bought the first land there in 1829. His beautiful homestead later became the property of Col. C. C. Meminger and is now owned by the Smythes. His descendants still own homes in the village. He was followed by Charles Baring in 1830 a member of the English banking firm of that name. His wife, a talented English woman, brilliant and clever, was well known in Charleston and Henderson County. It was she who built the famous St. John's-in-the-Wilderness under whose floor both she and her husband are buried. The beautiful Highland Lake club house is situated on the sight of the home Mr. Baring built for his second wife, the daughter of Commodore Dent.

Following these two pioneers came Mr. Molyneux, British counsel of Savannah and Count de Cheseul, French consul of the same place, one of the most famous of the old residents. Hence came Mr. Baring's ward, Henry Farmer, son of Henry Tatum Farmer of Eng and later of Charleston. Miss S. Farmer of Hendersonville, sister of Henry, has in her possession many relics of the old families. Rev. John G. Brayton many years rector of St. John's-in-the-Wilderness and founder of the noble Ravenswood

estate is most cherished in the minds of the old settlers.

Of the old Flat Rock people, Dr. Mitchell C. King the beloved physician was perhaps most distinguished and at the University of "Göttingen" formed a close friendship with a fellow student Otto von Bismarck and for several years they corresponded. The letters are carefully being preserved by the doctor's descendants.

The fateful year 1861 drew red in the horizon. The population of Henderson County was widely scattered but it compared favorably with the surrounding counties. The town consisted of half a dozen or so buildings lined along the Main Street, the rest of the present town being a thick-ket bordering a large marsh.

The Episcopal church was rearing its head and what is Mrs. Sample's house now was then owned by the Episcopal clergyman, Rev. Collins Hughes. Judge Shipp, father of the late Bartlett Shipp, owned a house where now stands the Pine Grove Lodge. Further down Main Street was Col. Fuller's house where W. A. Smith has his office, the Ripley House, and below the Court House the old Ripley residence and the house which is Col. Pickens home.

The Arledge house on Main street, and the old rock office building on the corner of 7th Avenue have been standing unchanged since before the formation of the county.

We will pass over the war. It is history that does not touch closely upon Henderson County. When the County pulled itself out of the debris and its sons came back from the army it looked around to find the carpet baggers overrunning the country exciting the heroes to burn and pillage. Families dared not leave their houses and many a snug farm house went up in flames. It was the Ku Klux that saved the south during these dark days of reconstruction. One old darkey who met one of these ghostly riders was asked to describe the meeting. "Wal, I was a walkin' long de road when I hears a rustlin' in de bushes long side of me. I's powerful skered but I darstn't run. Den out dem bush steps a boss like I aint never seen before, with a ghost a sittin' on him. I hopes to de Lord I don't never sees one agin. It jest stands thar in de road an' it 'pears up an' on it 'pears down den all a sudden t' disappears."

North Carolina has been somewhat a laggard in education. It wasn't until 1840 that a public school system was established. In Hendersonville was a boarding school for girls conducted by the Southern Baptists. This was in the old rock building now used as a sanitarium by Dr. Guy E. Dixon. Later the school became bankrupt, and was finally abandoned. The Southern Baptists now have the Fruitland Institute, seven miles from town. Scattered around the county were small log cabins where the three R's were taught to the few who hungered after knowledge. After the war schools began to spring up overnight, as it were, until at the present day Henderson county is well equipped with public schools and Hendersonville holds one of the finest preparatory schools for girls in the state.

It may have been that the forefathers of our county site dreamed of making a navigable stream out of the French Broad River, and if so that is probably why they proposed a site on the banks of that river for the township. The idea, if there was one, finally culminated in the mind of Gen. Robert B. Vance in 1876. Gen. Vance, after being appointed commissioner of patents in the year before, secured permission to dredge the river between Brevard and Asheville and for a short time that year ran a small steamboat between the two places. The enterprise however failed and the boat was hauled up on dry land over in the Mills River valley, and is being used today as a Sunday School. Gen. Vance was also instrumental in securing daily mails for this section and in establishing mail order offices.

