

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

A Non-Partisan Newspaper, Devoted to the Best Interests of Northwest North Carolina

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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1928

FIVE CENTS A COPY

## W. R. GRAGG DIED MONDAY NIGHT

Mayor of the Town and Leader in Business, Civic and Church Circles Succumbs to Pneumonia; Interment Tuesday Afternoon

W. R. Gragg, mayor of the town of Boone, one of the most prominent leaders in local business, fraternal, church and civic circles, died at his home Monday night about 12 o'clock following an illness of several days with pneumonia. Funeral services were conducted from the Baptist church Tuesday afternoon at 4:30 by Rev. P. A. Hicks, assisted by Rev. C. H. Moser. Short tributes were paid to the deceased by I. G. Greer, W. D. Farthing and B. E. Dougherty, following which interment was in the town cemetery. The floral offerings were profuse and bore testimony to the esteem in which the deceased was held. He was 44 years old.

Mr. Gragg first came to Boone as a student in the Appalachian Training school, in the early days of that institution, having been reared near Foscoe in the foothills of the Grandfather mountain. In 1908 he established his permanent home here, following the election in which he was chosen register of deeds for Watauga county. This office he filled in such an acceptable way that he was re-elected five times, declining to enter the race in 1920. In that year he, together with other local business men, established the Watauga Lumber & Furniture Company, and he was the active manager of that corporation until the time of his death.

During the score of years Mr. Gragg resided in Boone he was ever active in behalf of the common good. An especially devout churchman, he had been superintendent of the Baptist Sunday school for many years. He was an enthusiastic Mason, and had been elected and re-elected as master of the local lodge. He was a Shriner and councillor of the Jr. O. U. A. M. here. He had served different terms as mayor of Boone, which position he held at the time of his death. He was a leading spirit in all lines of useful endeavor and no man could be more sorely missed.

Surviving are his wife and nine children, as follows: Bernice, Inez, Hazel, Hoy, Victor, Fred, Nadine, Joyce and Kathleen.

Members of Watauga Lodge No. 273, A. F. & A. M., and the local Shine club acted as honorary and active pall bearers.

## CHARLIE MINTON KILLED WHEN TRUCK OVERTURNS

Charlie Minton, of Elk township, aged about 35 years, was killed about 2:30 Monday afternoon when a truck in which he was riding turned over on the Boone Trail highway about ten miles west of North Wilkesboro. Minton's head was crushed and death was thought to have been instantaneous. The driver of the truck, Wingate Hamby, of Wilkes county, and another passenger, Mrs. William Miller, also of Elk, were only slightly hurt.

At the coroner's inquest held at Wilkesboro Monday night, Hamby stated that his brakes failed to work, causing him to take a curve at a high rate of speed and forcing the truck off the road and into a somersault. He was freed and the accident was declared unavoidable. Mr. Minton is said to be survived by a wife and six children.

## DOUG BERNHARDT DIES

J. Douglas Bernhardt, clerk of court of Caldwell county, died last Thursday night from pneumonia, which followed a fall several days before in which he was seriously injured. In descending the steps at the Caldwell Power Co. building he in some way lost his footing and plunged through a plate glass door at the foot of the flight. The loss of blood was so great that his recovery seemed doubtful; however, he was showing improvement when the pneumonia developed.

Mr. Bernhardt was the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Bernhardt and was well and favorably known in Boone. Virgil D. Guire has been appointed by Judge James Webb to fill the unexpired term of the deceased as clerk of the court.

## CLAUD GRAGG FLU VICTIM

Claude, 14-year-old son of Mr. George Gragg of Rutherford, died Monday night from the effects of pneumonia flowing flu. Interment was in the Critcher graveyard in the Bamboo section Tuesday. Claude was the youngest son of the Gragg family, was a bright and well liked youth and his family has the sympathy of all.

## A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Week after week during the past year we have chronicled your achievement and recorded your triumphs, rejoiced in your success and sorrowed with you in your bereavements.

