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WILLIAMSTON SOON TO HAVE ANOTHER BANK

The Two Williamston Banks Have Consolidated and Another Bank to Be Incorporated in a Short Time—Handsome Building To Be Erected Soon.

BIG THINGS FOR THE COUNTY

Financial circles in Williamston have been in a flurry for several days, owing to the establishment of another large bank. Several of the big stockholders in the Bank of Martin County disposed of their holdings, and will incorporate another institution with James G. Staton, President. The new bank will be capitalized at \$50,000 and will have a surplus of \$25,000 to start with. There were ready takers for the shares offered, and several hundred have been sold. A banking house is to be erected on some spot in the heart of the business section, and the new institution will begin under the most favorable conditions. Charles H. Godwin is to be Cashier.

There is general satisfaction over the enlargement of the banking facilities of the town, for it must mean great things for the community and county also. The incorporators of the new bank, among whom are, J. G. Staton, A. R. Dunning, W. J. Whitaker and Clayton Moore, are men trained in business, and they bespeak for the institution a successful future. No town in North Carolina has as well-developed financial institutions as Williamston, and few larger places have been able to forge ahead of it in this phase of its material prosperity.

At the same time as the formation of the new bank, comes the statement of the consolidation of the Farmers & Merchants Bank and the Bank of Martin County, two of the strongest institutions in this section of the State, the Bank of Martin County being the first organized in the county. The capital of the new organization will be \$50,000 and a surplus of \$25,000 or more. One branch of the institution will be the Martin County Savings & Trust Co., and its home will be in the Godard Building, where the Bank of Martin County has made its home for years. Here will be done all kinds of business for which a bank can be chartered, except commercial banking, as the handling of estates, guardianships, real estate, etc. The name of the Farmers & Merchants Bank will probably be changed to that of The Farmers Bank of Martin.

The prime movers in the consolidation of the two banks are Dr. John D. Biggs and Joseph G. Godard, who have been at the head of the respective institutions and who are leaders in the banking world. These two men with others have seen a vision of an enlarged activity and usefulness to the business and farming sections of the county, which is to be the natural result of the consolidation of the two strong institutions represented by them.

Though the weather was bad, there was a crowd out to each service to hear the Rev. Mr. Eure at the Methodist Church. His sermons were greatly enjoyed by all who heard him.

The roads are so muddy that Williamston people have been almost marooned at home. Gasoline bills are not so large.

Over One Million

Four of the Martin County banks issued their statements last week, and two more are in these columns today. The call for the statements was made on December 27th, 1916, and a glance will show that in these six banks, more than a million dollars of the people's money in Martin County reposed in their vaults on that day. To be exact the sum was \$1,003,498.11. Of this sum, the two banks in Williamston showed \$668,964.38, or over half the sum total of deposits. Later on or at the close of the year, this sum had been greatly augmented. Somebody has snatched the gold from the soil, and put it in safe hands. The increase should be far greater this year, if conditions are conducive to crop production.

Ice Storms

All over the South beginning with Texas, the Storm King has reigned this week. Heavy snows in Texas, ice storms with snow at other places, and even this section received its coating of ice Monday night. Last week, the beautiful snow fell, but having been preceded by rain, soon melted. The sleet was not heavy enough to produce damage to trees and wires, but was the most potent sign of winter that has come for more than a month. Truly, the "Sunny South" is a misnomer, for it has the appearance of having taken a trip up North. Though all out-door work is suspended, the soil will not suffer as a freeze will help the decay in vegetation, which is good for the farm lands.

Mr. J. Ben Hopkins Dead

Death has entered another home in Williamston and left darkness there, where light once was. The soul of Benjamin Hopkins took its eternal flight on the evening of January 16th, 1917, after the body, once strong and vigorous, had become emaciated from the ravages of typhoid fever. He was born in Martin County on February 25th, 1886, being the son of the late Joel and Louisa Hopkins. On May 5th, 1914, he married Miss Jesse Brown, who with one child, survives him.

Mr. Hopkins came to Williamston ten years ago to work for the Hoyt Hardware Co., and established there a reputation for honesty and untiring energy. Later he went into business for himself, carrying a stock of high grade staple and fancy groceries and it may truthfully be said that he was one of the most popular business men that the town has ever had. In his every day life, he was true in all relations, and possessed a character which gave him an honored position in the esteem of the public. For years he had been a member of the Christian Church, and was constant in his devotion to its services. Though a young man, he will be missed in the town, in his church and Sunday School, and by the loved ones whom he left.

The funeral services were conducted from the residence on Main Street yesterday at 2:00 o'clock by Rev. Asa J. Manning pastor of the Christian Church. The interment was in the Baptist Cemetery, and sorrowing friends and relatives laid flowers on the mound, as tokens of their appreciation of his life here among this people.

A partial eclipse of the sun on Tuesday next. Invisible here.

