

The Watauga Democrat.

A Non-Partisan Family Newspaper Published in and for Boone and Watauga County, the Leader of Northwestern North Carolina.—Established in 1888

VOLUME XXXIV

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 1923

NUMBER 25

HISTORY OF BOONE BAPTIST CHURCH AND ITS PROGRESS IN FIFTY YEARS

BY I. G. GREER

Fifty-two years ago, 1871, the Boone Baptist Church was organized. There were 17 charter members. So far as I have been able to find all of these original members except one have answered the call to a higher life. Mr. W. L. Bryan is the only charter member now living. He is with us this morning and I want the visitors to see and know the oldest member of the church and Boone's oldest citizen. He was clerk of the church for 42 years and we are glad he can be with us and help to dedicate the second church he has helped to build in Boone.

The church was organized in the old court house and elected as its pastor, W. M. Baldwin, a rugged, outspoken man of unusual native ability. They used the courthouse as a place of worship until it was burned in 1873; after this date the congregation worshipped in the Masonic Hall until the completion of the church building in 1875. This church was built largely through the efforts of Mr. Bryan, and Mr. W. C. Coffey, who for many years were the main pillars of the church. It is interesting to note that the membership the first ten years (1871-1881) exactly doubled; starting with 17 in 1871 its membership increased to 34 in 1881, but the next ten years shows not only no increase but a loss in membership for in 1891 the number of members was 32. The present membership of the church is 264.

The coming of the training school and the growth of the town brought some of the members to the realization that we must soon have a larger and better equipped church building. As the demand for a new building increased the possibilities for financing it decreased. But early in the year 1914 W. R. Bradshaw visited us and brought us to the realization that we must have a new church building. On February 26, 1914, he started a subscription for a new building. This subscription was a signal for definite

work to begin. On October 19, 1915 our pastor, J. M. Payne, suddenly died and we were left without a leader, but under the direction of an efficient building committee the work was continued. Early in the spring of 1916 M. A. Adams was called to the pastorate of the church. Adams' faith and energy gave life to the movement; he worked us so fast we did not have time to see where the next dollar was coming from. He put us in one financial hole after another and fixed it so we had to get out. Without hardly realizing where the money came from the work was pushed forward until early in the fall of 1916 we were able to move into this building where we have since had regular services.

During the 52 years existence of the church 13 men, including our present beloved pastor, have shepherded the church. Eight of these men are still living: G. H. Church, of Stoneville; E. F. Jones, of Post Falls, Idaho; J. F. Davis, of South Carolina; L. C. Wilson and J. H. Parthing, of Watauga; M. A. Adams of the First Baptist Church, of Rutherfordville; R. D. Cross, of California.

We are thankful to every man, woman, and child of what ever faith and order who have contributed to the erection of this church. We are truly grateful to the men and women of the past who have borne the burden of the church through its slow struggling growth and made it possible for us to see this hour.

Thus, today we dedicate this product of half a century to the social uplift of this community. May it stand here as a church by the side of the road to give rest, comfort, and faith in humanity to all who pass this way. We dedicate in the faith of that promise that the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it. Above all, we dedicate to the life and glory of Him who said, "As I if I be lifted up from the earth will draw all men unto me."

SHEMWELL HAS RECORD IN COURTS OF THE STATE

Greensboro Daily News

The arrest of Baxter Shemwell brings again to the bar of justice one of the most noted men whose history has ever been written in the legal records of North Carolina. For years Shemwell has bullied officers, defied the law, and threatened men of all positions. He has laughed at authority. He has almost dared officers to arrest him.

His record includes many charges. He killed one man outright, and shot at still others, he has been shot himself, he has been involved in many civil actions.

Few men in recent state history have achieved so notorious a history. He was widely regarded as a shooting man and a killing man. Indeed, it has often been said that officers did not want to arrest him, didn't want to have anything to do with him, openly winked at his presence and walked by on the other side. Time and again his acts have projected him into the limelight and the state has looked on—from a safe distance—and marveled.

