

## OLD TIMES IN WARREN

### A NEW YEAR

In ante-bellum times, New Year's Day was a great day in old Warren. It meant the closing up of the business of the old year, and starting afresh on the business of the New Year. It was regarded by all as a new beginning.

For the most part, all business was done on a credit basis. The merchant bought his goods on long time, the farmer procured the supplies he had to purchase on credit, and almost everyone transacted business on the same plan. As a rule only the poorer class of people paid for their purchases when they bought them. The retail merchant had to settle with the wholesale man at least once a year, and the farmers usually paid for their annual supplies once a year. The aim was to make a full settlement all around once a year, and New Year's Day was usually selected as the time for this universal settlement.

In those days, crops liens were unknown, and it would have been unpardonable offense for a merchant to demand a mortgage on the growing crop, or indeed any kind of a mortgage to secure payment for goods purchased on an open account. But, in those days our people had never heard of a Home-Stead Law, and a man's property was responsible for his debts.

As before said, New Year's Day was the time for settlement, and debtors made arrangements to close their accounts by that time. Therefore the first day of January was a busy day in Warrenton. Planters from the Fork, Shocco, Shatter, Sixpound, and indeed from all parts of the county came to town to close up the previous years business and to attend to such other matters as were necessary to begin life in the new year.

It was Tuesday in court magnificence, for as a large number of leading citizens would be present, persons having anything to sell, would also be present.

The horse trader was sure to be in evidence, and Cedar Hill was the scene of many a transaction. And many a worthless horse changed owners; and many a badly bitten man went home to regret that he had swapped his old plug for a more worth less nag.

Cedar Hill was not only the scene of great activity in horse trading but there was also much fun and frolic, and sad to say it was not all innocent. Perhaps an incident may be interesting.

The dandy horse trader was sure to be here. We will call him "Kiah Levingsseed," just because that was not his name. The swapping business goes on lively, but "Kiah" although he had bantered every man on the ground for a trade, had failed to make a swap. Finally, he began to ride up and down the street and in a loud voice proclaimed the good points of his horse. Hear him:

"Gentlemen, and fellow-citizens, behold 'Spitfire.' He is the best horse in the county, he can outjump, outrun, outpace, out-lope any horse on the top-side of this green earth. He is good in the wagon, at the plow, in the buggy and is equally good in single or double harness. But his best point is as a saddle horse. Although he is full of life and holds a high head and looks like a war horse, he is perfectly safe and a woman or child can handle him with perfect safety; why you might fire off a gun over the top of his head and he wouldn't wiggle his ears or bat his eyes. He's the safest horse on the top of the ground."

About this time "Bill Shanks" came riding up and hearing "Kiahs" proclamation asked him how he would trade for old "Ball," which he declared to be superior to any horse that ever wore a shoe.

Kiah said, "I am ready to trade with anybody, for anything and anyway. I'm a trading man, I am."

"What kind of a horse is youm?" said Bill.

"Well," answered Kiah, "He's not an elephant nor a lion nor yet is he a lump of gold. He is just a chunk of good honest horse flesh. How much boot will you give me?"

"Boot!" exclaimed Bill, "why boot is on the other leg. I never give boot, but I tell ye what I'll do. I'll give you my 'Ball' for your 'Spitfire,' and I only offer to do this to see how quick a bragging man like you will back down from a good trade."

"But I don't back," said "Kiah," get down and take of your saddle and I'll do the same."

Both dismounted and removed their saddles, when a sickening spectacle

## ON KEEPING ONE'S TEMPER

Keep good natured and polite, as you jog along the path,  
Though sometimes you want to fight,  
Don't give way to sudden wrath.  
Keep your patience right on tap, be unruffled and serene,  
Always let the other chap be the first to make a scene,  
But, although you're calm at heart,  
Always let him know, somehow  
That, if crowded, you can start  
A great big row.

Meet your troubles with a grin, keep a steady, level head;  
Be assured you cannot win if you walk 'round seeing red,  
Do not swell your chest and bluff at things that you will do,  
If some self-complacent stuff tries to make it hot for you,  
But if he insists on war, sail right in and smash his map,  
Show him you are ready for  
A first-class scrap!

All the highest prizes go to the man who suffer long,  
Though their fortunes ebb and flow,  
Though their luck goes right or wrong,  
Do not let your temper rise, keep your passions under rein,  
Pretty soon you'll realize that it's wiser to keep sane,  
But sometimes you'll meet with men who hunt for trouble, as a fad,  
So remember, now and then,  
You must get mad!

