

A Paper with a Prestige of a Half Century. A County, Not a Community Paper

The Chatham Record

Subscribers at Every Postoffice and All R. F. D. Routes in Great County of Chatham.

ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 19, 1878.

PITTSBORO, N. C., CHATHAM COUNTY, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1930.

VOLUME 52—NUMBER

MOST SUCCESSFUL REUNION HELD AT THOMPSON SCHOOL

Former Students of J. A. W. Thompson at Oakdale and Siler City Gather From All Quarters for Reunion Thirty-Three Years After Discontinuance of Thompson School.—Siler City Plays Host on Splendid Scale.

WALTER D. SILER PRESIDES—SCORES OF FORMER YOUTHS LAUD OLD SCHOOL

J. A. Campbell, W. T. Whitsett, R. M. Andrews, and Other Men of Commanding Usefulness Among the Number of Speakers. The Occasion Pronounced the Most Joyous Event of a Lifetime.

Siler City during its history so strongly marked by hospitality has never more splendidly demonstrated that characteristic than in its entertainment of the scores of Thompson School men and women who returned Friday for the first reunion since the discontinuance of the school in 1897, nor has any group who have enjoyed the hospitality of the little city ever more deserved it or more thoroughly appreciated it and recompensed their host with greater acclaim of praise and appreciation. The Thompson School boys and girls of forty years ago cherish the memories of the kindness showered upon them by the teachers and citizens of the little village of that day, and came back in the spirit of boys and girls for a real frolic, though many heads are becoming bald and many of them are grandfathers or grandmothers.

The editor of the Record, though not a Thompson student, shared in the pleasures of the occasion and as an indication of the occasion and as an indication of the goodwill, day avows that he has probably never more enjoyed even an occasion in which he was personally concerned, while that brother of his who came from Savannah to mingle again with those whom he knew nearly fifty years ago at Oakdale returns to his Georgia home with memories to gladden his old age. The spirit of the reunion was all embracing, a joy to the participants and an unsurpassed memorial to the devotion, character, and efficiency of Prof. J. A. W. Thompson and the men and women who assisted him in those simpler days in training two thousand youths who were to do so much toward the ushering-in of the day of universal opportunity for educational advantages in North Carolina.

Verily, if J. A. W. Thompson had never taught another soul than J. A. Campbell, W. T. Whitsett, and R. M. Andrews and inspired them, as they confess, to their wonderful contributions to the educational, moral, and spiritual development of the following generations of youth, he would have then made possibly the greatest indirect contribution to the cause of education of any man of his generation in North Carolina.

Thompson was the theme of every tongue—his spirituality, his unselfish devotion to his students, his actual deprivation of himself of the very comforts of life for his boys and girls' sake were cropping up in every talk whatever the assigned subject. The only pity was that the man could not have lived to see that day. No longer would he have had to eke out the living of the later meagre days of his life for himself and equally devoted wife. But, happily, his surviving brother and sister were present to hear the hundred tributes to their distinguished brother. Yet North Carolina can never pay to Prof. and Mrs. Thompson what it owes to them for their care, concern, and downright hard work for the youths of the state in those meagre days of the eighties and nineties. They have gone to their reward above.

The Program
The extent of the program and the content of the several longer speeches bar a full report in detail. We choose rather to try to convey the spirit and significance of the occasion rather than the details. However, some attention must be given the program.
The choice of Walter D. Siler as presiding officer was in itself auspicious. Mr. Siler and dullness do not dwell in the same hall. With L. L. Wren, Mayor Fred Paschal, and Vet Dorsett tendering heart, fet and eloquent greetings and welcome to Siler City, the response of Hon. E. H. Williams, of Smithfield, Va., already accorded recognition as the initiator of the reunion, was attended to the spirit of

the whole day. Also the introductory prayer by Pastor Bradley of the Siler City Methodist church, in whose elegant house of worship the Friday morning session was held, was in accord with the religious sentiments so frequently occurring for the Thompson School men are manifestly, in large majority, men of religion and spirituality, else they could not have so frequently emphasized the devotion and spirituality of their old master.
But those speeches and the prayers were only introductory to more set and purposeful addresses by Dr. W. T. Whitsett, on the history of the school, Dr. J. A. Campbell, on the life and character of Prof. Thompson, and of Rev. E. W. Fox, presiding elder of the Marion district of the Western N. C. M. E. Conference. Whitsett and Campbell knew the school from its humble beginnings at Oakdale, a fine rural community six miles west of Liberty, while they and Mr. Fox were thoroughly capable of an appreciative interpretation of the character, aspirations, and devotion of Prof. Thompson, and eye-witnesses of the self-sacrifice of the man for the cause he held so dear.