The definite charge on which he was arrested was for skipping bond after he had been sentenced to 30 months on the roads for assault on J. C. Bower and Wade H. Phillips, Lexington, is only one of a long succession.

One of his first notorious acts was the killing of Dr. R. L. Payne, in Lexington, many years ago. Shemwell was tried for that and was acquitted. Today, however, the stone that marks the grave of Dr. Payne bears the word "assassinated."

Another and perhaps the most notorious act of his life was the time he made Southern train No. 37 stop at Lexington. Shemwell was on his way home from the north and the train was not scheduled to stop at Lexington. W. B. Smithers was the conductor. Shemwell argued with him but the conductor told him he could not and would not stop it. Shemwell threatened and again told him the train would stop. As 37 neared Lexington Shemwell pulled a pistol. Shoved it in Smithers' face and pulled the bell cord. The train stopped. Smithers made efforts to have Shemwell arrested but accomplished nothing.

He was later arrested, however, and was tried in Greensboro, the

technical assault on the conductor having occurred in Guilford county. John N. Wilson, Southern attorney, helped prosecute the case. Shemwell was found guilty and was sentenced to four months. Strong appeals were made to Governor W. W. Kitchin and Shemwell was pardoned either before he had served a day or within a few days after he started serving. The affair created intense interest throughout the state.

On another occasion Shemwell got into an altercation with his uncle, Capt. C. M. Thompson and this time the tables were turned and Shemwell was the one shot.

The affair that led to his arrest occurred in a law office in Lexington when Shemwell got into a quarrel with Mr. Bower and Mr. Phillips. He pulled a pistol and blazed away at the lawyer but without damage. They disarmed him and Shemwell went out and got another gun and was for going after them again until he was dissuaded by friends. Trial for that episode resulted in a 30-month sentence and when Shemwell got out on bond while his appeal was still under consideration, he fled the state.

Shemwell's many acts together with his flair for doing things in a spectacular manner made him conspicuous. But for all that he was never arrested since the Bower-Phillips fight until yesterday afternoon. He has a home in Asheville and is said to have visited it many times. He would dodge in and out of the state and nobody seemed to want to get close to him. The Daily News had a report from its Asheville correspondent less than a month ago to the effect that he had been seen in Asheville. He was in Greensboro about the same time and several persons who knew him saw him.

Shemwell has been in many forms of business. He has sold insurance, dealt in real estate, promoted companies of various sorts. He was involved in a case in United States district court in Greensboro in June, 1922, when Ben F. Borbour, of Birmingham, Ala., and W. J. Shepherd and O. K. W. Howard, of Norfolk, started action in equity against Shemwell and the Mays Manufacturing company, of Lexington, alleging that Shemwell had looted the treasury of the company of something like \$213,000. The case, however was dismissed by Judge James E. Boyd.

JOURNALISM'S CODE OF ETHICS ADOPTED BY NEWSPAPERS OF STATE

Following is the Code of Ethics of the profession of journalism adopted by the North Carolina Press Association at its meeting in Blowing Rock last week, it being the same as that recently adopted by the American Society of Newspaper Editors:

"The primary function of newspapers is to communicate to the human race what its members do, feel and think. Journalism, therefore, demands of its practitioners the widest range of intelligence, of knowledge, and of experience. To its opportunities as a chronicler and indissolubly linked its obligations as teacher and interpreter.

"To the end of finding some means of codifying sound practice and just aspirations of American journalism these canons are set forth:

1. "Responsibility.—The right of a newspaper to attract and hold readers is restricted by nothing but considerations of public welfare. The use of a newspaper makes of the share of public attention it gains serves to determine its sense of responsibility, which it shares with every member of its staff. A journalist who uses his power for any selfish or otherwise unworthy purpose is faithless to a high trust.