Now we start a New Year together, and the best wish we can make for you is that we may hear such news of you as it will be a delight to pass on to others through these columns.

A Happy New Year to you all!

## Boone's Mayor Dead



W. ROY GRAGG

## BEAUTIFUL SERVICES HELD IN BETHLEHEM

Bethlehem, Palestine, Dec. 24.—This little town of the nativity was the scene of impressive services last night as thousands of tourists and natives visited it to partake in solemn Christmas celebrations.

Hundreds of automobiles, their headlights making one great shaft of light, blocked the road over a great distance.

At the church of the nativity the heads of the Bethlehem municipality and other prominent persons headed by choir boys intoned hymns for two hours and then followed in procession to the grotto while along the steps and walls black-robed nuns knelt in silent prayer. After ceremonies at the grotto by the patriarch the procession left the grotto by the opposite side.

The neighboring Franciscan church was packed with crowds from the late afternoon. At midnight the Latin patriarch, clad in a purple robe, entered the Franciscan church and celebrated holy mass in the presence of the governor of Jerusalem and the consuls of the Catholic powers, remaining in prayer until this morning when a new pontifical mass was begun.

The night was beautiful and clear with a bright moon and shining stars adding to the impressiveness of the ceremonies.

## WALDORF-ASTORIA HOTEL IN NEW YORK TO BE RAZED

The Waldorf-Astoria hotel, one of the most famous hostels in the country, has been sold to the Bethlehem Engineering corporation and will be razed during the coming year to provide a site for a 50-story office structure. The price paid for the famous New York hotel was said to be close to \$15,000,000.

## DR. W. C. TYREE KILLED IN AUTOMOBILE WRECK

Dr. W. C. Tyree, pastor of the First Baptist church of Lenoir, was killed almost instantly Thursday night when his car collided with a truck on the Durham highway four miles south of Oxford. Mrs. Tyree, who was with him, was bruised but not seriously hurt. They were on their way to Oxford to spend the holidays with relatives.

## C. P. MILLS IS WINNER OF DURANT PROHIBITION PRIZE

Major Chester P. Mills of New York, former federal prohibition administrator for the New York district, has been announced as winner of the \$25,000 prize offered by W. C. Durant for the best and most practicable plan for making the 18th amendment effective.

## FOR INFLUENZA

Editor Democrat:

For the benefit of your readers, I submit the following most wonderful prescription:

"Put the patient to bed—give no food—plenty of water, plenty of fresh air; no purgatives, keep warm with bed clothing. Give juice of from five to fifteen grapefruit daily. Between times of grapefruit (not with it) give bicarbonate of soda; first dose teaspoonful in glass of water, then quarter of teaspoonful in glass of water every three or four hours."

According to the highest authority on influenza—Dr. McKensie, the influenza germ develops in an acid medium, the body is rendered alkaline by grapefruit and soda, which is absolutely true and his prescription was met with complete success when the influenza scourge of 1918-1919 was running its course.

E. W. PENDLETON, St. Petersburg, Fla.

## MRS. ELLIS COFFEY

Mrs. Ellis Coffey of the New River section died at her home Monday from pneumonia. All the members of the family were ill and without assistance and she died as a result of exposure in attempting to provide food for the children. Further than that The Democrat has no details.

## MR. MILLER BUYS KRAUT FACTORY

New Owner Plans to Erect New Building and Add Additional Machinery for Canning Fruits and Other Vegetables

Mr. W. F. Miller, of North Wilkesboro, has purchased the Watauga Kraut Factory from the Blue Ridge Farmers Association. The deal was consummated last week, but the amount of the purchase price was not made public. Mr. Miller has been operating the plant for some time under lease.

Mr. Miller is quoted as saying he intends to make some very extensive improvements in the plant, including the construction of a brick building, installation of modern machinery, and additional vats, for canning beans and other vegetables, in addition to the manufacture of kraut.