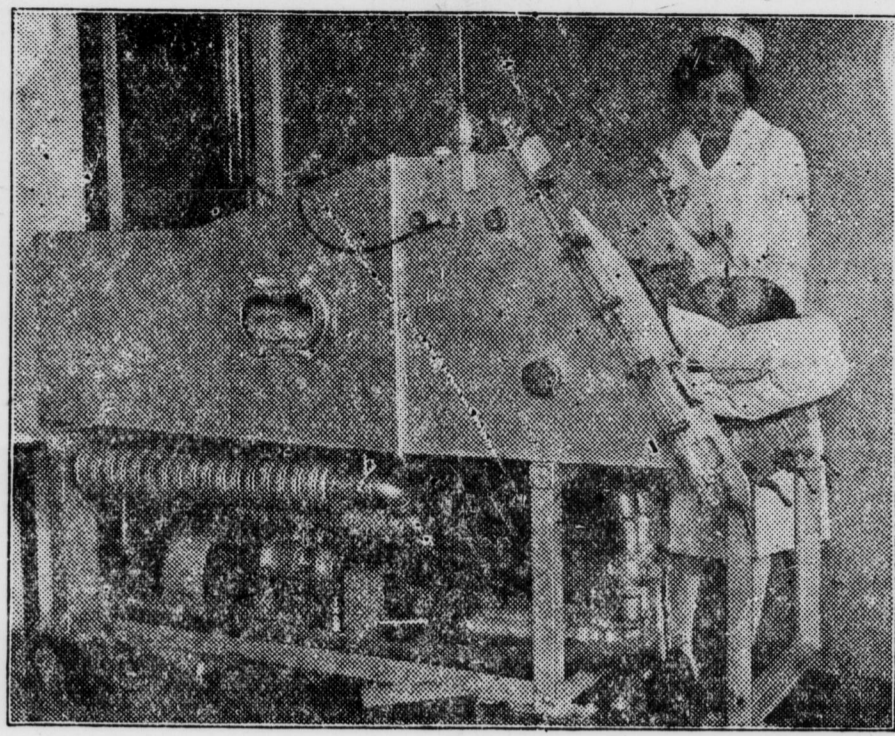
The work of Mr. Thompson at Oakdale began in 1880. With the co-operation of the splendid citizens of the community he gradually secured a building capable of housing a considerable group of boys and girls, and furnished the classrooms with modern desks, a novelty in rural schools of that time. Small advertisements carried in the leading papers of the state heralded the opportunity of board at \$6.50 a month and tuition from \$1 to \$3.00 a month throughout the state, and these advertisements reached their mark in the aspirations of many an ambitious and knowledge hungry youth in North Carolina. It was an advertisement of that very kind in the Messenger of Goldsboro that caught the eye of that brother mentioned above and led to the straining-out of a hundred dollars from the family purse for a year at the Thompson School, or Oakdale Academy, as it was then styled. Hence, this writer, a boy then of nearing fifteen, has been almost as thoroughly acquainted with the Thompson career as has any of those who enjoyed the benefits of his tuition.

Every bed in the Oakdale community had its two occupants, young men and women, awkward and green, wretchedly poor, but greedy for knowledge. The military uniform, and the copper-plate hand written by the students returning to their country home communities, further extended, and rapidly, the fame of the wonderfully low-cost opportunities to be had at Oakdale. No school in the state so rapidly grew in favor, with the result that inducements soon began to be offered to Prof. Thompson to move his school to a more accessible point, and Siler City, which had been born of the coming of the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley railroad through western Chatham, won in the contest. Accordingly, in 1886, a building was erected at Siler City. It stands there now, in its very meagerness and crude architecture signifying the poverty of the people of North Carolina and the paucity of educational opportunity. But it spelled self-sacrifice, high aspirations, and fine community spirit on the part of the pioneers of the thriving and hospitable little city of today. The people of Siler City opened their doors for boarding students as did those of Oakdale, and the fortunes of school, community and churches were welded as were their aspirations. Any student could walk into any home in the village and be as welcome as the sunlight. The hearts of the citizens were devoted to the interests of every pupil; the school was the darling of the community.