—James J. Montague, in New York American.

He who does evil that good may come, pays a toll to the devil to let him into heaven.  
Inflict not on an enemy every envy in your power, for he may afterwards become your friend.

was revealed. Old Ball's back was a mass of sores, only limited by the size of the back.

When the crowd began to laugh and jeer "Kiah" for being so badly cheated, he said, "Oh, I'm not hurt, I can cure that sore but he can't cure 'Spitfire' of his complaints. He's as blind as a bat and as deaf as a post." Such exchanges often took place.

New Year's Day was also the negro hiring day. Negroes belonging to estates and all others that were to be hired out for the year were brought to Warrenton and hired out at public auction on New Year's Day. For many years, Peter Turnbull was the auctioneer and the negro to be hired was required to stand on elevated places while old man Peter described his good points, and offered him to the highest bidder, who in addition to his bid was required to furnish him regularly a sufficient quantity of good food, two suits of clothing and medical attention and medicine when necessary. A good hand often brought one hundred dollars a year, and sometimes much more. A good cook, seamstress, or ladies maid brought high prices, and blacksmiths, carpenters, and shoe makers were in great demand. Valuable servants soon acquired a reputation that produced great rivalry among the bidders.

One would think that under the circumstances, the people to be hired out would be gloomy, morose and sullen but as a rule, they were not, many of them were singing, patting, dancing, playing the fiddle and guitar and banjo. With many it seemed to be a time for fun and frolic.

Sometime a shrewd negro would manage so as to keep anyone from hiring him. In my boyhood there lived in the town where I was raised a free woman of color by the euphonious name of "Crazy Bet," for some minor offense she was ordered to be sold for twelve months. When she appeared on the block, her head was bandaged so that her face could hardly be seen. One of the bidders demanded that the bandage be removed when lo! a cap of wheat dough was found on the top of her head. Someone inquired, "What are you wearing that for, Bet?" To which she replied, "I has fits every full and change of the moon and I wears dis to keep 'em off." Nobody bid and "Crazy Bet" continued to roam at large a free woman. Bet was not as much of a fool as she appeared to be. She was not much of a cook but she was a good washer, and when the war commenced, she went with Company E. 1st Regiment into the army as a washer-woman and died at Yorktown.

Times and customs have changed but New Year's Day is still regarded as a new beginning. Everyone should come into the new year with a clean balance sheet and go forward through the whole year shaping his life by the Golden Rule.

—T. J. TAYLOR

## DELIGHTFUL DANCE

On Wednesday night, December 27th, the young men gave their annual Christmas dance. Music was furnished by an Italian Orchestra. A large number of spectators enjoyed the music and looking at the dancers.

Those dancing were: William Burroughs with Miss Jennie Jackson; Mr. Loujack Peoples with Miss Marion Alston, of Raleigh; Mr. William Burwell with Miss Mamie Williams; Mr. Walter Gardner and Miss Mary Harris; Mr. Boyd Davis with Miss Annibel King, of Louisville; Mr. Francis Macon, of Henderson, with Miss Annie Burwell; Mr. J. B. Boyce with Miss Mariam Jones; Mr. John D. Ellis with Miss Laura Burwell; Mr. John Harris with Miss Lucy Polk; Mr. Harwell Burwell with Miss Byrd Jones; Mr. William Davis with Miss Hodgie Williams, of Louisville; Mr. Walter Egerton with Miss Elizabeth Tarry, of Townsville; Mr. McRobert Booth with Miss Ruth Mercer, of Elm City; Mr. Hal Macon with Miss Mary Tasker Polk; Mr. Jack Palmer with Miss Mary Nicholson, of Littleton; Dr. Swindell and Miss Julia Barrow, of Louisville; Mr. Joe Macon with Miss Mary Garland Allen, of White Plains, New York; Messrs. Crayton, Stroehecker, and Russell and Bernard Meredith, and Misses Turnbull, Stroehecker and Miss Massey, of Larenceville, Va; Nathaniel Macon, of Henderson with Miss Mary Elsie Thomas; Mr. George Peoples and Miss Louise Graham, of Townsville.

Stags—Tom Harrison and Sterling Nicholson, of Littleton; James Royster and Will Tarry, of Townsville; Gid Macon, Keppel Falkener, Cary Price, and William Day.

