

THE NEW BERN MIRROR

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HEADING FOR THE BARN

Father Time, who has the last word with all of us, is prompting Craven Sheriff Charlie Berry to bow out of office at the end of his present term.

When last challenged by younger opposition, Berry likened himself to a mule still capable of plowing a straight furrow to the far end of the field. He won the election, and kept right on going.

Now, with 35 years service in law enforcement, he is retiring with the satisfaction of knowing that for a quarter of a century the citizens of Craven County wanted him to be their Sheriff.

During his span in the office, he was without question Craven's surest bet to be victorious at the polls. Every aspirant to any elective position in the County sought his support, as did State politicians.

Typical of the respect accorded him by outsiders, was Superior Court Judge William J. (Dick) Bundy's statement at a gathering here that "Charlie Berry is the best Sheriff in North Carolina, and I know what I'm talking about."

Charlie's critics, and he picked up a number of them through the years, might not agree with Bundy's evaluation, but we've heard other distinguished jurists speak highly of the man too.

This editor's most vivid memories of the Sheriff will always center around the tireless manner in which he probed for clues in a murder mystery that in a rare moment of inspiration this writer dubbed "The Case of the Croatan Corpse."

It began with discovery of a nude, unidentified body, badly decomposed, in Croatan National Forest. For weeks, Berry and others worked day and night, with little to go on.

The unknown victim was buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery, at an unannounced hour, to avoid the morbidly curious, and we'll never forget the dignity with which the Rev. Charles E. Williams conducted last rites.

Weeks after the story began, during which this newsman spent a lot of sleepless nights along with Berry, our telephone ran at dawn. It was the Sheriff. Less than half an hour later we were on our way to Fort Eustis, Va.

There a soldier whose home was at Havelock admitted slaying a sailor at a picnic area on the Vanceboro road, and hauling his body to the wooded spot where it was found.

The killer was convicted and sentenced here in Craven County Courthouse, and Berry had much to do with solving a crime that received national coverage. There were other cases less spectacular in which the Sheriff also impressed us.

We wish him well in his retirement, and so do a lot of folks white and black, on both sides of the track.

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Historical Gleanings

—By—
ELIZABETH MOORE

ACCOUNT OF SALES ESTATES OF

THOMAS HAVENS, 1766
1766, October 24. Account returned by Christopher Neale, Admr.

Purchasers: Daniel Carmady, Christopher Neale, Christopher Dawson, Nixon Connor, Polly Green, Jacob Gooding, Thomas Nelson, Joseph Atherly, James Green, Jr., John Howard, Thomas Andrews, Thomas Carraway, Mrs. Williamson, Philip Thomas, William Meeks, Jacob Hull, Joshua Fulcher, Elias Justice, William Green, Thomas Shine, Thomas Franklin, Moses Hurley and others. 3 12- pages of personality.

Estate of Elizabeth Havens, 1777

1777, October 17. Account returned by James Williamson, Admr. Purchasers: John Carraway, John Williamson, Joshua Fulcher, Charles Shanawolf, Michael Hyman, Joseph Green, John Vendrick, Thomas Harper, Abraham Vendrick, Sidney Crispin, David Purifoy, Samuel Hoover, Joshua Cuthrell, John Biggs, John Bedscott, Joseph Green, John Bryan. Sale by John Bryan, Sheriff.

Account of Sales Of Estate of Bartholomew Howard

1786 July 7. Purchasers: Ruth Howard, William Borden, Horton Howard, John Morgan, William Borden, Thomas C. Evans, Malachi Jolly, James Bell, Richard Lovett, Benjamin Stanton, Jun. Philip Neale, Robert Young, Joseph Dew, Joseph Loftin, Henry Sikes, James Potter, Benjamin Stanton, Joseph Bishop, James Pacquinet, Obadiah Always, Adam Tooley, Abner Lambert, Jonas Small, Roger Jones, Jonas Linch, John Shapley, Horton Howard, Andrew Blanchard, Josias Willson, Benjamin Hardester, John Mace, Bookajah Smith, Jesse Harris, James Bell, Edward Canady.

Inventory and account of sales continued at James Howard's in Onslow County, the 14 day of April 1787. Inventory and account of sales continued the 4th vendue the 4th day of May 1787, at the house of Hope Stanton, Carteret County, payable in 6th months after date. Ruth Howard -s-

Stock and farm implements sold. 1787 one plantation rented for the year to John Shapley, also one half saw and grist mills, rent to Dew & Howard for 2 months, &c. 1/2 of mills &c to Edward Tinker.

Other purchasers: Benjamin Small, Jonas Small, William Toole, William Park, Joseph Dew.

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Samuel Hyman, minor in account with William Conway, Guardian.

June 1809.
Accounts paid to: Fanny Parks, Joshua Scott, Joseph Oliver, James G. Stanly, Freeman Woods, John Coart, Webb & Beckwith, Adam Scott, Edward Pasteur, Thomas Hyman, William Shepard, Francis Hawks, John Sears, Salmon Hall, Samuel Simpson, William Hollister, William Oliver, James W. Thompson, Raynor Butler, Joseph Physioc,

Village Verses

HARD TO FIGURE

Nothing else disrupts a house
Quite as much as one small mouse.
Lions in jungles have their roar,
But most feared on a kitchen floor
Is just a little patch of gray
That doesn't have a thing to say.
Lightning fast at hide and seek,
He makes the bravest woman shriek,
And every husband knows she'll yap
Until the culprit's in a trap.
Why then, do wives transform a spouse
From a man into a mouse?
—JGMCD

Philip Ryall, Dr. Ed Pasteur, Thomas C. Master, John Coart, William Conway, Rent Bounder Neck Plantation to Joseph Physioc; Manor Plantation to John Always; mentions: Thomas Austin, George Cooper, Thomas Jerkin Samuel and James Reed, Benjamin Borden, William Taylor, Absolem Fulford, Fred Hargett, Joseph and John Wallace, William Blackledge, Benjamin C. Good, Samuel Sparrow, Samuel Street. Account audited June 12, 1809 by William Hollister, William Good, John Jones.

Account dated December 16, 1816. William Conway Guardian to Samuel Hyman: Names mentioned: Joseph Master, S. Oliver, A. Marshal, J. H. Parmele, William Hollister, M. McCartner, William Oliver, John Harvey, John Dunn, J. G. Stanly, E. Webb, Lewis Bryan, Josh Coart, Thomas McLin, Elijah Clark, Moses, Jarvie; Samuel Gerock Salmon Hall, Smallwood & Guion, S. B. Forbes, Raynor Butler, Francis Hawks, Thomas Austin, Stephen Winn, John Always, Horatio Dade, Asa Jones, Enoch Jones, Wm. Conwy, John Dewey, Lewis Cannon, Thomas L. Cheeke, Thomas Skidmore, John Crickman Avis Marshall, Taylor & Justice William Gason, Moses Jarvis, Joseph Oliver, Salmon Hall, Charles Stewart. William Dunn, Adam

Scott, James G. Tignor, John Creekman. Account audited by John Sears, Francis Hawks, Stephen B. Forbes.
(Inventories & Accounts, Clerk's Papers, Craven County N. C.)

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