2. "Freedom of the press.—Freedom of the press is to be regarded as a vital right of mankind. It is the unquestionable right to discuss whatever is not explicitly forbidden by law, including the wisdom of any restrictive statute.

3. "Independence.—Freedom from all obligations except that of fidelity to the public interest is vital.

4. "Promotion of any private interest contrary to the general welfare, for whatever reason, is not compatible with honest journalism. So called news communications from private sources should not be published without notice of their source or else substantiation of their claims to value as news, both in form and substance.

5. "Partisanship, in editorial comment which knowingly departs from the truth does violence to the best spirit of American journalism; in the news columns it is subversive of a fundamental principal of the profession.

6. "Sincerity, Truthfulness, Accuracy.—Good faith with the reader is the foundation of all journalism worthy of the name.

7. "By every consideration of good faith a newspaper is constrained to be truthful. It is not to be excused for a lack of thoroughness or accuracy within its control or failure to obtain command of these essential qualities.

8. "Headlines should be fully warranted by the contents of the article they surmount.

9. "Impartiality.—Sound practice makes clear distinction between news reports and expressions of opinion. News reports should be free from opinion or bias of any kind.

10. "This rule does not apply to so-called special articles, unmistakably devoted to advocacy or characterized by signature authorizing the writer's own conclusions and interpretations.

11. "Fair Play.—A newspaper should not publish unofficial charges affecting reputation or moral character without opportunity given to the accused to be heard; right practice demands the giving of such opportunity in all cases of serious accusation outside judicial proceedings.

12. "A newspaper should not invade private rights or feelings without sure warrant of public right as distinguished from public curiosity.

13. "It is the privilege, as it is the duty of a newspaper to make prompt and complete correction of its own serious mistakes of fact or opinion, whatever their origin.

14. "Decency.—A newspaper cannot escape conviction of insincerity if while professing high moral purpose it supplies incentives to base conduct, such as are to be found in details of crime or vice publication of which is not demonstrably for the general good. Lacking authority to enforce its canons, the journalism here represented can but express the hope that deliberate pandering to vicious instinct will encounter effective public disapproval or yield to the influence of a preponderant professional condemnation."

By a referendum vote of the Banker's Association, the next annual meeting will be held in Asheville June 4-6, 1924.

NEPHEW OF LOCAL MAN DIES IN EFFORT TO SAVE OTHERS

The following from the Leavenworth (Kans.) Post in regard to the recent death of a nephew of our townsman, Mr. R. R. Johnson, will be of interest to many of our readers.

John E. Mason, 46 years old, yardmaster at the Fort Leavenworth of this city, was instantly killed terminals and well known resident shortly after 3:30 o'clock Thursday afternoon when he was run over by a gondola car filled with sand, which had broken loose and was "running wild", because breaks failed to work.

The body was removed from the J. A. Bush funeral home to the family residence, 621 Kickapoo street, this afternoon. Funeral services will be held at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon, from the Fort Leavenworth chapel. Chaplain Frank C. Rideout will officiate. Interment will be made in the National cemetery. Military funeral services probably will be held at the grave side.

It has been requested that all Federal employees, who can possibly do so, attend the funeral.

The "death car," used to haul sand for the construction of the new disciplinary guard company's barracks, west of the D. B. was placed on a siding by a switch engine about 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon. About 3 o'clock and a half later the breaks of the car were released by two prisoners in order to allow the car to coast to a position where wagons could be drawn along the side of it. When the prisoners attempted to stop the car the breaks failed to work, according to an account of the accident told by those who witnessed the accident.

The prisoners jumped from the moving car at the command of the guards and the gondola swiftly gained momentum, tearing through the fence enclosure and on down the incline. Mason, who was standing about a quarter of a mile below the enclosure, saw the car coming toward him. One of the garrison's "dinkey" trains was coming up the tracks, immediately in the path of the "wild" car. Mason quickly threw a switch, turning the runaway car to an idle track. As he threw the switch, Mason attempted to catch on the side of the car, evidently intending to board it and try to set the breaks, the witnesses said.

