

James C. Linney Is Learned Man

Considered One of Best Educated Men in This Section of State

That Vance McWhinnis, of former, brought forward by the worthy Ferguson correspondent as perhaps the best educated man in western North Carolina, merits all the praise anyone will bestow, most persons will hasten to agree. But, happily, there are enough well educated persons in the mountain counties—relative to speaking, at least—to make it difficult to select the superlative. Perhaps James Claiborne Linney, postmaster at Hixsonville, would take place among their ranks. And, oddly enough, Mr. Linney, always chary of his praises, is among those who first recognized the intellectual powers of Mr. McWhinnis.

"Jim" Linney, as he is known, is the eldest son of the late Wells Linney and Sue Smith Linney, a nephew of R. Z. Linney, and a grandson of Joseph Baxter. When he was 15 he had not attended school, having been kept at work on the farm. Though his mother had made an effort to teach him at night, he has said that he could not work his way through long division and that he hardly knew a verb from a noun. With a good teacher and the continued help of his mother, who was an excellent instructor in English, he equaled the most advanced students in the school before the end of the year. So phenomenal was the rapidity with which he learned, probably because his mind had reached the maturity of the teens, that within the length of time he might have been expected to have finished the third or fourth grade, he was ready for college, and was also a good school teacher.

Col. W. H. H. Cowles, of Wilkesboro, obtained for Jim Linney an appointment at West Point; but because his uncle, Rom Linney, was so unalterably opposed to Jim's becoming a cadet, he finally relinquished the appointment, and it was given to another Alexander youth.

Jim Linney sent himself to Old Trinity College, while it was still located at the little village of Trinity, in Randolph county. He was a school mate there of Dr. Gilbert T. Rowe, and of many other Tarheel celebrities, whom he equaled in scholarship, though he has been behind them in fame. He was particularly distinguished in English and mathematics; earned from his room mate the derisively-intended epithet "as Logical as Bishop Kilroy"; and completed his course at Trinity in 1843. Mr. Linney later attended the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, at Louisville, Kentucky. Though an alumnus of two colleges, he, like Mr. McWhinnis, does not have the indeterminate string of degrees, often so meaningless.

Mr. Linney taught school for around a quarter of a century, having been principal of numerous smaller city schools in North Carolina, Virginia and Georgia. He also taught in Tennessee and Arkansas. In 1903, soon after his first marriage, he was principal of the old Moravian Falls Academy, in Wilkes. At a much later date, he held the chair of mathematics at a boarding school at Chadwick Station. He practiced law a few years, mainly in Georgia; and about 1904 he edited

the "Aspect" in Statesville. More recently, he has put into practice, in his native Alexander, some of his ideas of scientific farming, and has been very successful.

Though he has occupied several important positions, Jim Linney is said to have always appeared far greater than his work. Though diffident and even somewhat "droll," in the provincial sense, he has struck those who came to know him as having a brain that was almost miraculous and an encyclopedic fund of learning. Even his enemies have pointed him out as perhaps the best teacher they have known, and, though he was somewhat irascible in the school room, most of his students are very fond of him to this day. For peculiar feats of the intellect, such as teaching a class of trigonometry as relaxation from the law, or teaching calculus, astronomy, or some other advanced subject he had never studied, he always had a fondness. Albert amusingly known to slip up in the spelling of "resurrection" and "respector," it has been said of Jim Linney: "There are no lengths, or breadths, or heights of intellectual attainments to which that man could not have gone."