The golden year of 1882 pushed the railroad into Hendersonville and the old traditional stage disappeared forever.

WHILE THE GOING WAS GOOD.

A darkey was ushered into the employment bureau of the Du Pont Powder Works and plied with the usual questions put to all new hands taken on at the works.

The old darkey stood the examination pretty well, but was beginning to feel just a little bit "oneasy" when one of the men suddenly asked:

"And who would you like to be notified in case of a serious accident?"

The darkey paused and scratched his head a bit at this unexpected blow at his morale, but after a little while he thought of two persons who might like to know of his misfortune. Their names were written down.

"And now," said one of the examiners, "where would you like your remains shipped?"

"Where would I like my remains shipped?" repeated the darkey in a groggy sort of voice. "Boss, Ise gwine to take 'em away from here right now!"

BLOODY BATTLE STAGED ON TENNESSEE LINE.

Noted Desperado Falls After Wounding Officers—Den of Criminals Broken Near Murphy.

Asheville, Jan. 24.—Seeking for George Crawley and his party, Georgia deserters, S. Glenn Young and posse ran into the famous "Jim Rose gang," murderers and outlaws, near Jeffrey's hill, over on the Tennessee line, early this morning, fatally wounding Jim Rose and dispersing the gang. Julius McClure, a deputy sheriff of Cherokee county, had his left arm shot off by Rose.

Mr. Young, special agent of the department of justice, detailed to run down army deserters and draft evaders, was detailed to go after the George Crawley gang after United States soldiers had been forced to give up the chase. George Crawley wanted for desertion and the murder of Deputy United States Marshal Ben F. Dixon, near Blairsville, Ga., had made his way, as far as could be learned, into the mountain fastnesses over on the Tennessee line.

Accompanied by United States Deputy Marshal Charlie Mosca, the man who cleaned up Jackson county, Mr. Young went to Murphy and started from there, his assumption being that the Crawleys would join forces with the Jim Rose gang, a band of murderers and outlaws who have been defying arrest for some time. This morning just before daylight the posse crept up on the Jim Rose gang and a battle ensued, Rose, a very deserter, using a regulation army rifle and his companions high-powered rifles. The battle raged for a few minutes until Rose fell, shot through the abdomen. Investigation showed that his wound was mortal.

The prisoners and the wounded were brought to Murphy by wagon, a distance of 25 miles, and it was stated tonight that Rose cannot recover. McClure, the deputy sheriff, who had his arm shot off, although weak from loss of blood, will recover.

Jim Rose had five murders to his credit and was a draft deserter. His companions are wanted for various crimes, and the breaking up of the gang has brought a sense of relief to the people of the Murphy section, as the gang was greatly feared. Mr. Young and Mr. Mason will continue their hunt for the Crawleys.

RUPTURE CURE FREE

Seeley, Famous in This Specialty, Called to Asheville.

F. H. Seeley of Chicago and Philadelphia, the noted trust expert, will personally be at the Langren Hotel and will remain in Asheville, this Tuesday only, Feb. 4. Mr. Seeley says: "The Spermatic Slid will not only retain any case of rupture perfectly, but contracts the swelling in ten days on the average case. This instrument received the only award in England and in Spain producing results without surgery, injections, medical treatment or prescriptions. Mr. Seeley has documents from the United States Government, Washington, D. C., for inspection. All charges, without charge, or if any interested call, he will be glad to show same without charge or fit them if desired. Business demands prevent stopping at any other place in this section.

P. S.—Every statement in this notice has been verified before the Federal and State Courts.—F. H. Seeley.

COLDS AND FLU BEST TREATED WITH CALOTABS

The New Perfected Calomel That is Free from Nauseating and Salivating Effects.

Physicians or druggists will tell you that the best thing in the world for a cold, gripe or influenza, is Calotabs, the perfected calomel, that is free from nauseating and salivating effects. Doctors have learned that other laxatives are uncertain and unsatisfactory for cold and gripe, but that they can count on Calotabs, the new calomel, that has all the liver benefits and none of the sting, to thoroughly arouse the liver and put the system in ideal condition to throw off the cold and prevent influenza and pneumonia.