## ARCOLA ITEMS

The New Year has arrived! All together for a better Sunday School, a better day school, more painted houses, better and more livestock, more and better farm machinery, more expressions of neighborly kindness—we might say an Ideal Rural Community.

Christmas passed quietly. A number of former residents of this community spent the holidays with relatives and friends. Among them we noticed the following: Mr. and Mrs. Grover Modlin, and children and Miss Arnie Duke, of Rocky Mount; Miss Mamie Davis, of Virginia; Mrs. Atlas Hicks and daughter, Miss Bertha, of Warrenton; Mr. Jimmie Tharrington, of Rosemary, and Miss Theola Gup-ton, of Rocky Mount; Miss Lura Hunter, of Littleton College; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Radford, of Wood; Mr. Robert Arrington, of Hollister.

Tuesday was spent by the young and middle-aged in decorating the church for the marriage on the following day, which proved to be one of the most beautiful ever witnessed in Bethlehem church.

Tuesday night, the 26th, the people of the Community gave Miss Harriet Tharrington bride-elect, a Miscellaneous Shower at the school building. Many substantial and useful articles were presented to the bride and groom.

Much interest was manifested in the marriage of Miss Harriet Tharrington to Mr. Edward Davis on last Wednesday afternoon. Rev. R. H. Broom officiated. Amid hearty congratulations and a shower of rice, Mr. and Mrs. Davis left for the home of Mr. Billie Davis, the groom's father.

Tuesday night oysters were served at the school building for the benefit of the Orphan which the church here clothes. About \$22 was cleared.

The Sunday School presented Mr. Conn, our faithful Superintendent, a solid gold ring with a large bloodstone set as a token of their appreciation of his earnest and constant service in the Sunday School.

The Farmers' Union will have a meeting Saturday afternoon, January 6th. Important business will be transacted and some new members are expected to join at this meeting also.

Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Coleman spent the Christmas holidays with their relatives in other parts of the County. A large number of people attended the sale of Mrs. Linda Arrington's Friday. Mrs. Arrington has a number of friends here who regret her leaving this section. Our good wishes for her in her new home.

Mr. and Mrs. Linnie Gup-ton and little Arrington visited near Ransom's Bridge Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Coleman visited in Nash County last week. Mrs. Coleman will remain with her people for some time.

Very little moving in this section for 1917.

## EGERTON-ALSTON

The home of Mrs. Laura Daniel was the scene of a beautiful wedding on Thursday, December 28th, at 1:30 p. m., when her cousin, Miss Annie Belle Alston, daughter of Mrs. Pattie D. Alston of Warren county, was married to Mr. Robert Egerton, son of Mr. Hugh Egerton, of Franklin county. While no cards were issued, quite a number of relatives and friends were gathered at the appointed hour to witness the ceremony, which took place in the parlors of the home which had been made strikingly beautiful in the decorations of green and white. Just before the ceremony Miss Jessie Dameron, accompanied by the piano, sang in a very sweet voice, "For Love's Sweet Sake."

To the ever thrilling Mendelssohn's wedding march, the bridal party entered. First came the maid of honor, Miss Estelle Davis, beautifully gowned in white Georgette crepe, carrying pink carnations, then entering by opposite doors came the bride dressed in a handsome blue coat suit, leaning on the arm of her brother, Mr. Robert Alston, carrying bride's-roses and fern. They were met by the groom and his brother, Mr. Walter Egerton, who acted as best man, in front of the improvised altar, where the marriage vows were given by Rev. R. W. Bailey, former pastor of the bride.

Mr. and Mrs. Egerton left immediately for a short wedding trip, after which, they will be at home in Petersburg, Va., where the groom holds a prominent position. Their general popularity was liberally attested by the large number of lovely presents they received.

The Record joins with a host of friends in wishing them a happy and prosperous married life.

## EMBRO ITEMS

Greetings for 1917 a Happy New Year to all!

Mr. W. B. Harris, of Winston Salem, spent the holidays with his parents.

Mr. Manly Hunter and family are going to move to Oakville. We regret to see them go.

Mr. Walter Collier and Miss Eileen Robinson were married by Mr. J. B. Harris recently. We wish them all success and happiness.

Mr. T. M. Allen, who has spent some time in the eastern part of the State, is at home to the delight of his friends.

