

# The Mount Airy News.

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## City Population 5,814 Remarkable Growth of Mount Airy Shown by Census

### NEW CENSUS PUTS MOUNT AIRY IN CITY CLASS

**Official Figures Show Population of 5814—In Guessing Contest Woman Misses Mark By Only One—"10,000 in 1930" Is Slogan of Business Men.**

The official population of Mount Airy as given out by S. D. Rhodes of the Washington Bureau of Census in this city Friday was 5814, thus making it henceforth unlawful, out of order and wholly degrading to refer to Mount Airy as a village, a "burg" or "this town". The official figures of the census of 1920 gave a population of 4752, and the new figures show an increase in population of 22.4 per cent in three years. At this rate of growth in 1930, the time of the next decennial census, the city should have a population of 8901, but as cities grow with cumulative momentum after the first few thousand, it is safe to predict a population 10,000 seven years hence.

It was an anxious half hour Friday afternoon as a number of Mount Airy business men waited in The News office to hear the official report.

Mr. Rhodes of the Census Bureau had a messenger go for Mayor West and delivered the official figures into his hands. With that deliberation so characteristic of the mayor, he broke the seal of the official envelope and began to read the preamble leading up to the census findings. All wanted to hear the result first and let the official verbiage go hang, but not so the mayor. Doctor Martin squirmed like a schoolboy in his eagerness to have the figures. Joe Sparger urged the mayor to save the rhetoric and spill the figures. But Mayor West read on. Finally when the figures, which were at the bottom of the proclamation, were read the small company broke into loud cheers. Persons passing along the street, presuming that the editor was being assaulted by some irate subscriber, rushed in. Upon finding what the racket was all about, they too joined the jubilation.

Soon The News office was full of people. The Kiwanis club ordered the printing of an extra sheet announcing the official figures. The order was given at 8 o'clock and the sheet was run off the press and on the street at 3:45, notwithstanding the composing room was full of people. All Friday evening both The News office and composing room were filled with citizens anxious to learn the figures.

Interest in the census was heightened by the offer of Carter-Walker Furniture company of a \$25 dinner set to the person guessing nearest the exact population. Over 700 people handed in guesses, but the prize was won by Mrs. Della Brantock whose residence is on Poplar street. Her guess was 5813, she having missed the official figures by only one. However, Mrs. Brantock is said to have first put down on her guessing card the exact number but was persuaded by one of her children to change the final 14 into 13, as that number occurred to him as being a lucky one. Mr. Carter informed the reporter for The News that 25 people guessed within a hundred of Mount Airy's population. Three persons guessed 5800, they being J. W. Fulk, J. D. Davis and Mrs. I. W. Barber.

Immediately upon the announcement that Mount Airy had climbed to the city class, the Kiwanians, to whom the city is responsible for the re-count began to gather here and there in groups. Soon a slogan was born; to wit, "10,000 in 1930." When it is recalled that Mount Airy is still living inside the restricted boundaries placed upon her a half century ago by the founders of the place, and that she has a number of populous suburbs, it would not be an exaggeration to say that the city already has an over 8000 people. The News representative went to a number of

prominent men and women of the city and placing the new slogan before them asked them what in their opinion Mount Airy must do to make good her 10,000 slogan. Following are some of the signed replies:

**J. V. West, Mayor of Mount Airy.**  
All together for the regular 1930 United States Census with a population at that time of not less than 10,000 with all needed public improvements for the increased population. To make this possible every citizen of Mount Airy should be filled with enthusiasm and the determination to work and work hard in the accomplishment of the task before us. One of the most urgent needs before us is an abundant supply of electric power. This must be supplied at the earliest possible date. More manufacturing industries should be located in Mount Airy. Our people should make every effort possible along this line. More homes should be constructed in order to invite and take care of our increasing numbers. Mount Airy should be noted for its beauty as well as its climate and business advantages. Every citizen should determine to beautify his home in every way possible. This is always attractive and inviting.

