

COMMUNICATION FROM RAT-CLIFF COVE.

On looking back on the past for sixty years when I was just entering my teens and remembering conditions as they then existed and observing the many changes in both our social and industrial life and the great progress that has been wrought and the part that Haywood county played in bringing to a realization these great achievements one that should be honored and revered by all the good and loyal citizens who are now enjoying the privilege and blessing that the old veteran during the dark period of reconstruction through their struggles and privation sought to obtain. When peace was made and the careworn soldiers, some from the battle field, some from the rigors of Northern prisoners, there was joy mixed with sadness. Joy because the long struggle was over, and they were permitted to unite with loved ones once more. Sorrow on account of conditions as they found them. The good wife and mothers who with anxious hearts and hard struggles had maintained the family through this dark period almost in despair. The children mostly clothed in rags and with very little to eat. The country stripped of almost all of its work stock, except some old broken down mules and horses that had been discarded by the Northern army and marauders who had scoured the country and removed most everything that was of value. Yet with all these seemingly unsurmountable difficulties before them they stepped into the furrow behind such stock as they could obtain with cheerfulness and courage to provide a living for their families and to help build up our devastated county, using such tools as could be made and repaired by the country blacksmith whose anvil would ring early and late drawing out and shaping the old bull tongue plow, making horse shoes, repairing hoes and other tools that was used on the farm which has long since been discarded and a more convenient tool has taken their places.

The old flax brake was brought into play where the stalk was broken and then to the scrubbing board where the broken pieces (called shoals) were knocked out of the lint and then went to hackle where the coarse material (called toe) was separated from the finer lint which was manufactured into cloth by the old time methods of which our summer pants were made which was a very good substitute for finger nail if one was so fortunate as to have the itch. The finer lint was spun and wove into cloth to make shirts, sheets, table cloths, towels, etc. The good women played an important part when time to prepare for the incoming crop they would lay aside their household duties and to the field and perform all duties that were required in making the crop. When crops were laid by they would return to their household domestic affairs, working early and late at night, coloring, carding, spinning and weaving into cloth from which our next winter's clothes were made. We children thought we were fortunate if we got our new suits by Christmas. Our hats were made of straw or rushes, our shoes of home tanned leather by the old county shoe maker, over lasts that were cut and shaped by the shoe maker which was ungainly in appearance, but answered a good purpose. Rye was substituted for coffee except on Sunday morning, sugar was a rarity, the only sweetening was black molasses made by crushing the juice out of the cane in the old wooden mill, the squeaks of which could be heard all over the community, boiled in kettles placed in a furnace, skimmed with long necked gourds prepared for that purpose. Our meals chiefly consisted of buckwheat pan cakes or rye fritters ground at the water mill, bolted with a hand bolt, fried in lard, served with rye coffee, honey, fried ham, etc., cooked in ovens and pots in the open fire place which were appetizing and sufficient to satisfy the hunger of the most fastidious.

(To be continued.)
SAGE.
BALSAM ITEMS.

Rev. John A. Taylor of Waynesville and Sebring, Fla., preached two very interesting and instructive sermons in the Methodist church here Sunday.

Mrs. W. M. Hutchinson and daughter, Miss Mary, who have been spending some time at Balsam Springs Hotel, left last week for their home in Atlanta.

Mr. J. C. H. Wilson, who has been visiting John T. Jones and other friends here, returned last week to his home in Asheville.

Mr. Grady Queen accompanied Mr. Byne to Daytona, Fla. Monday. Mr. Byne has a summer home in the Ballough subdivision.

Mr. C. A. Ballough is in Daytona, Fla. this week.

Mrs. R. J. Bryson visited relatives in Clyde Thursday of last week.

Messrs. Frank Welch, Whisenhardt and Grindstaff of Asheville were here Monday looking after mica interest.

Mr. Homer Brown has sold his home to Mr. Guy Reed of Miami, Fla.

Mr. Garnett of Hypoluxi, Fla. has purchased a lot from Mr. Cogdill and will build a summer home in the near future.

Mrs. J. R. Rork of Paducah, Ky. has purchased the J. R. McKay home in Balsam.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hyatt went to Sylva Friday.

Mr. Earley Mehaffey left Tuesday to resume his studies in Chapel Hill.

Mrs. Maybelle Perry and Mr. Charles Perry went to Sylva Friday.

Mr. Jim Barnett and family of Ware Shoals, S. C. visited Mrs. C. A. Foster last week.