It is said that the entire output of the plant during the past season was sold in advance and Mr. Miller is said to want at least 60 acres of kraut cabbage produced for cutting next year.

## LOCAL AFFAIRS

Mr. and Mrs. Turner Hendrix of Roanoke, Va., are spending some days visiting with relatives in this community.

Mr. Hugh Watson, medical student at Richmond, Va., is spending a few days with his mother, Mrs. Minnie Watson.

Miss Ruth Coffey, director of piano at Jonesboro College, Jonesboro, Ark., is spending the holidays with her mother, Mrs. E. S. Coffey.

Mrs. James Rivers of Winston-Salem, accompanied by her daughter, Sarah Rebekah, is visiting home folks here.

At a meeting of the town board of aldermen to be held Thursday evening, January 3, a man will be appointed as mayor to fill out the unexpired term of W. R. Gragg, deceased. The term expires in May.

Young Edgar Bingham remains ill with pneumonia but his condition seems to be more satisfactory. His father, Attorney T. E. Bingham is improving from an attack of influenza.

Mrs. Jephtha Bingham and two children have been seriously ill with pneumonia. Latest information before we go to press is to the effect that Mrs. Bingham's condition is likely slightly improved although she remains very ill, while no change is noted in the cases of the children.

The Democrat office was closed today and Tuesday so that the force might be at home for Christmas and this issue comes out half size and a little late. In publishing it we are laboring under handicaps, one of which is the illness of the editor, and doubtless many items of interest will have to be left out.

Hon. Roderick Butler, congressman-elect from the eastern Oregon district, spent Christmas day with his mother, Mrs. W. R. Butler here. The eminent young man promises himself a longer visit here should there be sufficient time between the regular term of congress and the special term. He was accompanied from Butler, Tenn., by his brother, Don Butler.

With five unburied bodies of local citizens Christmas morning, the day was marked by a sadness such as is not remembered before by the oldest citizen. The day was spent mostly in visiting among the sick and holding funerals for the dead, while the younger generation desisted from the usual round of holiday merriment and sorrowed with the bereaved. No disturbance worthy of note has been reported in this section.

## SIMS-WALKER

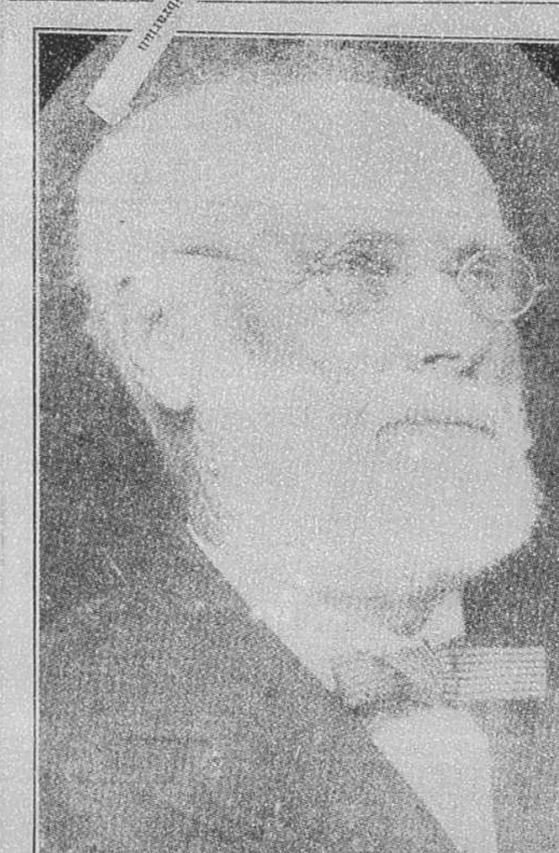
Married Sunday evening, Miss Annie Lee Sims of the Grandfather section, to Mr. Linney Walker of Boone. The bride is a graduate of the Normal school and is very popular locally while Mr. Walker is one of the most prominent young business men of the county, being associated with his father, Will C. Walker, in the jewelry business. The young couple will reside in their newly acquired home a mile west of the city.

