

Interesting Facts About Wilkes

By J. GORDON HACKETT

Wilkes county is situated in the Northwestern part of North Carolina, and contains seven hundred and thirty-five square miles. Wilkes and Burke are the oldest counties in the Western part of our State, both having been formed in 1777; Burke from Rowan and Wilkes from Surry, and comprised all the territory in Western North Carolina and what is now Tennessee; from its size Wilkes was called "The State of Wilkes," and still retains that name, although it is the twelfth county in area in the State. Her lands are varied and attractive, with altitude of one thousand to four thousand feet; most of the county lies between 1,900 and 2,500 feet comprising the beautiful and fertile valley of the Yadkin and its tributaries, rolling hills to the top of the high peaks of the Blue Ridge, and the lower and famous Brushy Mountains, with healthful climate and fine apple orchards. This region is in the Thermal Belt. In the early history of our State and nation, Wilkes county bore an important part in her civil and military affairs. Daniel Boone, the pioneer and the hero of every school boy, lived here, and his cabin on Beaver Creek is pointed out by the older settlers. Rendezvous Mountain, where Col. Ben Cleveland with his hunters horn summoned, and trained two hundred and twenty-five Wilkes county patriots, who fought at King's Mountain, is a reminder that liberty is a lasting and predominating virtue that has distinguished our people. The Tory Oak, which stands near the Courthouse in Wilkesboro, recalls to our minds the part that it contributed to the independence of our country; it was on its spreading boughs, that Colonel Ben Cleveland hanged Captain Riddle and his Tory Band during the Revolutionary War.

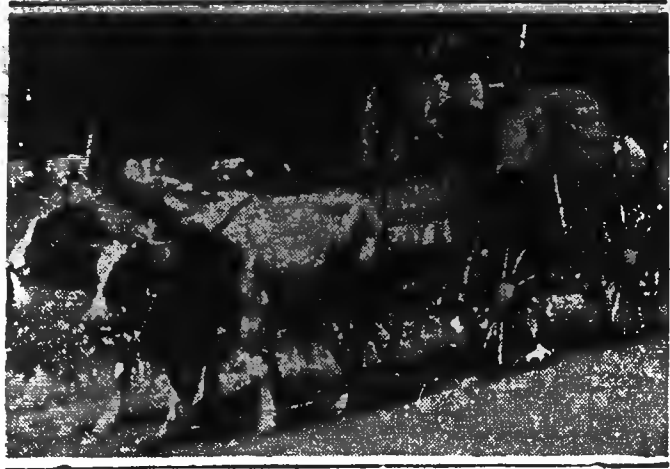
Near Wilkesboro is the old home of General Wellborn, President of our State Senate for twenty-nine years; across the river from General Wellborn's is the home of Governor Stokes, who was United States Senator; farther up the river in what was then Wilkes county, is Fort Defiance, the home of General William Lenoir, President of our State Convention that adopted our Federal Constitution; nearby is Palmyra, the home of General Patterson, State Treasurer, President of the first railroad built in North Carolina and Chairman of the Committee that built our State Capital; at Ronda is the old home of Benjamin Cleveland; across the river from Wilkesboro is Oakland, the early home of the Gordons, built by George Gordon about the time of the Revolution, and which was later the residence of General James B. Gordon, of the Confederate Army. There is a lasting charm about the homes of our early patriots which the corroding hand of time should never efface.

To impress upon our readers more fully the important part Wilkes County played in the early days of our country, there are three counties in North Carolina named for Wilkes County men: Cleveland, named for Col. Ben Cleveland; Lenoir, for General William Lenoir; and Stokes, for the Stokes family. Wilkes county has given our State a Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, six Congressmen, U. S. Senator, Chairman of the first Board of Trustees of our State University, President of the Convention that adopted our present State Constitution, State Treasurer, Judges of our Superior Court and Solicitors of Judicial Districts. Today she gives us our U. S. Judge of the Middle District, and Judge of the Seventeenth Superior Court District.

Our citizenship has been, and is today, the purest of American stock; some of us poor and humble, but always interested and assisting in forming the ideals and designs of our country. From protecting the early settlements from the Indians, through the Revolutionary War to the World War, they volunteered and served their country with an enthusiasm that only patriots of the finest spirit could have. During our war with Mexico, Wilkes county furnished the commander of the regiment that went from North Carolina, Col. Sidney Stokes. During the War Between the States, Wilkes county gave to the southern cause more troops than any other county save Mecklenburg; the illustrious careers of General James B. Gordon, Colonels Stokes, Brown; Parks, Barber, Cowles and Carmichael are among the greatest of our southern patriots.

While we are proud of our past history, and our loyalty to American traditions is a public pride, our ambition today is looking to the future. The progress of our county and towns since the advent of the railroad in 1890 shows that we do not live on the memory of the past. Wilkes county

Ox-Drawn Wagon In Pageant



A far cry from modern transportation is the ox-drawn wagon but it had its part in the early development of North Wilkesboro and will be included in the historical pageant to be staged here July 1, 2, 3 and 4th as a part of North Wilkesboro's fiftieth anniversary celebration.

ty today has nine hundred more farmers who live on and work their own land than any county in North Carolina. Our agricultural products have taken first premiums at our State and County Fairs. The "Live at Home" plans have demonstrated here what a decided advantage it has been during periods of great depression. Wilkes county has more than eleven hundred miles of county and state roads kept in splendid condition by our State.