**Edw. M. Linville, President Kiwanis Club**

"Our goal for 1930 is 10,000. A solidified citizenship; a cemented thought, a unity of purpose and all of the people in Mount Airy putting their abiding faith in the Kiwanian spirit, will accomplish this and more. That Kiwanian spirit has been stated about as follows: It is not ethical, but it believes in noble conduct; it is not religious, but it believes in God; it is not sectarian, but it believes in the church; it is not partisan, but it believes in authoritative government; it is not fraternal, but it believes in brotherhood; it is not benevolent, but it believes in charity; it is not educational, but it believes in education; it is not exclusive but it believes in merit; it is not social, but it believes in banqueting its friends." That name KIWANIS, "WE BUILD."

**Mrs. P. A. George, President of The Woman's Club**

"In order that there may be 10,000 people in Mount Airy by 1930, we believe the prime need is a strong organized body such as a Chamber of Commerce, supported and backed by such civic organizations as already exist here and which will work for and boost the town as a unit. We should suggest that such an organization could make Mount Airy grow. First by offering inducements, such as electric power, desirable locations, efficient transportation, proper housing conditions, etc., to outside industries to locate here and for the further development of embryo industries of our own.

And second, is there any reason why we can not make Mount Airy, with its beautiful scenery and delightful climate and its every natural enticement for the tourists, one of the South's most famous "Play Grounds?"

**Professor Hurst, Superintendent of Mount Airy Schools**

"To meet the demands of an increase in population Mount Airy must erect a new high school building, which with the grounds and proper equipment, will cost not less than \$250,000. The present building together with the new addition thereto should be made into a junior high school for the upper grammar grades. The proposed building should have not fewer than 20 rooms with necessary auxiliaries, and should contain adequate equipment such as laboratories, commercial, domestic science, music and manual training departments. An adequate gymnasium with a competent physical director paid for all the year should by all means be housed in the building. Above all, for the sake not only of our city schools but for the entire county, the new building should provide a teacher training department, which department when once provided will be run by the state at no expense to the city or county. If we are to have a greater Mount Airy we must provide adequate and up-to-date school facilities."

**Dr. M. S. Martin, Chief Surgeon Martin Memorial Hospital**

"Probably I am in a better position to judge as to the growth of Mount Airy than some of our citizens who have spent most of their lives here. When we moved here in 1915 the central portion of Main and Franklin were the only paved streets in town. Since this time over four miles of surfacing have been put down. At that time the old school building on Rockford road housed the entire school population. To-day we have three excellent buildings, and we are now making an addition to our high school building that will double its capacity. A magnificent Baptist church has been built on Rockford street; an addition to the First Baptist church has just been completed and Central

## Old Santa Right on Time



Snuggle up close, Children, while I tell you a story that I cross my heart and hope I may die is really and truly true. Santa Claus has sent this paper some news that will interest all little boys and girls. Tuesday a telegraph messenger brought to us a telegram which I am going to print just as it looked on the yellow sheet of paper.

"North Pole.—December 17, 1923.—Wow, but its zipping cold here! Mr. Editor, Mount Airy News: Tell all the little boys and girls and a few of good grown up folks that I am on my way to see them." Santa Claus."

Now Children, Monday night go to bed early and snuggle down under the covers and close your eyes tight and go fast to sleep. Old Santa has never failed us yet and he is not going to fail us this time. Tuesday morning hop out of bed at the peep o' day and see what you find.

Methodist church the past summer erected a spacious Sunday school addition to its building. Other churches have made similar improvements. Other improvements in the business and professional life of the city might also be mentioned.

In my opinion good highways, schools and churches spell progress and are the guideposts to civilization. Let's go on with the march of progress. Every one fall in line and boost for the city in which you live. I wish every citizen in Mount Airy could become so interested in her development that he or she would be ashamed to die until he had done something for the community's good."

**G. C. Lovill, President G. C. Lovill Co.**

Our rapid increase in population of 22 4-10 per cent in the past three years, (without extending our corporate limits) giving us a population of 5814, leads me to believe that by 1930 Mount Airy will have a population of ten thousand and by the proper spirit of co-operation there is no reason why we should not reach this mark. One of our greatest needs is a hard-surface road connecting us with the Lee Highway near Wytheville, Virginia, and with the hard-surface roads in North Carolina. We should continue to work for this connection until every foot of this road is constructed.