It ain't the guns nor armament, nor funds that they can pay. But the close co-operation that makes them win the day—It ain't the individual nor the army as a whole, But the everlastin' team-work of every bloomin' soul.—Rudyard Kipling.

## Impossible

Magistrate: "Did you call the accused a rascal and a thief?" Witness: "Yes, your honor, I did." Magistrate: "And did you call him a liar and a cad?" Witness: "No, yer honor, I didn't—make their home for the present with Mr. and Mrs. G. K. Moose in Daniel Boone Park."

## Town's Oldest Citizen Dead



COL. W. L. BRYAN

## MRS. T. E. BINGHAM DIED HERE MONDAY EVENING

Mrs. Bingham, wife of Attorney T. E. Bingham of this city, passed away Monday evening at eight o'clock following an illness of several days with pneumonia, which was induced by influenza. She was 37 years old and died on the eve of her twentieth wedding anniversary. Interment was in the Hines cemetery one mile west of Boone Tuesday afternoon, a short funeral service having been conducted by Rev. P. A. Hicks and Rev. C. H. Moser.

Mrs. Bingham was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Trivett and was well known throughout this section, where she had a wide circle of friends. No better woman has lived in the community and her death has caused much sorrow.

Surviving are a husband and eight children.

## COVE CREEK NEWS ITEMS

Sugar Grove, Dec. 24.—The fall term of the Cove Creek high school closed on Friday, December 21, for the Christmas holidays and will open for the spring term Monday, January 7.

Misses Grace Blalock, Constance Shouns, Winnie Thorberg, Mrs. Kate R. Curtis and T. S. Moore, members of the school faculty, left for their respective homes Saturday and Sunday to spend the holiday season.

Wiley Swift, who has been spending some months with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Enoch Swift, has gone to his home in Greensboro for the holidays.

Miss Blanche Horton, who is teaching public school music in the Moss Hill high school, Kinston, is spending her vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Horton.

Mr. and Mrs. James Mast left Sunday to visit Mrs. Mast's parents in Wilmington.

Mrs. Mattie Bingham Shaeffer and children of Knoxville are spending the holidays with her mother, Mrs. Nan Bingham.

Grady Tester, Howard and Ralph Walker, all of Berea College, Ky., are home for the holidays.

## CASE OF TULAREMIA IS FOUND IN CAROLINA

The first case of tularemia, or "rabbit disease," was reported in North Carolina, was that with which Mrs. John Caviness of Randolph county, was afflicted. Mrs. Caviness contracted the disease while skinning a rabbit. A few drops of blood from the animal, which was affected by the disease, got into Mrs. Caviness' blood through a scratched place on her hand. Her arm and hand became swollen out of all proportions, and the swelling reached her shoulder. She suffered considerably from fever. However, her condition is showing improvement.

## BLACKMAN-COMER

Married in Selma on Saturday night, Miss Hazel Blackman of that city to Mr. W. E. Comer of Boone. The bride is a former student of the Normal, while Mr. Comer is the local member of the law firm of Trivette & Comer. The couple will make their home for the present with Mr. and Mrs. G. K. Moose in Daniel Boone Park.

## COL. W. L. BRYAN CROSSES THE BAR

Town's Oldest Citizen and its First Mayor Passed Away Thursday Morning After Illness With Influenza; Was 92 Years Old

Col. W. L. Bryan, the town's oldest inhabitant and one of the pioneer business men of this section, died at his home here last Thursday morning following an illness with influenza and general debility. He was 92 years old. Funeral services were conducted at the home Friday afternoon, by Rev. P. A. Hicks of the Baptist church, and the remains were interred in the private cemetery on Green Heights.