Mr. Linney has essayed writing in a more aloof sense, as well as in the capacity of editor and reporter; and some authorities have declared, "Say what you will of Rom Linney, of Frank Linney, or of any of the rest, the finest orator the Linney family ever produced was the one called Jim." His "Aycock speech" was his most famous. With the procrastination of which he was frequently guilty, he did not prepare his speech until he was on the stage; turning it over in his mind while R. N. Hackett introduced Aycock and while Aycock spoke. When Aycock sat down, he arose and delivered a spontaneous address, during the first half of which he was "out of his head" with sheer fright. Such an oration had not before been witnessed at Taylorsville. Col. Flowers (father of Dr. R. L. Flowers of Duke University) came forward "with tears streaming down his face." "Dick" Hackett declared that it was the greatest speech he ever heard. But young Linney fled from the building and was running out of town when Aycock overtook him in a carriage. In expressing his gratitude, the "Educational Governor," too, said, "It was the best speech I ever heard."

Until recent years Jim Linney has always affiliated with the Democratic party, and has been a consistent supporter of "Farmer Bob" Doughton. He was a delegate to the convention that nominated Buxton for Congress and received a handsome vote for elector at large, though the convention, from Cleveland to Forsyth, cried out at the paradox of a Linney in the Democratic ranks. Both in McDowell and in Iredell Jim Linney edited the Democratic organ of the county, and espoused the cause of Mr. Newland against the late E. Spencer Macaburn, and of Dick Hackett against Mr. Blackburn. Mr. Hackett, according to Homer Smith of Blountville, Tenn., and others, continued to say that Linney's Aycock speech was the finest he ever heard, and that "Jim Linney is the best orator in the State."

Mr. Linney has been twice married. Oddly enough, both consorts were teachers. His first wife was Mrs. Laura Martin McCulloch, of the Dellaplane community, educated at the "Old Field" schools and at the private school of Major J. H. Foote and his daughter, Mrs. Lily Foote LeGrande, and a teacher of piano and calisthenics (a term of the eighties and nineties for physical education) in the Cove Creek Academy, in Watauga; in the Cedar Run Academy, at Vaskie; and in the Booneville Academy. Later he married Miss Belle Collins, of Georgia, an alumnae of the University of Georgia and a renowned beauty.

Though, like many gifted persons, James Claiborne Linney has never made what the world calls a signal success and is comparatively obscure, he belongs among the esoteric ranks of highland scholars.

Aged Couple Die On the Same Day

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Johnson, 81 and 76, Buried At Antioch Church

DELLAPLANE NEWS

ROARING RIVER, Route 2, May 9.—A crowd estimated at around 500 filled the church, the grounds, and every available space at the funeral of Uncle Tom and Aunt Edna Johnson, as they were known, at Antioch Monday afternoon. Revs. J. W. Moore, Levi McCann, N. T. Jarvis, and J. B. Ray were in charge. The speakers pointed out that Uncle Tom and Aunt Edna were unique in being persons about whom no one had ever been heard to utter an adverse comment. They had never compromised with evil, even in their close friends and relatives; but their rectitude was so seasoned with kindness and sympathetic understanding that everyone who had ever known them was their friend. Like Philemon and Baucis, Uncle Tom and Aunt Edna died the same day; they lived fifty years together and "in death they were not divided." Singularly appropriate in their case was the scripture quoted by Mr. Moore, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

Mrs. Johnson was 76 years of age, while Mr. Johnson was 81 years of age. They died within a few hours of each other.

The pastor, Rev. J. W. Moore, of Gilreath, preached at Antioch Saturday and Sunday, using as a text for his good sermon Sunday, Revelations, XX, 6; "Blessed and hold is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power." He said he used in his talk on Saturday, I Corinthians, XI, 4; "But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God."

The condition of Mrs. N. T. Jarvis remains about the same. C. B. and Susanna Mathis, children of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mathis, of the Plum Ridge neighborhood, spent Friday night and part of Saturday in the home of Mr. J. L. Mastin.

Miss Myrtle Church, of Traphill, attended church at Antioch Sunday. She was visiting Misses Betty Call and Martha Ann Foster and attending the Wilkesboro commencement.

Mr. and Mrs. Resen Johnson, of Ronda, were among those here Monday for the funeral of their aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Johnson.

