

AT THE CAPITAL OF BANNER.

Benson Graded School To Open On September 3rd, With Able Corps of Teachers. Sudden Death of Mr. J. V. Barefoot. Enjoyable Picnic by Presbyterian Sunday School. Miss Gertrude Surles Gives Ice Cream Supper. Other Items of Interest.

Benson, Aug. 23.—Mrs. C. E. Mills, of Florida, is spending some time here with her daughter, Mrs. H. H. Utley.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Jones, of Kenly, are here for a few days with friends.

Mr. Claud Weeks left the first of the week for LaGrange where he has a position with a tobacco warehouse.

Miss Mabel Evans left the first of the week for her home at Rich Square after spending several weeks here with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Britt and Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Rose and children spent Sunday at Chalybeate Springs with friends.

Mrs. S. C. Smith returned Sunday from a several days' vacation to Fuquay Springs.

Mr. Loyd Langdon, of Wade, was a visitor to our city Monday on business matters.

Miss Veral Johnson, of Harnett County, has been here for several days visiting Miss Gertrude Surles.

Mr. Hubert Benson was here the first of the week on a short visit to his sister, Miss Stella Benson, who is visiting relatives here.

Miss Lula Stancell is here this week assisting Postmaster L. E. Stevens in his work in the office.

Miss Maud Hall, of Fayetteville, has been here for several days visiting relatives.

Rev. J. M. Duncan, of Mt. Olive, was here for a day or two this week shaking hands with friends. We are always glad to welcome him back to Benson.

Miss Callie Ivey, of Durham, was here for several days visiting at the home of her uncle, Mr. S. F. Ivey, recently.

Mr. Ira Lee, of Middlesex, was in the city Tuesday for a short while with relatives.

Misses Clara Stevens and Estelle Stevens, of Goldsboro, were here this week spending a few days with Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Rackley.

Mr. S. F. Ivey and Mr. N. W. Porter went to Goldsboro Tuesday on business, spending the day.

Messrs. Ezra Parker, N. T. Ryals, R. U. Barbour and George Moore went to Smithfield Tuesday attending the Recorder's Court.

Mr. Brosia Porter, of Petersburg, Va., was here this week for a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Whittenton and Messrs. A. L. Barefoot and L. Gilbert were visitors to Raleigh Tuesday.

Mrs. Fannie Stewart and Mrs. Essie Lucas left this morning for a few days visit to Falcon, N. C.

Mr. Preston Woodall left today for Philadelphia where he will spend some time buying goods before his return to Benson.

Sheriff W. F. Grimes and family, of Smithfield, spent Sunday in the city with relatives and friends.

Mr. J. B. Benton and little daughter, Gladys Benton, went up to Charlotte the first of the week for a day or two.

Miss Helen Dixon, of Racford, spent a few hours here the first of the week on her way to visit her brother in Pennsylvania.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Boon and children and Mrs. Boon's sister, Mrs. Jones, of Elizabeth City, went up to Raleigh today for a short while.

Miss Ethel Hall returned last night from a visit of several days to Fayetteville.

Mr. J. B. Adams, of Four Oaks, was in the city last night on a visit to friends.

Dr. S. P. J. Lee, of Dunn, was here for a few hours Wednesday on a business visit.

Mr. C. T. Johnson left last night for Baltimore and other northern cities where he will buy goods for his store.

Mr. J. E. Wilson went up to Smithfield yesterday for a few hours on business.

Mrs. W. H. Massengill, who has been sick for the past few days, is improving for the last day or two.

Mr. P. A. Fisher, Lorin Fisher, and Misses Janie Fisher, of Carthage and Virgie Harkey, of Mathews, spent a few days here this week at the home of Mr. J. B. Benton.

Rev. J. W. Patton, of Greensboro, has been here this week lecturing to the members of the Masonic Order. He will conduct services at the Baptist church Sunday morning.

Miss Gertrude Surles gave an ice cream supper Tuesday evening August 21st, at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Surles, in honor of her guest, Miss Verl Johnson, of Coats. After playing numerous games including Rook, Wink, Truth, Fruit Basket, Knife, Post

Office, and many other very amusing ones, and those present listened to music rendered by Miss Flora Canal day. The occasion was very highly enjoyed by those present, among them we note: Misses Flora Canaday, Minnie Johnson, Alta Benson, Maud Benson, Lettie Surles, Lucile Lee, Ruby Hobbs, Myrtle Massengill, and Messrs. Wm. Woodall, Paul Stephenson, Ernest Hudson, Clarence Johnson, George Hall, Wilbour Creech, Aaron Penny and Casper Jer-nigan.

The Benson High School will open here on the 3rd day of September, under the supervision of Prof. T. T. Lanier as principal, and the following assistants: Miss Letitia Mydgette, of Manteo, Myrtle Bruton, of Biscoe, Mae Bell Cobb, of Fremont, Florence Dixon, of Raeford, Julia Canaday of Benson, Minnie Somers, of Mt. Airy, Mabel Kurfees, of Cooleemee, Mattie Lippe, of Mooresville, Myrtle Ashcraft, of Wadesboro, and Annie Laurie Wicker, of Elon College. The school has a very promising outlook for a prosperous year; applications have been made by a number of pupils from a distance for entrance already and quite a large crowd is expected on the day of the opening.