Robbed Depot

Monday night was a fine time for robbers, and so they decided to snatch a few pints from the A. C. L. depot, and secured an entrance by breaking the glass in one of the doors which leads into the office, where the quart packages are stored away until called for. Evidently egg nog was plentiful on Tuesday morning with the sleet covering every thing outside, and, no doubt, the delightful concoction was extra good on account of the fact that it was purloined from the other fellow. There is no clue to the burglars, as Williamston is the one place in the world where it is safe to rob and never get "cotched."

Friday night last, "dope" burglars entered Dr. Knight's office again and also visited the office of Dr. York. Booze and morphine keep some folks busy here walking around at night seeking an entrance to places where they think some is stored. Evidently the night watchman has to walk the dock through the hours.

"Romeo and Juliet"

Lovers of the beautiful in movie art, will be pleased to learn that on January 26th (next Friday night) Frances X. Bushman and Beverly Bayne will present "Romeo and Juliet" at the Gaiety Theatre. The film is a classic in eight parts, and a heart compelling drama with a sure appeal to every man, woman and child in the world. It was produced at a cost of \$250,000 with cast of 600 players. Truly, it is the love story of the ages, and the screen production brings the soul of Shakespeare to the hearts of the people. Williamston people have not had such a splendid opportunity to enjoy so magnificent a production since the Gaiety Theatre opened its doors. Remember the date, which is next Friday night.

Agricultural Lime

The State Department of Agriculture is offering agricultural lime in two forms, namely: Ground Marl and Ground Limestone. Ground Marl at \$1.50 bulk, \$2.75 in bags in 20 ton minimum car lots with a freight rate Robersonville to Jamesville inclusive of \$1.11 a ton.

High grade ground limestone \$1.00 bulk, \$2.00 bags in 33 ton minimum car lots with a freight rate Robersonville \$2.20, Jamesville \$2.25 a ton.

I am further advised, that those who wish to buy marl would do well to place their orders at once, as some time will be needed to fill them on account of unfilled orders now on hand. Orders for ground limestone may be filled and shipped with reasonable promptness.

Lime for agricultural purposes is offered to the farmer under so many different names, that he is at a loss to make decision about which form to buy. In Section 1, Chap. 265 Public Laws of North Carolina, 1915, we find "that only unburned lime shall be deemed lime for agricultural purposes." Thus defining by legislative enactment the form of lime best suited for agricultural purposes. Since there is but one form of lime suitable for crops, that is the carbonate form the Legislature deemed it best to suppress the long list of terms and designate the carbonate form of lime "limestone" and "marl."

J. L. Holliday, County Agent.

University Items

Chapel Hill, N. C., Jan.—Schools taking part this year in the High School Debating Union, conducted by the University of North Carolina, may now secure from the University a copy of the question at issue—Government Ownership of Railroads. The volume in all contains 92 pages, embracing a comprehensive brief on both sides of the question and selected articles chosen from a wide field of publication, giving due emphasis to both sides of the question.

It is already certain that the contest this year, which is the fifth since the plan was inaugurated, will be the biggest yet held. So far 325 schools have signified their desire to take part, as many as the entire number for last year. The first year, 1912-13, only 90 schools were enrolled. The triangular debates will be held late in March, and then the winners will come to Chapel Hill for the final contest for the Aycock Cup early in April. This year there will be a High School Week, with athletic contests as well as the debates. The schools will have a track meet and also a tennis tournament on the recently constructed Varsity courts.

The renown of the North Carolina High School Debating Union has gone abroad. This year both Alabama and Kentucky will hold similar debates, and furthermore will use the same question and the same bulletin that will be used in this state. Secretary E. R. Rankin states that these two states have applied to him for a number of copies sufficient for their needs. In Kentucky the work is under the auspices of the University; in Alabama, under the leadership of the agricultural college, a Carolina graduate, W. R. Taylor, being director of the debates.

The Good Ship W. H. S.

'Twas the year nineteen and sixteen,

That we put out to sea,
We sailed on the good ship W. H. S.
Twenty-five souls and me,
Carrie Delle, Sylvia and Roland,
They were the Seniors with me.

Just one year on our good ship
And they passed on to another sea,

The Juniors, Ethel and Louise
Bessie, Ruth and James,
Two years with them I sailed

And then I erased their names,
Three years the Sophomores rode
The ship,

Three Marys I had with me,
Two Virginias, Ethel and Fannie
They all sailed out to sea,

Garland, C. D., William and Victor

James, Bruce, Harold, Hermon
and Hugh.

Three years they sailed on the
good old ship,

And then they bid her a fond
adieu.

This ended the voyage of the
good old ship,

The crew, they went their way,
I wished them luck on their journey,

And I hope to see them some
day.

I have sailed on many a grand
old ship,

Of voyage I have had the best.
But the happiest voyage I ever
sailed,

Was on the good ship W. H. S.
W. H. S. stands for something
you know,

Something else with the Golden
Rule,

This rule and W. H. S. combined,
Stand for our Williamston High
School.