And that spirit, that bond between students and citizens, was what inspired the heartiness of the reception and the joy of the returned youth in his maturity. These things were brought out by Dr. Whitsett and others, though Mr. Whitsett closed his student days with Mr. Thompson at Oakdale. An editorial paragraph is devoted to the hospitable spirit of Siler City; hence we proceed to the story of the reunion.

About a score of the Oakdale students were there, including our

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE EIGHT



Photos from Wide World Photos

KEPT ALIVE BY SCIENCE

Miss Frances McGaan, who was stricken with infantile paralysis of her chest, has been kept alive for 43 days by the Drinker Respirator. This machine has a vacuum that expands the lungs and puts the paralyzed muscles into action. Miss McGaan is able at times to be out of the machine for a period of one hour.

The first actual use of the respirator. Miss Frances McGaan is shown being kept alive as Nurse Ethel Bloomquist watches over her at St. Luke's Hospital.

School Observes Armistice Day

The Pittsboro High School observed Armistice Day with an address by Judge Daniel Bell of the Recorder's Court. At eleven o'clock the students assembled in the auditorium and sang appropriate patriotic songs. Principal J. S. Waters, in a few fitting remarks introduced the speaker, who is not only an able lawyer, but also served in the World War.

"The principal message of Armistice Day," said Judge Bell, "should be a message of peace." He felt that the eleventh of November 1918 was significant because of the ceasing of hostilities, rather than because of glory in war.
Judge Bell said that the nations have forgotten the ideals for which the war was fought. America entered the war to end war, and to guarantee to all countries, both large and small, a voice in the government. Yet no sooner had the smoke of battle cleared than the very nations which had been fighting to end war, began talking for peace, but preparing for war.

The ideals of the World War were made practical of the League of Nations, which gave America an opportunity to obtain her ideals. Unfortunately, however, her choice was made selfishly and we remained outside with Mexico and Russia.

The tremendous cost of war is staggering. In money alone, the war cost thirty-eight billion dollars, six times the money in circulation in the world, to say nothing of the toll of human life and suffering. Even today we are feeling the effects of the war in every phrase of life. Thousands are unable to fit into our social and economical life, directly or indirectly, because of the effects of the war.

Judge Bell appealed to the citizens of tomorrow to cooperate in an effort to outlaw war. On Armistice Day, deeds of heroism are not so important as a message of peace," stated the Judge.



W. T. WHITSETT, Ph. D., One of the Most Scholarly Students of Thompson School and a Speaker at the Reunion of Thompson Students at Siler City Last Week.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

At St. Bartholomew's Church, on Thanksgiving Day, 27th inst, at ten o'clock. The public generally invited to attend. Five loaves and two fishes once fed five thousand people. Christ blessing and Thanksgiving and liberality a very little will do a great deal of good. The offering will be for the Thompson Orphanage.

On the last Sunday in November (30th) also, a special service at eleven o'clock.

This Should Help Sell Our Opportunities

Raleigh, Nov. 19, The Division of Commerce and Industry of the State Department of Conservation and Development announced this week the creation of a State wide clearing house bureau for the purpose of fostering the industrial development of the State. The bureau will seek to bring the holders of natural resources worthy of development and those looking for such resources together. It will also act as an impartial intermediary in bringing those together who are looking for industrial plants of various sorts and those who have such plants for sale or location. "This Department has been acting in this capacity for several years, but it hopes to put this phase of its work on a little more systematic basis, stated officials of the Commerce and Industry Division of this Department this week.

Individuals and corporations who have natural resources to be developed are invited to send a description of them to the Department. These properties will be brought to the attention of those who may be interested in the development of natural resources. "Quite a good many inquiries come directly to the Department and we expect to develop others," it was said.

Likewise, those who have idle machinery or plants which they would like to sell or move, and those communities which desire new plants and which have special inducement to offer prospective manufacturing plants are invited to communicate with the Department of Conservation and Development in this city. "With such information in our files, we believe that we can be of real service to the State," added officials.

