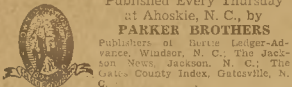


Hertford County Herald



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EDITORIAL

Fanfare and trumpet blowing are not required to announce that the Herald is presenting its Historical Edition this week.

The occasion that gave inception to the edition is the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of a postoffice at Ahooskie—on September 18, 1889.

Sincere and profound thanks are due those volunteer authors who have contributed to this edition.

Acknowledgment is also made and appreciation expressed to all those who have eagerly cooperated in furnishing facts, documents, and pictures for the edition.

There is a sentimental side to this occasion, too. It concerns "the family." This Historical Edition of some 60 pages is the handiwork of the regular force of the Herald family.

The commercial side of this undertaking was, of course, necessary and proper to exploit, for occasions of this kind do not seldom present themselves.

In this edition, you are entering a new world. We believe you will be, our complete. It is yours. Take it.

History Of The Early Life In The Town Of Ahooskie, N. C.

(Continued from page 3)

clude a commissary like the one in which he had been working. He interested his boss in the venture, and sold him on the idea of still further expanding his chain organization.

Foreign capital brought in new blood from the surrounding country to help run the business. Powell sought the services of his Bertie County acquaintance, David L. Myers, as a salesman in the mercantile branch of Cockey & Powell.

In less than a year after Cockey & Powell started their business venture young Powell, the resident manager, carried out more ambitious plans by renting a store nearer the railroad and within a block of the postoffice that had just been established here in September.



David Laurence and Nellie Raynor Myers

colored section of town. The new Cockey & Powell store was in a building belonging to Thomas Eley, on the corner of Main and Catherine streets—the same spot where Baker & Baker now operate a store.

Business boomed in the new town, and Powell, distinctly a "modern" in his day when it came to merchandising and trading, planned to keep ahead of it.

From that time until 1895, Cockey & Powell were big time operators in their field. Fletcher Powell was the daddy of several "firsts" during the time he managed the firm, among them being the introduction of a printing press and printed advertising matter as a disseminator of merchandising news.

A Former Postmaster



I. FINLEY SNIPES, member of a Menola family that played a large part in the early history of Hertford County, served as Ahooskie postmaster prior to the appointment of Roberts H. Jernigan, present incumbent.

will reveal.

On May 29, 1890, two months after the first passenger train had run over the completed Norfolk & Carolina Railroad line, the railroad company purchased a tract of land from the Mitchell family and began clearing away the trees preparatory to construction of a depot.

The railroad company did not immediately build its new depot; but the trees were cut down and an open space cleared away for the building, which was to come later and bring with it another chapter in the history of Ahooskie.

CHAPTER V

AHOSSKIE GETS A CHARTER

AHOSSKIE had its railroad, postoffice, large chain department store, saw mill and gin, and a school and Baptist church; but there was no such thing as a corporate town until January 24, 1893, when the General Assembly enacted into law the bill of Representative W. P. Taylor, incorporating the town.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

- Section 1. That the town of Ahooskie, in the county of Hertford, N. C., and the same is hereby incorporated by the name and style of the town of Ahooskie, and shall have the benefit of and be subject to all the provisions of law existing in reference to incorporate towns not inconsistent with this act.

The first three years of the 1890's prepared the way and set the pace for the future physical development of the town. It witnessed the first mass migration of outsiders into town, most of them coming from nearby farms in Hertford and Bertie counties.

Coming to town during this period were other families who have remained through the years to contribute their share to Ahooskie's growth. Among them were: J. R. Garrett, "The Builder", from Bertie; A. E. Garrett, later sheriff of Hertford County, from Tennessee; A. J. (Jack) Parker, railroad agent, real estate developer and salesman, from Speed; Will and Claude Dukes, coachmakers and sloopkeepers, from Union; Richard and Ella Baker, parents of Percy and George Baker (merchants in later years), and Misses Emma, Rosa, Addie, Eunice, Minnie and Nellie; J. H. and J. D. Downs, brothers who were early storekeepers and sawmill operators, from Cofield.

"Uncle" Graham Holloman, colored, was counted among



These are the homes that were on farms, which are today largely cut up into residential and business lots for the Town of Ahooskie.

the population in the town's early days and before it was incorporated. There were other Negro families, one of them Isaac Newsome, whose family still occupies a foremost place in the activities of the race.

About the time Jack Parker began plotting the Mitchell property and before he had sold any of the West Main Street lots, Charlie Trummell, the butcher and market man with the vicious bulldogs, carried on an extensive business in buying and butchering cattle on the block that lies next to the railroad.

"I remember sitting on the steps of Cockey & Powell one evening with a friend, and we counted the population of Ahooskie. Black and white, large and small, there were exactly seventy-two souls."



T. R. BELCH

day as a \$100,000 concern in Newport News. Of his early recollections, Mr. Belch writes:

(Continued on page 6)