Mason's foot slipped on the iron rung, which was wet from rain, and fell under the wheels of the car. His skull was badly fractured, and he received internal injuries, the physicians reported. Death occurred instantly.

An investigation of the accident was made by Capt. R. E. Haynes, officer of the day, and the body was examined by Major Edgar King, hospital corps. Death was pronounced accidental.

Mr. Mason was born in Knoxville Tenn., January 14, 1877. He was the son of Prof. and Mrs. Charles Mason of Knoxville. Prof. Mason is an instructor at the University of Tennessee, at Knoxville. Prof. and Mrs. Mason were expected to arrive in Leavenworth today.

Besides his parents, Mr. Mason is survived by his widow, Mrs. Grace Marie Mason of the home address, 621 Kickapoo street. One daughter, Esther Marie Mason, five weeks old, also survived him.

Mr. Mason came to Fort Leavenworth as a civilian employe eighteen years ago. He enjoyed a large acquaintance both at the post and in this city. He was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

APPOINTMENT

Mr. J. S. Lockaby, of Gastonia, formerly of Buncombe County, having been sent by Bishop Fowler to take charge of the work of the Episcopal church in Ashe County, until recently under the supervision of Mr. Savage, retired, announces his appointments as follows: Beaver Creek; 1st Sunday, Todd; 3rd Sunday, Glendale Springs, 4th Sunday, each service at 11 o'clock. The appointment for the 2nd Sunday not yet made.

Mr. Lockaby is a veteran of the war of 1914-18, having spent three years in service over seas, and cordially invites war veterans and others to his church services. He is a Tar Heel and a native of the hill country and expects to feel "at home" up here in our beautiful corner of the good old North State. He is studying for the ministry.

THE MORGAN LUMBER CO. AGAIN CHANGES HANDS

The Boone Fork Lumber Co., of Shell Mills, which a few months ago was changed to the name of Morgan Lumber Co., under the management of Mr. W. S. Whiting, again changed hands last week, that is, as far as the operation is concerned, and the Cherokee Lumber Co., the owners, have taken it over, and, we learn, Mr. Whiting is no longer connected in any way, with the big lumbering enterprise. The machinery is now still and the new management is having it all thoroughly overhauled before starting it. The plant is one of the largest and best in the mountains, and has a vast amount of lumber yet to cut. The Democrat is sorry indeed to see the old force, composed of esteemed citizen-ship down and out, but trusts the new will be as good.

MECKLENBURG HAS ESTABLISHED A HOME FOR WOMEN

Expressions of high praise were uttered by Judge B. F. Long and solicitor John G. Carpenter, following a visit to the county industrial home for women, nine miles from Charlotte, on the Saturday rail. Both found the place doing fine work and splendidly managed.

Edward W. Brown, secretary of the board of managers, took the court of law through the home, the only one of its kind in operation in the county. The 15 rooms, with 200 tables, and a few who have been sent there for local courts have endeavor to escape. Several who have been sentenced have shown a decided tendency to reform and become law-abiding citizens, Mr. Brown said.

Speaking of his visit, Judge Long said: "The rooms are neatly kept and nicely furnished and everything appears to be as neat as a pin. Mrs. Clark, the matron, seems to be fully competent and is popular with the inmates. The inmates have employment and are doing such work as they are able to do. They are sewing and housekeeping, and some of them have actually built a barn and another big building on the premises.

"The institution is unique. It is said there is no other institution like it in the United States and it is attracting attention from abroad. In a sense, it is experimental, but thus far the experiment has proven to be a decided success."—Charlotte Observer.

