

**Historical Sketch
Of Laurinburg**

(Continued from page 4)
the capture of Fort Smith where he was to make the principal address. He had me dictate the inscriptions on the monument so that he might copy and use in his speech, saying that he had never heard of quite so fine a thing and one that so perfectly fit in with his speech prepared for that day, and he would use it as the climax of his address. The inscription that most impressed him is on the south face, and I will incorporate it here so that those who may have not read it, or have forgotten it, will have it before them:

"In recognition of his exalted character
In appreciation of his ennobling influence on youth
Erected by a people grateful for his love and service."

After Professor Quakenbush, as most can well remember, Prof. F. P. Wyche successfully taught; but seeing that the graded school was coming and must come, and after seeing the town vote it down, he went to Charlotte graded school work and rented the property to some ladies who taught there until the graded school was opened in 1909.

In passing it may be of interest to note that two of the men most prominent in establishing the first high school here, Dr. R. D. Dickson and Dr. John Malloy were childless, so that their motives were absolutely altruistic.

Coming to the legal and political side of the town, we know that an act of incorporation was passed by the general assembly ratified the 12th day of February, 1877, incorporating the town. There is a tradition that it was incorporated earlier, but I have found no record thereof, and as this act provides for the justices of the peace in the township to call and conduct the first election for the town, it is a fair inference that there were no town officials that could do this, or the duty would have been placed on them. The boundaries were so vaguely set down that they were in dispute some time after the town government was inaugurated. The boundary is as follows in the original act: "Beginning at the center of the Carolina Central Railway, on Front street and running from said point five-eighths of a mile north, south, east and west, so as to form a square, with beginning point as a center." The legal construction, with the square including the smallest amount of land that these points would permit, was inevitable, but the incorporators had not so intended, and there was some confusion at the time over the boundaries, which were laid off both ways, finally being settled for the smaller area.

Later this boundary was "squared" out by enactment making the sides run due north and south, cutting the points named in the original charter. Later this was revised and again the sides are at an angle of 45 degrees from north and south, but the boundaries now extend much farther beyond the second outline.

In passing it may be of interest to note that "Main street" was called "Front street" in the original act of incorporation, following Wilmington in calling its principal street "Front street," but in no other documents do we find "Front street."

Whiskey was sold here almost as freely as water until legislative en-

Z. ANTHONY

Starting business in a small way in Laurinburg some thirteen years ago, Z. Anthony, formerly of Wheeling, W. Va., quickly laid the foundations for the large business which he now conducts in this city in the way of dry goods, clothing, shoes, ladies' ready-to-wear and notions. The chief part of that foundation, perhaps, was to be found in the quality of goods handled by the store, and the guarantee that was put behind every article sold. Mr. Anthony realized that it is not possible to carry on a business long in a comparatively small city without getting and retaining the confidence of the people of the community. They are largely the same people from year to year, and the merchant who gains their confidence and sells them quality goods at fair prices is the merchant who is going to get their trade this year, and next year, and every other year as long as he retains their confidence and continues to sell good stuff reasonably.

Acting on this principle, Mr. Anthony began with a small business, conducted on a fair margin of profit. It was not long before he found his patronage rapidly increasing, and within six years after opening his store, he found it necessary to secure a larger and more adequate building in which to do business. He secured the building now occupied, and his business has been carried on here for the past seven years. Already he feels the need of larger quarters, but as yet has made no move in that direction. It is practically certain, however, that the continued increase in his business will force him to obtain a larger place before very long. His present establishment contains about 1500 square feet, but the large stock is sufficient to make good use of every bit of space available.

As above stated, Mr. Anthony came here from Wheeling, W. Va. He saw the possibilities in Laurinburg's development, and determined to cast his lot with the people of this community, firm in the belief that its growth and development would result in success to his business. He has had his judgment in this respect fully confirmed, and is now one of the strongest believers in Laurinburg. He states that while he saw a good future for the town thirteen years ago, he sees a still better future for it now. It has proved quite as desirable a place as he anticipated. Mr. Anthony is fully alive to all efforts toward progress and growth of the town and the community.