Mr. E. A. Harris, of Franklinton, spent Christmas day with his uncle, Mr. J. B. Harris.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Harriss had the pleasure of having all their children with them during the Christmas holidays.

Misses Blanche and Minnie Harriss will return to Littleton College Wednesday after spending the holidays at the home of their parents.

Miss Shaw took charge of her school Wednesday.

Professor Grover Harriss will return to his school duties at Oakville next Monday.

Mr. T. J. Stallings went to Macon one day last week on business.

Mr. Reuben Shearin and Miss James were married last Saturday.

—ALPHA.

## MURDER AT AFTON

Returning from a Christmas Tree on last Monday, Biglow Trupe killed Isham Davis at Mr. Willis Pinnell's place.

Trupe was arrested promptly by Deputy John Bell and Chief Police Hay and lodged in jail here.

Both were young negroes. Trupe claims that the murder was accidental.

The huntsmen enjoyed the sport during the holidays.

This community was shocked at the sudden death of Mr. Edgar R. Robertson on December 17th. He was a faithful member of the Methodist church here, and will be missed at the regular church services. We extend our sympathy to the bereaved.

Mr. and Mrs. Dotsey, of Hollister, visited in the home of Mr. Richard Conn Sunday. We are glad Mrs. Conn is, improving after several days of suffering.

Mr. S. R. Duke, of Marmaduke, visited his brother Walter and family Thursday night.

Little Bettie Cooper Davis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Weldon Davis, has been very ill for the past few days.

The Canning Club, the Poultry Club, the Corn Club, and the Pig Club will each have interested members in our neighborhood for 1917. Good!

## FRIENDSHIP

Within the storehouse of our hearts we place our friends;  
And friends are not just those to whom we say

A blank and cheerless "Howdy-de-do"—  
—whose coldness blends  
With those who merely pass the time of day.

The consciousness of love doth weld and mold as one  
The hearts of those whom friendship doth abide;  
And joy eternal is the recompense, and none  
Their fullest measures e'er shall be denied.

No mortal counterfeit or sham shall e'er deceive  
No seeming sense of doubt shall e'er offend,  
But on the perfect loom of life each one shall weave  
The warp of brother with the woof of friend.

And from this cloth shall charity for each one make  
"The undivided garment"—fit and free;  
And man with every eye so clear shall in the wake  
Of honor, friendship, love—find liberty.  
—Frank C. Reighter in the Chicago Sunday Herald.

## DELIGHTFUL PARTY

The boys of the "younger set" gave to the girls of the younger set a delightful party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Rodwell Friday evening December 29th. After various games had been played, delightful refreshments were served consisting of Ambrosia, Nabiscoes, various kinds of cake and candy daintily served. The following were present:

Douglas Henderson with Miss Janice Watson; Will Price with Miss Cate Gardner; Robert Broom with Miss Sally Davis; John Kerr with Miss Agnes Henderson; M. Pet. Burwell with Miss Gayle Tarwater; Frank Hunter with Miss Will Jones; Stags, Harwell Burwell, Bignall Jones, Earl Macon and Roger Dowlin.

## MRS. ALICE H. JONES

In the death of Mrs. Alice H. Jones, many in Petersburg have lost a genial and loyal friend. She was the widow of Stephen W. Jones, a captain in the Confederate army. Although Mrs. Jones has made her home in New York City for many years, she has come to Petersburg sufficiently often to keep up with her old friends and to make many new ones among the younger people of the city.

Her genial wit and humor, and her persistent youth made her a favorite with all. She outlived many of her other friends, but she never lost her interest in young folks—a host of whom are numbered among her friends.

Mrs. Jones was born in Petersburg in 1846. She was taken ill suddenly on Dec. 23rd at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Wm. Hodges Mann, of New York. Her sickness developed into pneumonia and the end came on Wednesday, Dec. 23, at 3 p. m.

The funeral services and interment were at Blandford. The body was brought down from New York Friday morning. A large number of friends met the funeral party at the station and went out to the cemetery. The service was conducted by the Rev. Mr. Williams of the Market Street M. E. Church, which Mrs. Jones attended when she was in Petersburg. The pall-bearers were: John Arthur Johnston, Dunn Martin, Mortimer Williams, Edward Spotswood, Dr. M. C. S. McGill, Tucker Whyte, Alex D. Hamilton, Wm. Hodges Mann, Jr.