TWO OF HARDING PARTY KILLED IN COLORADO

Stanley Curtis, of Washington, representing the Republican National Campaign, who President Harding's party on its western trip, was killed on the 24th, and three others seriously injured when an automobile in which they were riding plunged off the road into Bear Creek Canyon about twenty-five miles from Denver. Those injured are Donald Craig, Manager of the Washington Bureau of the New York Herald, and Thomas Dawson, Colorado State historian, and Washington newspaper man.

Antonio Moreno



Antonio Garrido Montezgudo Moreno, the "movie" actor, was born in Madrid, Spain. He received most of his schooling in America. Before entering the motion picture business he played in stock, also in vaudeville. He has appeared in a number of prominent productions with well-known players. In time he aspires to be a director.

DETOUR FROM BOONE BY WAY OF HODGES GAP

District Highway Engineer Currier was in town Monday and at night had a conference with a number of our citizens relative to the location of a suitable detour to Blowing Rock, to be used while the road between Boone and that town is in the course of construction. Work had already begun on a detour leading from Boone via Hodges Gap, Poplar Grove, W. L. Winkler's and into the old tarpike, thence to Blowing Rock. But the man having such work in charge, stopped the activities on said road and started up Deck Hill with a detour. Those interested in the first project appealed to Mr. Currier and he came to reconcile matters, adopting the first route. The county board proposes to pay a certain amount of the cost of construction of the detour as a permanent road will follow on the same survey, and work will be pushed with all possible speed until completed, which will not be long. The difference in the distance over the detour to Blowing Rock is only about one mile and, when completed will answer a splendid purpose. When the detour is finished the public travel over the Blowing Rock Road will be temporarily suspended.

LAND PURCHASED ON CATAWBA FOR U. S. NATIONAL FOREST

Purchase of 11,137 acres of land in western States at an average of \$3.25 an acre for national forest purposes has been authorized by the National Forest reservation commission. The authorizations include:

Two parcels aggregating 5,369 acres in Mecklenburg, Forest and Warren counties, Pennsylvania, within the Allegheny national forest.

As an addition to the Monongahela national forest, 1,015 acres chiefly in Pocahontas and Pendleton counties, West Virginia.

On the headwaters of the James river, Virginia, 877 acres.

In North Carolina, 1,555 acres, largely on the waters of the Catawba river.

In Tennessee, 335 acres in Green county as an addition to Pisgah national forest.

For the Nantahala national forest, 207 acres in Oconee county, South Carolina, and 129 acres in Rabun county, Georgia, this forest protects extensive water-power developments on the Savannah river from which power is distributed over an extensive area in upper South Carolina and Georgia to a large number of cities and towns and numerous industrial enterprises.

LEVIATHAN "QUEEN OF THE SEA"

The Leviathan is now back in her home port, wearing with pride and grace her new title of "Queen of the Seas". Shipping board officials and the crew are jubilant over the capture of the new champion, which Great Britain has held for so many years. The highest speed "gistered on the trial run of the great boat was 30.94 knots, while for a six hour period the average speed was 28 knots.

HARDING PROBABLY FAILS TO WIN THE WEST

According to a story which came from Washington on the 24th, the audiences which in St. Lewis listened to the President's speech of retreat from his original world court proposition, and that in Kansas City, which heard his railway consolidation proposition "are reported as not having been enthusiastic." The dispatch says "thus far there has been no 'winning of the West' by President Harding on his trip to the coast."

STOCK KILLED BY LIGHTENING

During the heavy electric storms of Thursday and Friday of last week a number of cattle and other stock were killed by lightning in Watauga. Mr. H. H. Greene, of Boone, lost two fine cows on his Beaver Dam farm; Mr. Allen Story, of the same section, a fine bull; and Alex. Roark, 3 head of cattle. At Valle Crucis, Dr. H. B. Perry and Mr. Bynum Taylor each had a young mule killed in their pastures. Near Virgil, on the Boone Trail Highway, Mrs. Jake Clawson, lost two good milk cows from the same source, on Wednesday.