Mr. J. V. Barefoot, of Harnett County, brother to Mr. A. L. Barefoot of Benson, died suddenly at his home three miles west of here this morning, after having been stricken with apoplexy last night at eleven o'clock. He was in his usual good health yesterday and was in Benson talking and laughing with friends here. He was fifty-two years old and leaves surviving him a large number of children besides his wife. Mr. Barefoot was a Justice of the Peace in Harnett County for the past twelve years, was a prosperous farmer and a man of large influence in the community in which he lived. He was a member of the Free Will Baptist church at Hodges Chapel, at which place the funeral will take place. Mr. Barefoot will be missed by the entire community.

The members of the Presbyterian Sunday school here enjoyed a picnic Wednesday. There were nine automobile loads of them who went to Raleigh and spent the day, which was highly enjoyed by the younger members of the school.

Misses Catherine and Aline McLamb, of Sampson County, are spending a few days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. I. B. McLamb.

JOHNSON SCHOOL HOUSE NEWS.

Mr. Jesse Wood and daughter, Miss Olza Wood, of the Shiloh section, spent last Friday night with Mr. Wood's daughter, Mrs. F. D. Holland.

Mr. Clarence Lee and sister, Miss Myrtle Lee and Mr. Walter Dickson and sister, Miss Nelia Dickson, of Willow Springs, spent last Sunday at the home of Mr. J. C. Powell.

Mrs. Paul Youngblood, of Wilson's Mills section, spent the latter part of last week with relatives in this neighborhood.

Misses Kittie and Vera Beasley and Miss Olza Wood left last Saturday for Norfolk, Va., on a visit to relatives.

Miss Irene Coats, of Shiloh, spent part of this week with her sister, Mrs. Thomas Ives.

Mr. W. J. Lewis and family, of Four Oaks, spent last Sunday with Mr. Ben Casey.

This week is a busy week with the farmers of this section—pulling fodder.

Little Miss Eallah Parker is spending some time with her grandmother, Mrs. G. A. Thompson, in Pisgah section.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Champion spent last Sunday with Mrs. Champion's sister, Mrs. J. L. Johnson.

Little Miss Christine Wood, of Shiloh section, spent last week with her sister, Mrs. F. D. Molland.

DREAMER.

Silas Ferguson's Exemption Revoked.

Raleigh, Aug. 20.—Silas Ferguson, who had been drawn for draft army service and exempted on account of dependent wife and child, was today ordered into service through revocation of the exemption, on account of alleged gross misconduct at Pullen park last night. He and two friends made an attack on J. A. Winters, whose wife they had attempted to press their company upon. Ferguson and Robert McLean held Winters, it is reported, while Herman used his knife on Winters, who warned Herman that they must not be disrespectful to his wife.

Herman was given six months on the roads and the other McLean boy was fined \$25. Ferguson was fined \$10 and then the reserve board revoked his exemption on the ground that in view of his conduct his wife would be better off with him in the army.

You don't get any further on the Highway of Life by arguing with Fate, the Traffic Officer. Drive on, David!

ON ROAD TO BENTONVILLE.

Sheriff Powell Tells Herald Readers Why the "Devil's Race Path" Got Its Name. Visits Bentonville Battleground and Mill Creek Old Spring. Calls to Mind Men of Days Long Past.

Messrs. Editors: I know it is threshing old straw, but Mr. T. C. Jordan invited my wife and myself to go with him and family to visit the Bentonville Battlefield recently. So with his big Chalmers car provisioned and iced, we wheeled over the National Highway across Turner's and Black Creek bridges, taking the left road by Pal, Percy and Charlie Smith's, over the old tram, now one of Ingram township's good roads, via Mr. Calvin Stewart, nee John Wood Lovit Davis, C. S. Powell, Oscar Rand old place, passing the old Pat Strickland place, who owned more than a hundred hogs and cows, not a foot of land; went barefooted always, and kept her clothes in a flour barrel, see the moon through the cracks, finger-picked cotton, spun and wove cloth, milked in a gourd, ground meal in a hominy mill, and sometimes broke some of the Ten Commandments; on over the "Devil's race path," which legend says was the meeting place of noted turf lovers, the McDaniels, McDouglals, McDougals, McNatts, McLamb and others of the followers of Charles the Pretender, and scattered over this and the Cape Fear regions. It won its sobriquet by a stranger mounted on a richly caparisoned large fine black horse, coming to the race on an occasion, when "spirits" were free and all present in a jolly mood, without an introduction or inquiry as to stakes, followed in the wake of the first go, passed all on the half way, his horse's nostrils blowing smoke like a tar-kiln, going on and on, never looking back and never returning. His identity was never discovered and was ever afterward called the "Devil's race path."