Mrs. Jones is survived by her son, N. Robert Jones, of Boise, Idaho, and by two daughters, Mrs. Mary V. Butt widow of Mr. James Butt, and Mrs. Wm. Hodges Mann, 2nd, both of whom live in New York City.

Mrs. Stephen W. Jones was the sister-in-law of Miss Mary Alice Jones and Mr. William B. Jones of this town and the widow of one of Lee's bravest and best officers.

—Editor Record.

## WATCH NIGHT SERVICES

Inspiring and well attended Watch Services were held in the Methodist and Episcopal churches here Sunday night.

It is always safe to learn, even from our enemies—seldom safe to venture to instruct, even our friends.

## STARTED NEW YEAR RIGHT!

### POPULAR COUPLE MARRY

Miss Alyce Rodwell, the charming daughter of Judge James R. Rodwell, was married Monday to Dr. William D. Rodgers, Jr. The ceremony was performed by Rev. T. J. Taylor, D. D. at the home of the bride with only the relatives of the two families in attendance. Mr. James R. Rodwell, Jr. of Baltimore, the talented brother of the bride, was at the piano and rendered beautiful wedding music.

The bride has a charming personality and possesses a host of friends. The groom is a very prominent young physician and is a graduate of Wake Forest and Jefferson Medical Colleges. Dr. and Mrs. Rodgers left immediately on a Seaboard train for New York and will be at home in Warrenton after January 15th.

The Record extends its best wishes for health, happiness and prosperity.

## MACON ITEMS

Misses Susie and Katie Shaw have been at home during the holidays.

Miss Carrie Brame accompanied by her friend, Miss Ellis from Cary, has been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Brame.

Mr. Arthur Brame, a dignified Senior of Trinity College, has been at home for several days.

Messrs Louis and Bracy Bobbitt have spent Christmas at the home of their father, Mr. Fletcher Bobbitt, and regaled themselves with hunting. The one is a student at the University; the other a druggist at Winston.

Mr. Joe White and daughter, Miss Jessie, have been visiting their relatives Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Coleman. Their home is now in Zebulon.

Mr. Edward Harris, of Franklinton, was a visitor in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Egerton last week. He also visited his brother Mr. Ben Harris at Embro.

Miss Lucy Byers spent a few days in Richmond last week, and has returned accompanied by her sister who will remain in our midst a few days.

Master Dan Lawrence and his sister, Miss Rebekah, of Sanford, are visiting their aunt, Mrs. Lucy Thornton.

Mrs. Sallie Twitty, of Warrenton, is spending a few days with her niece, Mrs. S. S. Reeks.

Mr. Henry B. Hunter, of Afton, paid a visit to his niece, Mrs. P. M. Stallings, a few days ago.

Miss Mary Weston passed the holidays with friends in Morganton, N. C., and reported a pleasant visit.

Mrs. Alice Russell accompanied Mrs. Rowan to her home in Hamlet, N. C. this week.

Mr. Russell Betts has given up his position as pharmacist in Raleigh and will enter the University at the opening after the holidays.

A marked improvement has been seen here during the week just passed in the consumption of liquor, over similar occasions in the past. The quart law is responsible.

Mr. and Mrs. Agelasto returned to their home in Norfolk last Sunday after a week's stay at the bungalow.

Mr. Malvern Harris accompanied by Messrs Lewis and Eugene Harriss went to Raleigh and Durham in their automobile during the Christmas.

Mr. William B. Harris, Jr., of Winston, came to see his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Harris of Embro last week.

Rev. Herbert Scholz went to Raleigh last Friday to spend a few days with friends.

Macon High School will re-open Monday the 8th, with a full attendance.

Miss Lucy Reeks, of the Methodist Orphanage at Raleigh, spent a few days here last week with her sisters.

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. J. Milam were in town last week visiting relatives.

Miss Pauline Newell visited her aunt, Miss Lucy Reeks, last weeks.

## STORM PARTY

A delightful time was had when Miss Will Jones was stormed by some of her friends Monday evening, Jan. 1st. The storm burst upon her suddenly, but she was equal to the occasion and soon everybody was having a "large" time. Various games were played, and the time all but flew. Refreshments were served and the stormers returned to their various homes thinking of the good time they had enjoyed.

To look up and not down,  
To look forward and not back,  
To look out and not in, and  
To lend a hand.