**C. W. Fulton, President Granite City Motor Company**

"To have 10,000 people by 1930, Mount Airy in my opinion, must first of all secure an adequate supply of electricity; must go forward with the present pavement work; must offer inducements to manufacturing enterprises to locate here, and must provide enlarged school facilities. To do this we must all pull together and keep pulling all the time. Our first job is a decent pavement for Main street. Let's go!"

**T. G. Fawcett, President First National Bank**

Main street must be paved; adequate school facilities provided, not only for our city children but for the

suburbs immediately surrounding us; electric power we must have. We must all hang together. It will mean increased taxes, but I have not noticed anybody being killed by taxes in Mount Airy so far. Fact is we are not taxed for municipal upkeep anything like other cities of our size."

**Hon. W. F. Carter, Sr., Dean of Mount Airy Attorneys**

"I am with you for a greater Mount Airy. To this end we must have a Federal building to house our post office. Let's help Major Stedman get it. To all the good suggestions offered by others, I add a hearty Amen."

### LARKIN GARRET IS GIVEN TERM 4 YEARS

**Convicted At Cumberland Courthouse, Va., of Participation in Murder of Rev. Mr. Price**

Cumberland Courthouse, Va. Dec. 15.—With the conviction today of Larkin C. Garrett, on a charge of voluntary manslaughter and a sentence of four years imprisonment, the next development in the now famous Garrett-Pierce murder case, will come from Judge B. D. White. The court now has before it a motion to set aside the verdict in the trial ending today as well as the verdict in the case of Robert O. Garrett, Larkin's brother, who was convicted last month of second degree murder and sentenced to five years imprisonment. The brothers, both of whom are prominent business men of Cumberland and hold several official positions were charged jointly with first degree murder in connection with the killing last June 5 of Rev. Edward S. Pierce, Baptist minister. Each has had two trials a mistrial resulting in the first trial of each.

## Every Sign Points to Santa Mount Airy All Decorated and In Eager Anticipation

### JERRY DALTON ESCAPES ELECTRIC CHAIR BY GOV- ERNOR'S CLEMENCY

**Youthful Slayer of Sweetheart and Rival is Given From 20 to 30 Years; Claims That Prayer Moved the Governor To Pardon.**

Raleigh, Dec. 15.—Governor Morrison gave Jerry Dalton not only his life today but the hope for eventual liberty. Expressing satisfaction that the records of the court trial showed murder in the second degree, the executive commuted the sentence of the young mountaineer murderer of his sweetheart and rival in love from death by electrocution to an indeterminate term of from 20 to 30 years in the state's prison.

Jerry is now 25 and by good behavior he can gain his freedom at 45, even though no future governor should extend him clemency. And that is a great and wonderful outlook to a fellow who has been living under the shadow of the electric chair for four years.

Convicted of first-degree murder in August of the following year by the Macon superior court, Dalton appealed to the supreme court and gained a new trial. The second time the jury again convicted him of first-degree murder. A second appeal was made to the supreme court. Pending that appeal Dalton who had been confined in the Buncombe county jail, escaped and fled to the west. There he lived a clean life for two years until betrayed through the confidence he had imposed in another. Captured and brought back to North Carolina, he was confined in the state's prison and during the past year 3 or four different dates have been fixed for his electrocution, as many respites gaining him additional time. The date for execution as last fixed by the governor was for January 22, 1924.

Consideration of the record by Governor Morrison lead him to the conviction that the shooting was the result of a drunken fuss between Dalton and Angel over the woman. Dalton accosted Angel and Maude Grant while the two were riding by in an automobile. The shooting followed a short talk that began pleasantly enough after a round of hand-shakes.

Dalton's case has attracted statewide attention during the past year. Wide interest was first drawn to him when his mother issued an appeal to the women of North Carolina to aid her in a fight to save her son's life. Later various individuals interested themselves in Jerry's behalf and more recently the governor has been besieged with thousands of letters and individuals and delegations of men and women who have made personal calls upon them.

