

How Chatham Once Led in Iron Products

Gulf Scene of Manufacture of Cannon and Balls for Revolutionary Soldiers—Sketch of Notable Wilcox Family—Oil Made in County Before Discovery in Pennsylvania.

The following article by Br. Bion H. Butler, which appeared in Sunday's News and Observer is of so much interest to the people of the lower section of Chatham, if not to all, that we are giving it space in the Record. Some of the facts will doubtless surprise people right in the community concerned. Here goes:

During the memory of those now living, Pittsburgh has been the great center of the iron and steel industry of the whole world. Therefore some folks may be surprised to know that on the Deep river, in North Carolina, John Willcox, a former Pennsylvanian, was making iron long before Pittsburgh dreamed of the big furnaces now there, and when Pittsburgh has a border possession of Virginia. In 1772 Fort Pitt now Pittsburgh, was evacuated by the British, but the Virginia militia proceeded to occupy the place, and Virginia courts were held there until in 1781 when the territory was given in the colony of Pennsylvania.

And in 1776 John Willcox located on Deep river, at the Gulf in Chatham county and with his brother-in-law, William England, erected a blast furnace, which in November, 1776, a committee from the Provincial Congress of North Carolina had inspected and recommended the Congress to supply Willcox with two hundred pounds and to pay such other sums as might be necessary to carry on the business of casting cannon and ball with the utmost dispatch. It transpires that Willcox disposed of his furnace to the government to help in carrying on the war of revolution, but that mismanagement followed, and that the plant was ultimately offered for sale by the commissioners of the General Assembly. Willcox seems to have had the short end of the stick from the Colonial government, as fugitive references to the subject indicated that he had a hard time getting the money he was to have in any of his transactions.

The location of the old furnace is not entirely clear, but John Willcox, clerk of the court of Moore county, and a descendant from the old iron master, says he believes the old ruins at the end of the Deep River bridge at Gulf, mark the site of the furnace. Olmstead, in his report on the geology of North Carolina published in 1824, recalls that about fifty years previously John Willcox, of the old iron works at the Gulf took pains to introduce the coal of the neighborhood, which was freely used.

Willcox was one of the Regulators, who were among the first of the colonials to resist the British authority, and whose battle of Alamance

in the adjoining county, was practically the first blood shed in the revolution. In 1771 he was a member of the Colonial Legislature of North Carolina, representing Chatham county. He was among the outlawed members of the Regulators, John Husbands and Rebecca Willcox administered his estate in Chatham county in 1794. John and Thomas Willcox, sons of John Willcox, the iron maker of Chatham county, moved to Georgia, and the county of Willcox was named for them. It has been said that the Willcox family is so numerous there that no man can be elected to office in the half dozen counties of the vicinity without the backing or approval of the Willcox vote.

The Willcox family was an important one on Deep river, the ancestral home lying near the site of Euphronia church of later day, in the section where Dr. McIver, of the Greensboro College for Women was raised. The neighborhood was prosperous and for that day fairly well steered. Curiously enough at the present time the Euphronia neighborhood is practically an abandoned territory, and the steelers are far apart. The large farms of a century ago are growing up to forests, the industries are memories, and their sites hard to find. Two of the Willcox brothers live on large farms, one in Chatham county near Carabonton, the other in Moore at the old Horse-shoe farm, famous at the home of Philip Aston, and the site of the Fanning battle in revolutionary days, and later as the home of Benjamin Williams, twice Governor of North Carolina, once head of the University, member of Congress and otherwise in public life.

The Willcox family has a remarkable history. Thomas Willcox arrived in 1725, and he and Thomas Brown in Pennsylvania from England about built a paper mill near Philadelphia, and there later on they made paper for Benjamin Franklin's printing office and newspaper in Philadelphia. They made such good paper in due season they were called on to supply the paper for Colonial money, and for other public uses. That paper mill gained such a reputation for good material that a hundred years later it was making bank note paper for the United States and for many distant countries, and the Willcox mill made the paper for the bank notes and government bond issues that carried on the Civil War in the sixties.

A hundred years ago that growing firm in Wilmington, Delaware the DuPonts, were buying Willcox bond papers, and even as far away as Greece orders came for the famous product. Then about the war time days the American Bank Note Company was formed, and the Willcox name was merged into the bigger concern, but the character of its product has continued to carry the greatest weight, and it is one of the outstanding manufacturing institutions of the globe. American Bank-note paper has held the Willcox name for excellence maintaining the reputation gained by a century and a quarter of honest production before the merger was undertaken.