After the war in 1865 Major Nathan Williams and Col. John Sanders, two of the most distinguished citizens, large land and slave owners, losing all except lands and a single horse, visited Smithfield together, "riding and tying," which was riding and walking alternately. Their slaves were enfranchised and they disfranchised, and that makes a white Southern Republican an enigma. But that is another tale. This region is rapidly improving in all material lines. The Stuart school house, a handsome one with flourishing Sunday school, is a fitting sequel at our end of the noted race track. The old mulberry orchard at the Col. Sanders place brought old recollections of the old apple and grape dumplings so often served by the princess of the Sand Hill, Mrs. Martha Sanders, and here the venerable old school-master Ghost Elliott taught and I learned surveying in five days attendance after the war. The sandy roads have been clayed and the advent of automobile has shortened the time to Bentonville from three hours to 30 minutes. A flourishing church and school on this road is highly appreciated by the sons of Ham. Bentonville holds its own. Some old buildings have disappeared, but others more pretentious have been builded. The old post office name of Bentonville, after wearing the Beasley suit a few years, went back to her first love, and is now commemorating the fierce battle of Bentonville of National notoriety. The sand in this region is still on the map.

We lunched on the Sam Howell branch which lay between the Yankee and Confederate armies. The breast-works and rifle pits are still easily traced and the scarred trees bear testimony of the inquisitive minnie balls and shrieking shells and shrapnel. Passing the monument beyond the battlefields which is fast decaying, while the graves of the fallen Confederates are already unrecognizable. We passed the old John Harper home, the scene of so much hospitality to Confederate soldiers in these dark days. We passed old Mill Creek church and Masonic Lodge No. 125, a daughter of Fellowship No. 84. The dignified first Worshipful Master, Major Nathan Williams, came in my mind and his old associates, Jim Bryan, Bill Bryan, Tom Sneed, Dr. Ross, Bill Rose, and others and a visit to the hill-side spring that has been honored with a concrete wall and terra cotta pipe in place of the old gum, while the same old stately unbled long-leaved pines still stand sentinel around this far back trysting place for many decades. This was the church and school grounds of many of my war comrades, and many, many times on our Virginia marches have I heard them singing its praises. Volumes could be written about it, but not now. We stopped at Mr. Calvin Stewart's and enjoyed his pleasant surroundings and future invitations to gnaw mutton bones and veal cutlets and fish chowders. The tall corn, rank cotton, and flourishing young orchard "locked good to me."

C. S. POWELL.

Crop Pays For His Farm.

Gerhard Esaw, who lives west of Gainsville, is glad that he left Germany and came to America where he has found splendid opportunity which he declares could not be enjoyed by his people in Germany, says the Oklahoman. He paid \$6,400 for 100 acres of land on which he harvested 2000 bushels of wheat that he has stored in a granary expecting to get \$2.50 per bushel. This, he figures, will realize \$5,000. He will have not less than \$1,000 worth of corn. His oats crop brought him \$1,500. He has more than paid for his farm in one year. He declares that America offers advantages as well as liberty from taxation and oppression such as exists in Germany.—Oklahoma Dispatch.

Plato's Chiseled Sentences.

Why is it that the words of Plato live today? Mainly because of their content, but partly also because of their literary form. It is said that he wrote one of his sentences in seven different ways before casting it into the final form which he desired. Patiently he applied the chisel as a literary sculptor until the statue stood complete before him. The difference between life and death with much of our work, literally and otherwise, is the difference in workmanship. The fruit of carelessness can but be ephemeral, while the work of patience will endure.—Biblical Recorder.

The Sword for Germany.

German autocracy has lived by the sword and ruled by the sword. It must die by the sword. The crisis through which the empire is passing is a summons to the Allies to prosecute the war with still greater vigor and determination. The psychology of the situation is now on the side of democracy. The German autocracy has no means of dealing with popular unrest except through victories in the field, and if these are denied to it, if defeat is piled upon defeat, the system will soon go crashing down to ruin. The harder the blows that the Allies can now deal the quicker the end.

That is what the German crisis should mean to every Government at war with Prussian imperialism. It is the revelation of a supreme advantage which cannot be disregarded without the needless prolongation of the war and the loss of uncounted lives and treasure.—New York World.

SPECIAL SALE OF MANHATTAN SHIRTS All \$2.00 Grades Now \$1.65

It will pay any one that needs a suit of CLOTHES to look at the left-overs from last fall and last spring, and do it soon, as the regular fall and winter stock will be higher.

N. B. Grantham Smithfield, N. C.

Positively No Longer

Positively no longer than the last day of August, 1917, will we charge any goods to anybody. We have tried the old way too long for the best and will adopt the Cash System entirely, beginning September 1st. We shall keep a good stock of goods and will be able to give you good bargains for Cash.

Remember we are across the river at the Brick Yard.

C. W. Beasley & Son Smithfield, N. C.

Spiers Big Clearance SALE

Closes Saturday Sept. 1st

Opportunities that Cannot be Overlooked Are Presented at this Sale

We are Offering a Big Stock of Desirable Goods Principally Less than we Can Buy Them

Goods Will Be Much Higher Very Soon

SPIERS BROS. SMITHFIELD, N. C.