The best time to take Calotabs is at the first sign of a cold. If you take it at the beginning you can cure a cold overnight. One Calotab on the tongue at bed time with a swallow of water—that's all. In the morning you wake up feeling fine with a hearty appetite for breakfast. Your cold has vanished and you may congratulate yourself that you have possibly prevented serious complications for physicians tell us that neglected colds number their victims by the millions.

For your protection, Calotabs are sold only in original sealed packages, price thirty-five cents. Your druggist will supply you, and your money given back promptly and cheerfully if you are not delighted with this new form of calomel.—(adv.)

BUFFALO COMING BACK TO WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA.

The State Geological and Economic Survey has just been notified of the shipment of six head of buffalo—three males and three females—to Hominy, Buncombe County, as a start in stocking the Pisgah National Forest with these animals. The bison left New Hampshire last week, and are expected to complete the journey in about forty-eight hours. The animals, therefore, are probably now once again roaming the North Carolina forests, which their ancestors inhabited hundreds of years ago, but which have been free from them for a very long time, possibly since the advent of the white man. The only present indication of their former presence is in the names of many of our water courses.

At the meeting of the Southern Forestry Congress in Asheville, July 1918, three of the most prominent members of the American Bison Society were present. These were Mr. Edmund Seymour of New York, President, Mr. William P. Wharton of Massachusetts, and Dr. T. S. Palmer of Washington, D. C., members of the Board of Managers. These gentlemen joined in the excursion into Pisgah National Forest, which was arranged by the Congress, and it was at this time that the plans were laid which have resulted in this shipment of American bison to Western North Carolina.

The Survey is always especially interested in the conservation and perpetuation of wild animal life, and this start towards re-stocking our forests with the largest game and food animal of the country is looked upon as a distinct step towards a sane and progressive State Game Policy.

EFFECTIVE CHILD-LABOR BILL PRESENTED AT RALEIGH.

Legislators Warned That Federal Government Will Take Control Unless the State Corrects Conditions.

Raleigh, Jan. 25.—Commissioner of Labor and Printing M. L. Shipman mailed to all members of the general assembly today copies of a bill to be pressed for enactment at this session, providing for a system of child labor inspection and the supervision of its department to apply to factories and industrial plants generally. Along with the bill went a comprehensive discussion of the bill and necessity for it from the viewpoint of the commissioner. The bill would constitute the state superintendent of public instruction, secretary of the state board of health,

BRING IT IN AND JOIN NOW. Did you get that Christmas Banking Club pass book that we sent you? If so, bring it in and join our Christmas Banking Club. You can start with 10 cents, 5 cents, 2 cents or 1 cent. You increase your payments the same amount each week. In 50 weeks: 10-CENT CLUB PAYS \$127.50, 5-CENT CLUB PAYS 63.75, 2-CENT CLUB PAYS 25.50, 1-CENT CLUB PAYS 12.75. We also have 50 cents, \$1.00 and \$5.00 clubs, where you pay in the same amount each week. Join today. Put the children in, too.

The Citizens National Bank. and commissioner of labor and printing as the North Carolina child labor commission and provide for inspectors under the direction of the commissioner of labor and printing to have access to all places liable for inspection purposes. There is provision for a \$6,000 fund for the purpose of the bill in his "personal" role to the legislators. Commissioner Shipman insists upon the necessity for legislation included in the bill, saying: "We must face the stubborn fact that children under the legal age are being employed in industries in this state." That federal inspectors last year found numbers of violations that would have been prosecuted, but for the development of the unconstitutional...

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Cooking, Furnace and Grate Coal. For either of the above usages the consumer desires a coal Especially Adapted, in order to get the best results and at the same time have an economical fuel bill. Our COAL is the highest Quality obtainable-- Always WE SPECIALIZE--to give our customers the best in coal--from every standpoint. Hendersonville Laundry, Ice & Fuel Co.