A. E. E. Bundy.

Robert Edward Lee

Born January 19th, 1807

When the future historian shall come to survey the character of Lee, he will find it rising like a huge mountain above the undulating plain of humanity, and he must lift his eyes high toward Heaven to catch its summit.

He possessed every virtue of other great commanders without their vices. He was a foe without hate; a friend without treachery; a soldier without cruelty; a victor without oppression; and a victim without murmuring. He was a public officer without vices; a private citizen without a wrong; a neighbor without reproach; a Christian without hypocrisy, and a man without guile. He was Caesar, without his ambition; Frederick, without his tyranny; Napoleon, without his selfishness; and Washington, without his reward.

He was obedient to authority as a servant, and loyal in authority as a true king. He was gentle as a woman in life; modest and pure as a virgin in thought; watchful as a Roman vestal in duty; submissive to law as Socrates, and grand in battle as Achilles.—Benjamin H. Hill.

Prohibition On The Move

If one has read the account of the meeting of the prohibition forces in Raleigh this week, he must have been struck with the strong personnel of the men who attended that meeting. The presence of Hon. William Jennings Bryan, who delivered one of his masterly addresses, gave the meeting an impetus which no other man in America could have given. The Anti-Saloon men of the State are farsighted, and are using the best material to combat the whiskey evil. The Supreme Court's decision on the constitutionality of the Webb-Kenyon law clears the way for the League to bring about better enforcement of the prohibition law. The present session of the Legislature will be asked to aid the movement for the freedom of North Carolina.

Dr. William Louis Potat, of Wake Forest College, one of the strong men of the State, was elected President of the Anti-Saloon League, and will carry into the work that intellectual power which is needed to push forward the movement. Men are determined that the whiskey forces shall be put to flight in their evil designs to corrupt the manhood of the State and Nation.

An Apartment House

Mr. Joseph G. Godard is estimating the cost of an apartment house to be erected on the lot where the buildings were recently burned on Smithwick Street. If built, the apartment will have every modern convenience, water and steam heat. Williamston is quite large and important enough to have such a building, and at this time is greatly in need of it. The high price of fuel would make steam heat much to be desired and then its convenience would be greatly desired by housekeepers. The lack of houses here menaces the growth of the town, and an apartment would in a large measure help to bring families here to live. It is earnestly hoped that Mr. Godard will erect the building at an early date.

Friends regret to learn of the indisposition of Rev. W. R. Burrell, who was unable to hold services on Sunday.

ADMIRAL GEORGE DEWEY DIES AT CAPITAL

After Distinguished Services Admiral Dewey Dies at the Nation's Capitol—Ranking Officer of the World—To Be Buried Tomorrow Hero of Manila Bay.

A DISTINGUISHED CAREER

There are millions of Americans who remember that Sunday morning, May 1st 1898, when Admiral Dewey acting under orders "capture or destroy the enemy's fleet" entered Manila Bay and performed one of the most remarkable feats in the history of naval warfare. Since then, he has been the hero of every man, woman, boy and girl with warm American blood flowing in their veins. The government gave fitting recognition by advancing him to Rear Admiral, and then by special act, Congress made him Admiral of the Navy, and the grade died with him. He was ranking officer of the world, and had reached his eightieth year, when death came Tuesday at 5:56 o'clock at his home in Washington City. Wherever the American flag flies orders were flashed to lower them to half mast in the dead hero's honor. The body will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery, on the Virginia shore of the Potomac River. Mrs. Dewey and son, George, survive the Admiral.

The Woman's Auxiliary

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Church of the Advent held a large and interesting meeting at the home of Mrs. Alonzo Hasell on the eighth. The devotional service was lead by the Rector, Rev. C. H. Jordan, consisting of a Litany for Missions. After the routine of business, came very interesting questions on the history and life of the Auxiliary.

Members were acquainted with the fact that Miss Julia C. Emory the General Secretary at the Church Missions House, New York, had resigned after a faithful service of forty years. Her work has been unique in the history of Missionary societies.

While the first meeting in each month will be devoted to Auxiliary work and have a missionary program, the second meeting will be of the Guild. The next meeting will be on Monday afternoon from 3:30 to 5:00 at the Parish Hall. The members will take sewing and articles for the Bazaar which will be given about Thanksgiving time. Any one desiring to have special articles made for next Christmas, please hand the order to any of the members.

Mrs. J. G. Staton, Pres.

Mrs. J. H. Saunders, Sec.

Jones-Williams

Miss Ada Williams and Mr. Oscar Jones were married at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Williams, in Williams Township, Wednesday evening, at 6:30, Rev. H. M. Eure, pastor of the Methodist Church, officiating. Immediately after the ceremony, the wedded pair went to the home of the groom's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Jones, on the Hamilton Road.

The bride and groom are among the most popular members of the younger set, and have a host of friends, who wish for them many long years of happiness.