Along with the Willcoxes who moved to North Carolina another brood continued farther south, and in the course of time Ann Willcox married James White. Dr. James White moved to Fayetteville, North Carolina, where other relatives had settled, and later to Tennessee, and later to Louisiana, where he became judge of western Louisiana.

A son became governor of the State and was three terms in Congress. His son, Edward D. White, rose to the Supreme Court of the United States, where he became chief

justice, and all who can remember his career know that he was among the best. The Whites, in the various states in which they settled, became as prominent as the Willcoxes in their spheres, and both of them reached distinction in all of the professions. In the law, in the army, in medicine and in religious circles, the names are widely known. One branch of the family espoused the Protestants and Quakers in their Catholic faith, the other numbered lists. Another Ann Willcox married John Cassin, who became commander in the navy, whose son, Stephen Cassin, commanded the Ticonderoga in McDonough's victory on Lake Champlain, and whose grandsons became conspicuous as commanding officers in the armies of the country from Colonial days to the present, and the Catholic branch was identified on prominent scale with the Catholic institutions about Baltimore, Philadelphia, Emmitsburg and in that section of the country.

The efforts of the Willcox and England interests to develop the iron industry of the Deep river valley is not the only ambitious movement that has had its fling in that section. One of the nicest pieces of masonry in North Carolina is the iron furnace on the Deep river opposite from the Carolina Coal Company's mines at Coal Glen. This furnace was made of cut stone, and its construction was as accurate a bit of stone masonry as can be found in the State. This furnace was of much later origin than the Willcox furnace, dating about the period when slack watering the river was attracting attention, and when the railroad was extended into the valley to carry out the coal and otherwise develop what was a highly promising region.

At the Coal Glen mines is an old furnace site, with the sag around it showing its character, and a chilled piece of pig tells the story of a ruined furnace or abandoned one. The metal had been allowed to cool in the furnace and it is there on the site to this day. Nobody seems to know the history of that old furnace, but it is pretty certain that it was in some way associated with the early distillation of illuminating oil from the shales and iron carbonate that are found at the mines, for before the petroleum industry had been established in this country through the discovery of crude oil in Pennsylvania 70 years ago there on Deep river hills in rude way oil was produced from the shales.

Reference to this is made by Captain Wilkes, sent out in 1856 by the government to make a study of the Cape Fear country with reference to building somewhere in the valley a machine shop to work with arsenal at Fayetteville. Captain Wilkes reported in the most favorable note, telling of iron ores of quantity up and down the river, of the coal, the oil shales, the timber, climate, healthfulness and had not war come over the nation it is possible Fort Bragg would have been antedated by three-quarters of a century by a government establishment of the biggest magnitude.

Fall and Rise of Industry. War called on the Deep river mines for coal, which was a powerful asset in the blockade running from Wilmington, and iron was supplied by the Deep river section. But the big ore deposits of the lake country of Minnesota and Michigan took the iron farther northward, and Pennsylvania stepped into the oil industry, and the arsenal at Fayetteville was destroyed when Sherman's troops came

and never rebuilt. And that story ended. But meanwhile a series of dams and locks had been constructed, and boats from down about Moncure could travel up to the neighborhood of Glendon. Water power developed, and dreams of manufacturing in many lines were indulged. But with the decay of the coal and iron homes the dams were neglected, they were washed out, the power was lost, and the hopes and prospects went glimmering.

Later a new interest in industry sprung up, and today the upper section of the Deep river and the Haw, the sister tributary of the Cape Fear, are alive with factories and expanding industries. The railroad, the old Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley, traverses a thrifty succession of growing towns, and the Norfolk Southern, built more recently, serves a group of progressive villages as well. Coal is still produced and on a larger scale. Iron has dropped out. Shale oil and by-products may some day come back again. But textile production is the chief industry of the region, with other manufactures on the side. Another side industry is raising poultry and other things to supply the active demand created by the continually growing winter resorts of the lower part of Moore county, which take large quantities of various products throughout the winter. Good roads have opened this old country to travel, and many interested folks drive over the historic sections of the valleys, interested in the Revolutionary history, the industrial history and the visions and romances that have lapsed.

PROSPERITY IS UP FOR ELECTION

PROSPERITY is up for election, running to overthrow DEPRESSION.

It's for the people to decide which will be chosen. Every man and every woman is privileged to ballot—every day.

DEPRESSION has no rightful place with a hundred and twenty million people, exchanging goods and services—capable—accustomed and willing to work—more highly skilled than other peoples—

leaders in efficiency and progressiveness—backed by the vast natural resources of the United States. When we make it possible for the man who works to have a job we make it possible for him to buy food for his family and so help all business, including that of the farmer.