Mr. Albert Mehaffey and family from near East LaPorte spent Sunday with Mrs. C. A. Foster.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bryson and Mrs. Meleta Beck went to Waynesville Sunday.

Miss Hulda Foster, Mrs. Daisy Bennett and Mr. Harley Barnett motored to Sunburst Sunday.

Messrs. John T. Jones, James Ballough and George T. Knight went to Sylva Monday.

Mr. J. B. Porter and family who so successfully ran the Balsam Springs Hotel this season, have closed the hotel and will leave this week for their home in Plant City, Fla. By their courteous and genial manners, well supplied table, etc. the Porters made many friends while here and we hope they will return next season.

Balsam has been visited by several heavy rains recently. Also a severe hail and electrical storm Thursday night, during which a large chestnut tree in the back yard of Mr. A. H. Mehaffey was struck by lightning, shocking Miss Mary Mehaffey. About the same time a large white oak tree back of the Odd Fellows hall and half way between Mr. Walter Bryson's and Mrs. W. B. Farwell's was struck from top to bottom. Mr. Bryson was badly shocked and it looked as if balls of fire were shooting by both houses.

Hon. and Mrs. W. T. Lee of Waynesville were in Balsam Monday.

HOME MADE POETRY.

Declaring that it not want any more home-brewed, the Concord Tribune says: "We cannot get the consent of our minds to inflict original poetry on our readers," and so puts up, in effect, the sign "No trespassing."

And now in a town where there should be a reasonable amount of concord there will be a considerable discord, at least if the "original" poets are as many to the square mile in Concord as they are in the rest of North Carolina. Will the home made be sent elsewhere, to Asheville first, for expression in print?

Nay, not here; we have plenty poets and some of them write excellent poetry—others not quite so good, sometimes the verse baulks jerkily, but the facts are there, while in other cases the rhyme is facile but fails to track reality. Now we have on hand a pretty bit of verse, but hesitate to print because poetic imagination outruns fact.

Thus goes a two line stanza to "Asheville:"

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THE SOUTHERN SERVES THE SOUTH

A buyer as well as a carrier of Southern products

The industrial resources of the South are so diversified that the Southern Railway System is fortunately able to purchase a large part of its supplies along its own rails.

While we are carrying the products of our shippers to the markets of the country, we are also buying from them for our own use coal, iron, lumber, cross-ties, equipment, rails—the thousand and one things that are needed to operate and maintain a railroad system of the magnitude of the Southern.

The Southern is a buyer as well as a carrier of Southern products.



SOUTHERN RAILWAY SYSTEM



Club Talk

OFTEN leads to the discussion of footwear and where to find the greatest values. The unanimous verdict is

American Gentleman Shoes

And there is a reason. Distinctive style—perfect fit—unusual wearing qualities and economical prices dominate our entire line of American Gentleman Shoes, preferred footwear for over half a century.

You'll like the way they look—you'll enjoy the way they feel and you'll marvel at the way they wear. Come in and look them over.

BURGIN BROS.
Waynesville, North Carolina

You Can Double The Life Of Your SHOES

CHAMPION SHOE SHOP

E. T. DUCKETT, Prop., Main Street
Prices Are Low Waynesville, N. C.

Tutt's Pills
It's rivers could not be deeper, Nor mountains more lofty and high. Now really, truly can we say this in such dry weather?—Asheville Citizen.

Relieve the bowels, loosen the system, and tone up the system.

AGAINST MALARIA

Ford

—it's not how fine or big a car you may have in your garage that counts.

It's the money you have in the bank

Moral:

Buy a Ford and Save The Difference

DUCKWORTH MOTOR CO.

Ford
THE UNIVERSAL CAR

PRODUCTS

PHONE 350 Waynesville, N. C.

New Cathedral Gong

Colonial Clock

Now on Exhibition at our Store Will Be

GIVEN AWAY

ABSOLUTELY FREE!

You May Hold the Proper Dial and Receive

THIS BEAUTIFUL HIGH GRADE CLOCK FREE

With each \$1.25 cash purchase at our store, we will give our customers, absolutely free, one Special Clock Dial. When all of the dials have been given out, the Clock, which is on display, will be wound and placed in our window. When the clock, after running for a number of days, runs down, the party holding the Dial identically corresponding to the time of the stopped Clock, will receive absolutely free, this High Grade Colonial Clock.

Come to Our Store and Personally See the Colonial Clock on Display

We Want to Increase Our Business So Make This Wonderful Offer.

SLOAN-PLOTT HDWE. CO.

Phone Number 133 Waynesville, N. C.