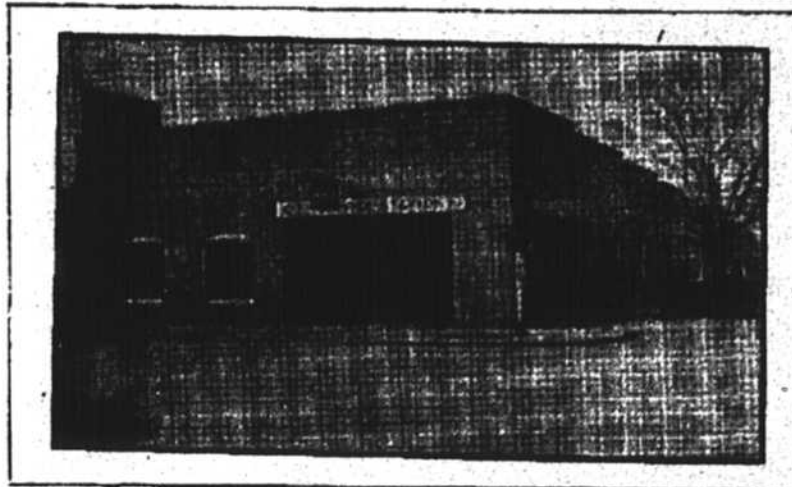
actment in 1889 closed the barrooms July 1, 1889, by refusing licenses. The sentiment of the community was not strong behind this enactment and for some years it was not well enforced, the mayor and a majority of the board being anti-prohibitionists; but in 1892 a majority of the board of commissioners were "dry" and elected M. L. John the first "dry" mayor. The "wets" tried by legislative amendment and otherwise to get something done that would allow whiskey to be sold according to law, and petitioned under a law (which the supreme court in a case involving another town later declared to be inoperative) for an election to be held on the subject, saying that if the majority of the votes should be cast against the license sale, they would join in the enforcement of the law. The "dry" accepted the challenge, withdrew opposition to holding the election, and the county commissioners of Richmond county ordered a special election. It was fought hard by both sides, the "drys" winning by a small but clear majority. The "wets," true to promise, accepted the result and quit fighting the prohibition law, and from that day there has never been an open contest over the question, so far as relates to the town.

The first church established in the town limits was the Presbyterian, an offshot of Laurel Hill church. Prior to the war a large frame structure was erected on its present site, the contractor being Jackson Graham, a slave and a very efficient and honest negro carpenter. His work was well done, as any one will testify who saw the building torn down some years ago. The Methodists held services in the Presbyterian church several years, building a frame structure about 1875 on the site of their present building, which was burned in 1883, and rebuilt at the head of Roper street. This lot and building was sold to J. F. McNair and the large brick church, corner of Main and Church streets built in 1917-18 and the present structure built. The Baptists built about 1879, and was burned by lightning shortly after completion. The present structure was built a few years later.

St. David's Episcopal church, the gift of Hon. Mark Morgan, was built about 1909.

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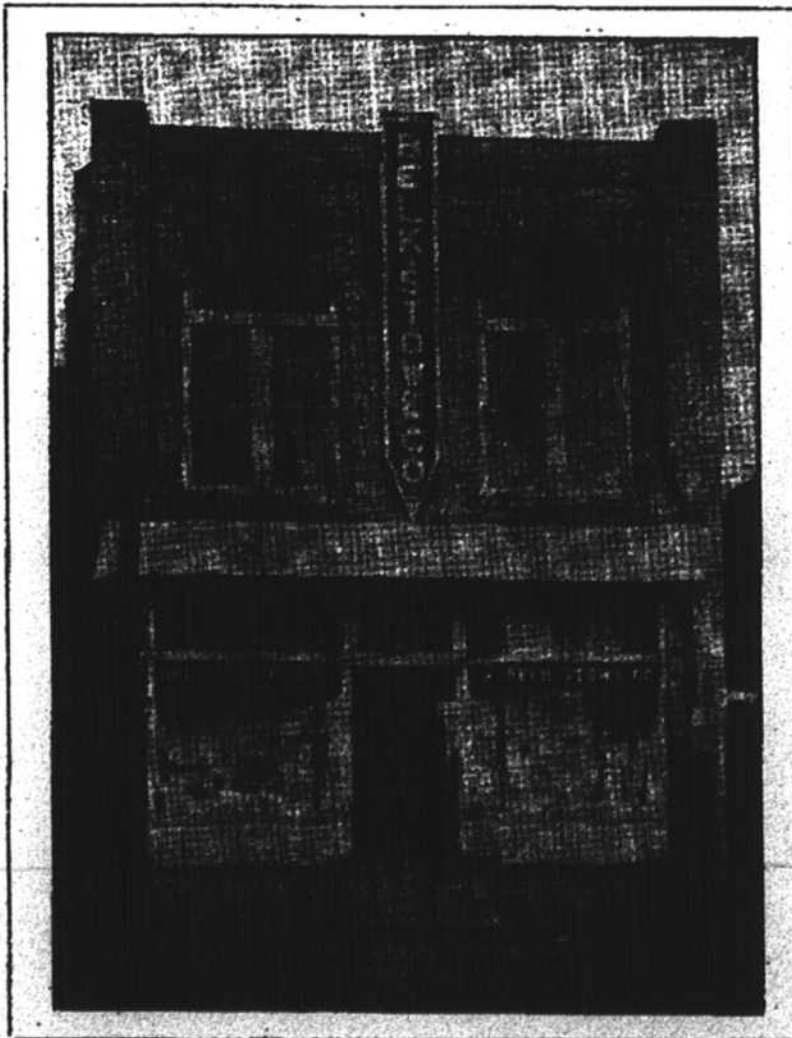
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