

Farmers Of County Were Shipbuilders At Edwards Ferry

John L. Ward and Abram Peel Worked on Ram And Another Boat

Overcoming what many declared were insurmountable obstacles the Confederacy started a shipyard at Edwards Ferry on the upper Roanoke in Halifax County during the Civil War. Farm labor was ready to answer the call, reports stating that there were few experienced in shipbuilding, and that the construction of the old ram "Albemarle" proved a big problem to those farmers who had seen very little iron other than that going around a cart wheel or forming the point of a crude plow.

The late John Lamer Ward, father of Mrs. Virginia Perry who recently recalled many interesting events of the war days, and Abram Peel, a neighbor, went from this county to the cornfield shipyard. A seven-day work schedule was maintained and holidays were not considered by the inexperienced shipbuilders as they rushed work on the old "Albemarle" and another boat, the name of which Mrs. Perry said she could not recall.

"Once each week, my mother would prepare clean clothes and gather food for those working on the boats," Mrs. Perry said. "Once in a while we would carry it ourselves, but as a general rule we sent the clothes and food to Mr. Joe Peel, who acted as receiving agent in the county and who had it carried to the men." Mrs. Perry added.

After a stay of about a year in

PROMINENT IN BUSINESS FIELD



The business growth of Williamston and community is closely associated with the efforts of Messrs. G. H. Harrison, left; Claude B. Clark, Sr., center, and B. S. Courtney, right. Williamston was only a small town when these men, years ago, chose to cast their lots here. It is largely through their efforts that the town has developed into a progressive community center where marketing and trading advantages equal those to be found anywhere while friendliness and human interest still abound in unlimited measure.

CHILDREN KILLED

More children were killed by automobiles last year than were killed by scarlet fever, diphtheria, measles and whooping cough combined.

the shipbuilding cornfield, the two Martin County men started home, the work having been about completed as the war was drawing to a gradual close. They started down on one of the boats they had helped build, but got off at Hamilton. Mrs. Perry states she was told that the boat was burned before it ever got out of Roanoke River by the Confederate to keep it from falling into the hands of the Yankees.

ENCOURAGING

It was encouraging to Martin County Tobacco growers when they learned early in August that the Imperial Tobacco Company would have its organization back on the markets this season. While the government had pledged the farmers relief, it was not definitely known what arrangements would be effected for holding up prices. Details of the arrangements are not known, but it is understood that the government is operating on the markets about as it did a year ago after the Imperial Company went off the market and ceased its purchases for direct export trade.

Maple Sugar Used To Blend Tobacco

A large American tobacco company is again buying 5,000,000 pounds of Canadian maple sugar to be blended with other flavoring and tobacco in the production of cigarettes.

The greater part of the maple production is centered in Quebec; a large portion of this is exported to the United States, most of it going into tobacco.

Demand for Canadian maple sugar developed a few years ago when large shipments failed to pass the rigid requirements of American food inspection laws.

Lint Insulation Material Is New Field For Cotton

Product Is Superior To Types of Insulation Now Being Used

Taylor, Texas — Pointing to greatly expanded use of cotton in the building and construction industries, commercial production of a new cotton insulation material has been inaugurated by a firm in this Texas community.

Tests and studies of the material conducted during the past year by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and other authorities have given convincing proof that the cotton insulation is thoroughly practical.

The National Cotton Council reports that the division of marketing of the Department of Agriculture has announced an allotment to the Texas firm for the production of 2,500,000 pounds of the material and to a North Carolina manufacturer for production of 500,000 pounds. Payments of 6 cents a pound of insulation sold, including fire-resistant impregnation, will be made the manufacturers.

Chemically treated, the cotton insulation is flame proof. The treatment neutralizes all foreign matter in the cotton which might attract vermin. Actual insulation tests show that the cotton product keeps a house one and a half degrees cooler than the much heavier mineral type insulation generally used and ten and a half degrees cooler than an uninsulated house.

Low cost and light weight are given as other factors definitely in favor of cotton insulation.

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