The rest of the world is of small importance compared with that free market of 120,000,000 people—homogeneous of like tastes, habits and aspirations—living under the same laws—free of trade barriers. Foreign trade may be troubled by tariffs and revolutions, but at their peak our exports represented only five and a half billions of dollars of gross business in a year out of a total American income of ninety billions.

Stagnation of circulation is what's the matter with agriculture and with Business. Everyone can help to get that circulation moving again.

Government can't make Prosperity—alone. Bankers and other business leaders can't make Prosperity—alone. It's the people, united in opinion and purpose and courage, who determine Prosperity. They can elect it—none other.

Ballots that will be validly counted for PROSPERITY are of many kinds. Some one of them every man and woman can cast. For example:

Help a deserving man or a woman to get a little paying work, or better, a regular job.

Spend wisely and not too timidly, and anticipate scheduled expenditures so far as is practicable.

Turn the deaf ear to false, mischievous rumors; and don't repeat them, if you do hear them.

Be willing to pay a fair price.

Don't take advantage of the other man's necessity. Recognize that he has a good claim to a fair profit as you.

When a vampire that fattens on the miseries of others shows up, help to make him unpopular.

Discourage calamity howlers. Keep business moving even'y, and remember that, to the average man, his job is his particular business. When possible, reassure him against his fear of losing it.

Save, but save wisely, not in fright. Invest for the profit that sound enterprise pays and for the added profit that will come after the hysteria of pessimism has passed.

Nobody Likes the Door-to-Door Peddler

Housewives complain vigorously against him. He bothers her at all hours of the day. He is insistent and will not take "no" for an answer. He often sells on a "charity" appeal. He sometimes sells inferior merchandise.

Business men dislike him. He shows no respect for "No Peddling" notices. He disrupts the efficiency of the office with his tactics. He seldom has anything for sale the business man is interested in.

Merchants are opposed to him. He seldom pays taxes for the privilege of doing business he does in competition to them. He sometimes misrepresents his goods and thus undermines public confidence in merchandising.

Authorities regard him with suspicion. Past experience with the peddling fraternity has taught them to be wary of him.

This newspaper condemns him. Whether selling Christmas Cards as his habit at this time of the year or magazines as is his wont during warmer weather, he does the town no good. Whatever he offers for sale may be purchased from an established dealer, probably to the better advantage of the purchaser and certainly to the better advantage of the community.

If times are as bad as some people make them out we're all starving to death.

SHIFT YOUR DIGESTION INTO "HIGH"

By E. V. McCollum, Ph.D., Sc.D.

Author of "The Newer Knowledge of Nutrition," "Food, Nutrition and Health," etc., Professor of Bio-Chemistry, School of Hygiene and Public Health, Johns Hopkins University.

NATURE is an engineer, striving continuously and furiously to regulate the body's supply and elimination of food. The giant molecules of proteins, starches and fats, entering two of Nature's special laboratories, the stomach and small intestine, are there broken up into smaller fragments which can be absorbed into the blood and recombined to become part of our muscles, blood or organs.

But Nature, as the body's engineer, has another function equally important. It must protect the blood, muscles and organs from food fragments which are useless, unwholesome and more or less injurious. For beneficent Nature is not the only force with the power to break up the giant molecules of foods into smaller, usable fragments. Bacteria have the same power. But, like the work of produced from the big blocks by bacteria are of the wrong kinds, and have no business in the blood stream.

How may we co-operate with Nature? First by eating clean foods and keeping the mouth clean. Then what enters the stomach will not be seceded with bacteria which decompose foodstuffs into things which are unwholesome. Next, we may exercise care in the keeping and handling of foods. Everyone knows that an inefficient refrigerator, careless handling, or staleness from any cause, will lead to the bacterial decomposition of foods. The resulting "indigestion," caused by the fermentation of such unwholesome foods in the intestine or stomach is, unfortunately, still more familiar.

The Seat of Digestion

The person in normal health who eats clean and wholesome foods has a clean mouth, stomach and, usually, also a clean intestine in its upper half. But the large intestine is a different matter. That organ is likely to be found more and more the seat of rotting and fermentative processes which produce noxious and unwholesome products. In the large intestine or colon of most people large amounts of toxic products are constantly being formed. These are absorbed into the portal blood-vessel system and pass directly into the liver. The pollution of the blood with these somewhat poisonous products, and the ensuing detrimental effects on the liver, kidneys and body as a whole, have been stressed by many physicians.