Miss Betty Call attended the commencement at Traphill last week and visited Miss Myrtle Church, one of the graduates.

Mrs. D. S. Lane, of North Wilkesboro, visited her sister, Mrs. N. T. Jarvis, Thursday of last week.

Mr. Charles Johnson, of Wilkesboro, Route 2, was in this section on business last Thursday afternoon.

Mrs. Frank Johnson and the new baby, born week before last, are getting along nicely. Mrs. Johnson is the former Miss Lula Cochren.

It has been said that a distinguishing characteristic of ex-patriate Wilkes people was that, whether or not they spoke in complimentary terms of their native health, they all with one accord longed constantly to return to the "State of Wilkes," and considered it a goal that was a combination of paradise, elysium, and Valhalla. Some who have staid at home are as much attached to the county, as the great length of time some in Antioch township have lived in the same house or community bears witness. Living in a house fifty years is considered a matter worth remark, but Mr. L. M. Jarvis has probably lived in the house in which he was born for nearly sixty years. Misses Ida and Lou Parks, in their seventies, had lived in the same house all their lives until the family "mansion" burned two years ago, and they now live in a cottage built to the same chimneys. There are

many other instances, including Mrs. Laura Martin Linney who has lived at the Wilkesboro fifty years, having moved there as a girl in the teens with her mother and step-father in 1833. The ancestors of Mrs. Linney have lived in this neighborhood 160 years, and the immediate line of descent has occupied only three different houses in that time.

Oak Forest church has had but four clerks in its seventy-five years and three of them were of the same family. "Uncle Tommy" Foster, as he was called, who helped to constitute the church, was clerk from its establishment until his death, about a quarter of a century later. His son, H. Achilles Foster, was clerk from then until his own death, about 1913. And Walter Foster, son of the latter, was clerk for 15 years following his father's

death. Of more recent years W. M. Harris has been clerk. Mrs. Betty Call is among the several from this section who was graduated from the Wilkesboro High School this week.

Mrs. Frank Staley has not been able to sit up since breaking her leg several weeks ago, according to her father.

\$6,500 PAID IN BONUSES

Barlington, May 8.—More than \$6,500 in bonuses have been paid between January 1 and April 1 to employees of the E. M. Holt Plaid mills here in connection with the 50th anniversary celebration of the organization.

income of the a week is by M. M. Wilson, of ... from seven days ... county.

County Taxes

Additional penalty goes on after June 1st. Pay now and save.

W. B. SOMERS, Sheriff

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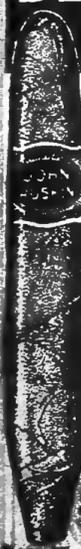
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"THE MAIN THING ON MAIN STREET"

By L. F. Van Zelm



Daily Buzz
MAIN STREET'S LEADING NEWSPAPER
WAITING FOR THE MAIL

IN ORDER TO PASS THE TIME WHILE WAITING FOR THE EVENING MAIL, DOREY DILL-DULL, THE TOWN DUMB BELL, SHAKES A FEW JIGS TO AMUSE THE THORNG.

SEND YOUR INVENTIONS IN TO T. EDISON SMITH, THE BOY INVENTOR & WE WILL LOOK THEM OVER FOR YOU.

THEY ALWAYS SAID HIS BRAINS WAS IN HIS FEET

THAT'S NOTHING - HIS FATHER USED TO DO ST. VITUS DANCIN'

LOOKET 'AT BABY SHAKEM 'EM!

LOOKET THOSE BOATS KISS THE PAVEMENT WARM PUPPIES!

UNCLAIMED LETTERS
DANE CAMPION
EVA BENHAM
GENE YUS
JOE L
ADE W

GENERAL STORE
WE CARRY A GREAT LINE OF FISHING TACKLE

I, WISH I WAS YOUNG & HANDSOME AGAIN

ON FISHMEN'S TRAILS