Asks For Help For Chinese Children

On account of civil war and famine and due to no fault of theirs millions of innocent children in China are on the verge of starvation and will starve if some relief is not speedily sent them. It is true that conditions are hard with us and we have many urgent appeals for help; but that does not lessen the suffering and distress of these innocent children who are soon to face a cold winter without food and clothing; and it does not lessen our responsibility to them because they are in distant China. No cause can be more worthy than that of saving the life of starving children and thereby gain access to their souls. The North Carolina Division of China Child Welfare, Inc. with Gen. Albert L. Cox as State Chairman and Mr. Graham H. Andrews as State Treasurer is undertaking to raise \$40,000 for this worthy cause and have asked the people of Chatham County to contribute to the extent of at least \$250.00. We hope that our churches, our civic and fraternal organizations and all our people will respond to this urgent demand and worthy cause and respond as liberally as they feel able.

Contributions can be turned over to either your pastor or Sunday School Superintendent or one of the following township Chairmen: J. B. Ingle, June Wrenn, I. H. Dunlap, T. B. Beal, C. M. Pattishall, W. H. Ferguson, G. E. Moore, W. W. Stedman, J. D. McIver, Robert Seymour, Henry Durham, J. A. Shadrach, or W. L. Farrell, County Treasurer.

Let me appeal to you to contribute and as much as you can and as soon as you can. We want to raise this amount and I am confident that we can and will and I hope by December 1st.
Victor R. Johnson, County Chairman.

WELL-KNOWN MINISTER DIES

Rev. E. M. Snipes, Long Active in North Carolina Conference, Dies at Durham

Greensboro News, Nov. 18.—Rev. E. M. Snipes, 62 years of age died yesterday morning at Watts hospital, Durham. He has been in ill health a year. For three decades he was in the active ministry as a member of the North Carolina conference, Methodist Episcopal church, south, but because of the state of his health he was forced to give up his work in November, 1929. At that time he was pastor of the Methodist church at Mount Olive, on the Goldsboro district. Last winter he spent considerable time in Florida in an effort to regain his health.

Funeral services will be conducted at 3 o'clock this afternoon at Durham, interment following in Maplewood cemetery there.

Mr. Snipes was recognized for many years in the North Carolina conference. He had the remarkable record of remaining the full quadrennium on each charge which he served. His charges included the presiding eldership of the Washington district and pastorates at Dunn, Burlington, Roxboro, Oxford, and Mount Olive. He had many staunch friends in North Carolina.

Mrs. J. W. Mann, of 129 South Mendenhall street, is a niece of Mr. Snipes. He was the youngest son of the late Alvis and Mary Snipes. He married Miss Daisy Randall, a sister of Mrs. Y. E. Smith, of Durham, and a granddaughter of the late Dr. Sanford, who was a prominent minister of the North Carolina conference. He leaves his wife; a sister, Mrs. W. F. Womble, of Winston-Salem, and a brother, W. S. Snipes, of Newton. Mr. Snipes was born in Chatham county, a few miles from Chapel Hill.

U. D. C. Meeting

The Winnie Davis Chapter of the U. D. C. held their regular monthly meeting Friday, Nov. 14th, with Mrs. W. B. Chapin and Mrs. Della Fike joint hostesses.

Dixie was sung, followed by the ritual. The minutes were read, and the following corrections made—the name of Miss Minnie Bell was inserted as the member who received two prizes for essays, also the name of Mrs. W. L. Farrell was included on refreshment committee.

The president brought the attention of the chapter to the membership drive, there being several prospective members from the C. of C. Chapter.

Mrs. Mann, Mrs. Tatum, and Miss Pauline Taylor were appointed to have charge of Veteran's Christmas boxes. Committee was asked to mail boxes by the 19th of December.

The Chapter was asked to meet in the club room, Friday at three o'clock, prior to bazaar on Saturday, to price articles and make final arrangements. The C. of C. Chapter also will have booth.

Mrs. Victor Johnson and Mrs. Gantner were asked to serve on Mrs. Lantier's committee. Motion was made and carried that each member pay fifty cents instead of serving dinner.

By rising love and sympathy was expressed for Mrs. J. L. Griffin in her bereavement; the secretary was asked to write a note of sympathy to her.

Mrs. Victor Johnson, our district director, read an invitation to the chapter to the unveiling of the memorial to Orren Randolph Smith, at Fletcher, N. C. Sunday P. M., Nov. 16th.

Mrs. Johnson said that all chapter presidents had been asked to keep monthly memorandums of everything of interest, which will prove helpful in making yearly report.