Mr. Bryan was the first mayor of Boone, having took over the duties of that office when the legislature incorporated it and defined its boundaries in 1871. Since that time he had been elected mayor a number of times. He was the first man to conduct a mercantile establishment on any considerable scale here and operated a hotel here in the early days. Mr. Bryan was proud to trace his lineage back to the family of Daniel Boone and was the most outstanding local historian of this section, being an encyclopedia of facts and figures relative to early Watauga days. He assisted Mr. J. P. Arthur in the preparation of the matter for the History of Watauga County some years ago, and is likely as much responsible for the publication of the book as was the author himself. He possessed a wonderful memory, was a good conversationalist and was early sought by tourists and others seeking knowledge of bygone days.

In 1911 Mr. Bryan erected a monument to Daniel Boone near the Normal school at a spot where the famous pioneer was supposed to have camped on his pilgrimage through his section. The structure carries a slab commemorating the trail blazer as well as one as a memorial to its builder.

The pioneer citizen had watched the growth of the town from the days when rabbit hunting was in vogue along the main street until it developed into a thriving little city, and his going leaves a vacancy that cannot be filled. He was a consistent follower of the Baptist faith, having been one of the founders of the Boone Baptist church. It was constituted in 1882, Thomas J. and W. C. Coffey also being charter members. He was also a member of Watauga Lodge A. F. & A. M.

Surviving are four children, B. R. Bryan of Boone; Mrs. Cora Council, who is now residing here; J. H. Bryan of Edmondton, Canada, and Mrs. J. C. Fletcher of Lenoir, all of whom were here when the end came, with the exception of Mrs. Fletcher, who is seriously ill.

## HENDERSON YOUNCE PASSES

Mr. Henderson Younce, 76, died suddenly at his apartment in the Shipley building on Depot street Monday evening. A brother whom he had not seen for many years was spending the night with him and he was busy preparing supper when he was stricken. He complained of a pain, slumped to the floor and when a physician arrived was pronounced dead.

Mr. Younce was a native of this county but had spent the most of his life in the far west, coming here from Oregon the past summer. He had acquired many friends here and expected to make his permanent home in Boone. Funeral services were held and burial at Todd Tuesday.

Mr. Younce is survived by a widow and two sons.

## 1929

Another leaf falls from the tree of Time—and 1928 is with us.

Seeing the old year out and hailing the new one is a merry event that at the same time contains a deep element of tragedy. It reminds us that time is fleeting. Yet 1928 was a year so rich in accomplishments and adventures, and so marked by progress and prosperity, that we surely cannot complain of its brevity.

This was the year of the twenty-fifth anniversary of flying; and the year of the thrilling, epoch-making journey of the Graf Zeppelin. This was a year in which the good will among nations was furthered as never before—a year of peace and friendship.

This was the year when "sound" and talking motion pictures perched out of their infancy, when the invention of the robot or mechanical man gave promise of a future lessening of the labor of men, when new machines like the combine harvester were invented to lighten the strenuous tasks of the farmer.

In this year radio was used to an extent never before even approached—as in the vast nation-wide hookups of political utterances.

The advances in radio, science, transportation, medicine, social welfare and intellectual fields during the past year have been many and varied. The gains made in every department of human activity makes us envision 1929 as a twelvemonth of still greater progress.

## AUTO LICENSE SALES GOING SLOW AT LENOIR

Lenoir, Dec. 26.—Sale of automobile licenses for 1929 is going very slow, according to J. L. Cottrell, manager of the local branch of the Carolina Motor Club. The Lenoir office will serve not only Lenoir and Caldwell county, but adjacent counties of Watauga and Avery, this being the only office in this immediate section.

The Lenoir office opened December 1st. License tags may be used on the cars now, and all automobile owners are urged to purchase their tags promptly and avoid the last minute rush.

Now if the farmers could only beat those words into plowshares—Leesburg (Fla.) Commercial.