Before acting, the governor investigated the case from various angles. Last Sunday he had Jerry brought to the executive mansion and there he questioned him thoroughly as to his side of the whole affair. During the week he conferred with Attorney General Manning and this morning he was in conference with Judge W. A. Hoke of the supreme court, who wrote the opinion in that body's consideration of the first appeal and which resulted in the second trial. The governor gave virtual assurance that he will commute the sentence when J. N. Moody, of Murphy, and Gen. Albert V. Cox, of Raleigh, attorneys for Dalton, make a formal appeal early in the week.

Standing at the steel barred door of the little cell in "death row" from which late today he was removed for the last time, Dalton spoke of his feeling at being taken from the "jaws of death" by the governor's action. "It is just like a big weight was taken off of me," the prisoner asserted. "I know I have a long sentence before me but I am going to show them how thankful I am for what the governor did by being the right kind of prisoner."

"Thank them all for me," the prisoner said. "I appreciate what all has been done for me by the people of the state. A lot of ladies of Raleigh have been mighty nice and kind to me while I've been here and their work has been very much appreciated."

### The News Office Receives Telegram Direct From Head- quarters—All Children Be Good and Keep a Sharp Lookout.

There is absolutely no mistaking the signs. Santa will not fail us this time. Everywhere you go in Mount Airy the very breath of Christmas is in the air. Miniature Christmas trees decorate store windows, festooning hangs from lintel and ceiling and holly berries wink a smiling welcome. Even Uncle Buck feels it in the air. At his place holly and spruce and mistletoe neutralize the odors of gas. The drug stores are gay with glad arrays, the grocers tempt with toothsome sweets; the stores abound with Fairyland. The day of all the year dedicated to Childhood is approaching.

Here in front of this window a group of school children gaze wonderingly as a miniature train dashes over a real track and plunges into the deep recesses of a tunnel under a mountain, only to appear a moment later. Round and round it goes with a hundred eyes in covetousness following it.

Here in a hardware store blazes the Yule log. Stockings filled with presents bring back to age the blisful days long ago, while to young eyes the scene foretells the bounties to come.

Standing by this jeweler's window two lovers just as they gaze knowingly upon an 18 K ring made of solid pumpkin rind. The young man slips something on the girl's finger. Yes, Christmas is coming.

Mount Airy is ready. People throng the streets and crowd the well filled stores. Here mother herds the boy while father is yonder making some secret transaction. There goes father with something bulging out his coat. He sneaks whatever it is under the car seat like a thief. But father knows what he is about. Here comes a group of giggling girls, each carrying bundles.

Down at the post office the clerks look at the ever flowing sea of parcels take a fresh grip on themselves and "carry on". Out on the corner the tinkle tinkle of a little bell causes the children to look for Kris Kringle, but it is a Salvation Army lass in service cap, calling attention to the big pot suspended from its tripod. Into the pot goes our nickels and dimes to provide a feast for unfortunates who otherwise would have none.

That Mount Airy and the surrounding country is amply supplied with sweets even the Santa should be delayed or have a wreck or something, is amply proven by the fact that the West-Hill Company purchased from the Crystal Candy company recently 32,000 pounds of candy, which is said to be the largest single shipment of candy ever to reach this part of the country. Just a little while before the Granite City Mercantile company bought a carload of 30,000 pounds of candy from the same concern. As this is but the transactions of only one candy concern with our jobbers, and as there are a dozen other candy factories supplying local trade, we shall not want in the event Santa does not arrive. But perish the thought. He is coming. For particulars see the telegram.

### Pinkerton, Noted Detective Has Died

Los Angeles, Cal. Dec. 12.—William A. Pinkerton, world-famous detective, died here Tuesday morning at the Hotel Biltmore.

One of the first noted American criminologists to advocate and practice humanitarian methods in dealing with felons, William Allan Pinkerton, head of the Pinkerton National Detective Agency, was credited with having reformed more safe blowers and bank robbers than any other man in the country.

Primarily a thief-taker, Mr. Pinkerton spent more than 50 years of his life running down criminals of all classes, yet he always stood ready to proffer a helping hand to the unfortunate malefactor whose repentance was genuine and whose desire to reform was sincere.