The Boone Trail Highway traverses the county from the extreme east to the extreme west; it is said to be the finest highway across mountains of such altitude in America. On this road is the "Wade Harris Bridge," named by the mountain people for Col. Wade Harris, editor of the Charlotte Observer, as evidence of their esteem for him. This bridge spans a chasm in the Blue Ridge and is the highest bridge in our State. Both Nos. 16 and 18 traverse our county from north to south; there are bus lines that have convenient schedules on all these roads.

North Wilkesboro is the largest town in the county; other towns are Wilkesboro, the county seat, Ronda, Roaring River, Moravian Falls, Elkville, Traphill, Millers Creek and Boomer; the population of all these towns are descendants of our early settlers. North Wilkesboro is the chief trading center of the county; it is probably the youngest and most modern town of its size in the State; its citizenship numbers four thousand five hundred, with a trading population of over 100,000, from its own and neighboring counties; our banks have been a great impetus to our growth; they are among the strongest and safest in the State; our hotels are modern and fire-proof; we have the largest market for medicinal herbs in the south; our market for furs from fur-bearing animals amounts to a large sum of money per year; our churches, schools, commercial houses, factories, streets, light, water, power and all public utilities are of modern design with phones, lights and power throughout the rural sections of our county. North Wilkesboro is probably the largest produce market in the State. Within a radius of thirty miles of North Wilkesboro, there are two hundred thousand acres of virgin forest, and nine hundred thousand acres of "second-growth" forest. In this area are eleven million cords of pulp wood still growing, and at least two million cords of extract wood; there are also in this territory millions of tons of mica, asbestos, feldspar and kaolin; other clays are numerous, and one pottery has operated successfully for many years.

The historic town of Wilkesboro is the county seat and always an object of interest to visitors; it is situated about one mile from North Wilkesboro on the south side of the Yadkin river, and possesses many charms for residential purposes; the town was founded in 1778 and among the interesting places are the Episcopal church and its graveyard, the old Presbyterian church, the Daniel Boone marker, the Tory Oak, the Federal and County Court buildings, the old home of Richard Dodge, nephew of Washington Irving, and an eminent lawyer.

Wilkes County with its modern hotels, its perfect roads, its interesting history and picturesque scenery, its fertile farms and abundant orchards, invites tourists, investors, prospectors and homeseekers, and assures them of the cordial welcome for which the south is famous.

ARM IS LONGER

Irate Mother (at table): Jackie I wish you would stop reaching for things. Haven't you a tongue?
Jackie: Yes, mother; but my arm's longer.

ON INSTALLMENT

Allan: Look at Mary, isn't she all dolled up. I understand she bought that dress on the installment plan.

James: I suppose that's the first installment she is wearing now.

Hot Weather Is Hard On Horse and Mules

Unfortunately for horses and mules, hot weather and the season of heavy farm work come together. Earl H. Hostetler, professor of animal husbandry at N. C. State College, says that is why work stock require special care in the summer months to avoid heat prostrations.

"Heat will not necessarily kill all animals, but those which recover will have their usefulness impaired for the rest of their lives," Prof. Hostetler advised. "This loss of valuable work animals at a busy time of the year is a needless waste that can be prevented by properly feeding and caring for the faithful horses and mules."

The animal husbandman makes the following suggestions for avoiding hot weather damage to workstock: Horses and mules should be prepared for heavy work by first starting gradually with light work until they are thoroughly seasoned and able to continue with the task at hand for several hours at a time, with only time out for short rest periods.

During the rest periods, the workstock should have an opportunity to drink water. After the day's work is over and the animals have had an opportunity to eat their evening meal, they should be turned into a good pasture for the night. In the pasture there should be an ample supply

of water and salt. Horses and mules at heavy work should have additional grain and less hay, with of course grass, salt, and water. On idle

days, they should be fed little or no grain, depending upon the kind of hay and pasture available. In conclusion, Prof. Hostetler said: "Horses and mules that are properly fed and kept comfortable are usually willing and faithful workers. Farmers who follow these few simple suggestions can cease to worry

"EAT" with "PETE"

WHEN YOU COME TO THE



50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION JUNE 30 - JULY 4

Complete meals, quick lunches, sandwiches, cold drinks, served in clean, sanitary manner, by courteous waitresses. Make our place headquarters for "good eats" during the Celebration. You'll feel welcome here!

The Little Grill

PETE ANTONAKAS, PROP.

Opposite Liberty Theatre

North Wilkesboro, N. C.



50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION JUNE 30 - JULY 4

We, like all other citizens, are proud of the progress made by our town and county during the past 50 years (even the past 10 years), and join wholeheartedly in the celebration of our numerous accomplishments. During our 8 years in business in North Wilkesboro we have endeavored to keep pace with the progress of our city, and through a most generous patronage we have been enabled to expand to our present location, offering every facility for modern shoe repairing.

Plenty Of Entertainment PLENTY OF BARGAINS

OVER
37-YEARS
Experience
IN
**SHOE REPAIR
WORK**



MOST
COMPLETE
Equipment
In Our City
**SHOE SHINE
SERVICE**

A Modern Shoe Repair Shop At Your Service

We have spent considerable money in equipping our plant to give real service to the people of this section, and use the very best quality materials in all our work. We take a personal interest in every job of shoe repairing, and see that every pair leaves our place in top-notch shape. Our experienced workmen, plus good materials, is "shoe repair insurance" to the public, yet prices are most reasonable due to volume patronage. Whether citizen or visitor, we invite your visit of inspection, and welcome the pleasure of serving you in any manner possible.

Motto: "A Little Neater—A Little Better"

Right-Way Shoe Shop

C. G. PLEXICO, Prop.

NORTH WILKESBORO, N. C.

"B" STREET