Bad breath—that bugbear of the refined—is in many persons the result of impaired liver function, due to liver injury resulting from prolonged bathing of liver cells with a blood stream overloaded with putrefactive products. Up to a certain point the liver cells are able to destroy these. After this point is reached, the blood becomes saturated with them, and they are in part eliminated by the lungs. The result is bad breath.

We are constantly feeding into the blood another class of useless food fragments. Although not poisonous like the first, they are foreign matter and circulate as mere trash in the blood and lymph. They are created in the following manner:

When bread, rolls or other starchy foods, are browned, as is the crust in baking, some of the surface molecules of starch are violently decomposed by the high tempera-

ture. They are mangled or tattered. When such starchy foods are eaten and digested, there will be formed, principally, sugar molecules. But some of these sugar molecules may have attached to them the tags of those others which were mutilated by the high temperature of cooking.



E. V. McCollum

Waste Molecules

Now these mutilated molecules cannot be burned in the muscles as can normal sugar molecules. Such fragments are, therefore, not utilized for their energy or food value, but are merely excreted by the kidneys. Thus, in making toast, a relatively large number of starch molecules are so shattered or tattered as to become useless and foreign fragments circulating in the blood. In the frying of fats also, some of the fat and protein molecules are injured, and it is for this reason that fried foods are not so wholesome as foods cooked in other ways. Indeed, it is questionable whether we should ever scorch the surface of our foods to any great extent.

These illustrations are given to help visualize the most important ways in which polluting substances may enter the blood. It is apparent that merely choosing clean and wholesome foods is not enough. We must assist Nature still further if we are to keep the alimentary tract clean and efficient. For Nature unaided has not been

An Effective Aid

Getting the proper amount of indigestible cellulose is one of the most effective means of helping the intestine with its engineering operations. Of course, many other agencies have been devised to effect the same end. One, for instance, is the replacement of the putrefactive bacteria in the colon with certain milk souring bacteria. These tend to form clean products from food residues and discourage the growth of those injurious microorganisms which normally abound in the colon.

Still another method, much used nowadays, is that of taking mineral oil. This is bland and non-irritating and is not absorbed into the blood. Therefore, it usually is considered harmless. But there are effects from its use which are not generally appreciated. The paraffin oil used is insoluble in water. It covers the food particles, waterproofing them, and preventing contact with the digestive juices. Digestion is thus hampered and delayed. And this delay in digestion is, as you shall see, a serious matter.

When paraffin oil is taken to promote elimination, the food is more effectively oiled than by ordinary fats, and stomach digestion is both delayed and decreased. Thus food entering the intestine is not prepared for the next steps in the digestive process.

It will then be readily understood that mixing an indigestible oil with the food causes digestion to be delayed and to take place farther down the intestine than if no oil were taken. Digestion thus goes on in a region where, in debilitated intestines, conditions are unhygienic and where more abnormal decomposition products are formed than is the case when digestion occurs higher in the tract. The useful and necessary products of such digestion then enter the blood contaminated with useless ones of bacterial origin. This is the significance of the delay in digestion caused by mineral oils.

The Role of Cellulose

That this is recognized is shown by the fact that some recommend that the oil be taken between meals. But some of the promoters of paraffin oil for medicinal purposes insist that it is best taken mixed with the food during the meal. This method of promoting intestinal hygiene by the use of mineral oil is based, I am convinced, upon an unsound principle. Intestinal regulation is best promoted by the use of a complete and wholesome diet containing bland and water-holding vegetable cellulose, which does not digest, and therefore gives the intestine the right amount of bulky material, of a consistency favorable to transportation, upon which to function mechanically.

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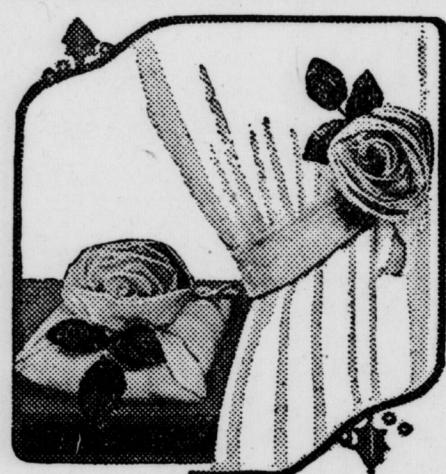
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For the Guest Room



They are just too lovely for words, referring to the rose-decorated boudoir sets made all of organdie. For an inexpensive Christmas gift there's nothing prettier. The wide organdie bands are to hold dainty curtains in place. The case which is a square of organdie folded to the center where it is caught with a rose, contains wisps of cotton with which the guest may "powder her nose."

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