Motion was made and carried to have copies of the Confederate songs made.

Excerpts from Mrs. Anderson's book "Women of the Confederacy" were read by Mesdames Hunt, Gregory, and Johnson.

Mrs. Gregory told of many interesting trips to historic points while on a recent visit to Louisiana.

The hostesses served tea and wafers.
Mrs. J. M. Gregory, Pres.
Mrs. D. B. Nooe, Sec.

JUNIOR COUNCIL HERE FLOURISHING

The Stonewall Jackson Council of the Junior Order, organized here by Rev. W. T. Hurst, district deputy, Oct. 31, has started out under auspicious circumstances. There were about forty charter members, and at a meeting held last Friday night, at which the initiation team of the Carrboro Council was present, the new members of the order were initiated.

There were about 150 Juniors present from the various councils for the initiation. The new order has its home in the Woman's Club room above Pilkington's Drug store. The next meeting will be held on the evening of December 5th. The regular meeting time would be Friday evening before the first and third Sundays.

Mr. J. L. Griffin Buried Thurs.

Former Clerk of Court, Senator, Banker, and Churchman Laid to Rest in Cemetery at Siler City—Distinguished Citizens of State Attend Obsequies.

The body of Mr. James L. Griffin, whose death was recorded in last week's Chatham Record, was buried in the beautiful cemetery at Siler City Thursday afternoon, November 14. Funeral services were conducted at the home in Pittsboro, after which the cortege proceeded to the home of Mrs. Griffin for the burial, which was under Masonic auspices.

In addition to hundreds of friends and relatives from the immediate section, there came distinguished friends from several points in the state. From Raleigh came Hon. Walter D. Siler, Henry M. London, Attorney-General Brummitt, Commissioner of Agriculture Graham, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. U. Harris, Supt. Geo. E. Lineberry of the institution for the blind; from East Carolina Teachers' College, Greenville, of which Mr. Griffin was trustee, President R. H. Wright and Prof. L. R. Meadows; from Harrellsville, Rev. R. B. Lineberry, From Wake Forest, Dean D. B. Bryan, a brother-in-law of Mr. Griffin's from Sanford Mr. Robbards and others.

The funeral service was conducted by the deceased's pastor, Rev. Mr. Caudill.

At the cemetery in Siler City many of Mr. Griffin's friends from that town and other communities were present to pay their last respects to their distinguished and most useful countyman.

Supt. Reid S. Thompson impressively read the Masonic ritual; while the assembled brethren of the craft performed the suggestive and beautiful rites of the order.

The floral offerings were numerous and very beautiful.

While it was a sad occasion, really the period for grief had passed weeks before when it became clear that recovery was impossible and that every day the devoted sufferer lived was one of almost unceasing pain, and that death would be a relief. Indeed, he himself expressed a readiness to go as soon as the Lord would take him.

C. C. POE CHOSEN TAX-COLLECTOR

County Commissioners, in Special Session, Establish Office of Tax Collector and Appoints Retiring Register of Deeds to Position at Salary of \$2,000, to be Deducted from Sheriff's Salary.

At a special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners held in their office at Pittsboro, on November 15th, a resolution was duly adopted creating the office of Tax Collector for Chatham County. This placed Chatham County along with the many other counties of the State in taking a forward step toward working out a more efficient system of County Government.

Mr. Charles C. Poe, out-going Register of Deeds, was duly appointed Tax Collector for the next two years, at a salary of \$2,000.00 which salary is to be deducted from the salary of the Sheriff. Therefore this office is not an additional expense to the county since the sheriff's salary is already appropriated. The tax collector will be required to give a bond with some reliable surety company doing business in the State of North Carolina, for the faithful performance of his duties as such official.

Mr. Poe is thoroughly acquainted with the matter of taxes in Chatham County by reason of his duties as Register of Deeds and Ex-Officio Tax Supervisor, for the past eight years. Considering the importance of a tax collector the county commissioners did not deem it wise to appoint to this place any one at this time who had not had experience in the matter of county taxation.

It is hoped that the people of the county will give Mr. Poe their hearty support and help this office to be a great success as was intended.

"FARM PHILOSOPHY"

The good farmer is the one who never learns all he wants to know about farming. ***

Farm machines are the "Iron Men" whose labor costs less than that of human machines. ***

Another fine thing about 4—H club training is that there are forty years in which to put the training into practice.