

POLK COUNTY NEWS

8 Pages
This Week

PRICE
5 Cts.

POLK COUNTY—The Gateway of Western North Carolina

Volume XXIX No. 32

Tryon, N. C., February 14, 1924

\$1.50 a Year

Early Days In Polk County's History

Pacolet Valley Was Nile Of South Carolina Cotton Counties

By J. B. Cleveland

I wish to correct one or two errors in my last.

Colonel Ambrose Mills had three sons and three daughters by his last wife, Annie Brown, sister of Lean Fletchall, wife of Colonel Thos. Fletchall.

William Mills moved from the Screven Place to Arkansas instead of Kansas.

One of the old settlers known to me was William Prince, who lived on the east side of the Pacolet River, about four miles below the Screven Place. Mr. Prince was the most progressive farmer in Polk County. His system was to divide his bottom land into two equal parts by a road and rotate his crops, planting one side in corn, the other in small grain and alternating every one or two years. He lived to be quite an old man. When about ten years of age, I went to his house and saw the log house with port-holes which was used as a defense against the Indians. It was then in a fair state of preservation and used for the storage of grains, etc. After his crop was laid by, Mr. Prince would take some of his Negroes and mine for gold in the numerous branches emptying into the Pacolet River. You can see now great mounds of earth thrown out of the streams one hundred years ago by the miners. It was supposed that Mr. Prince had much gold on hand when he died but such was not the case. His son-in-law, Anderson Bace, told me that he had hauled more corn down south than any man then living. At that time, about sixty years ago, Pacolet River was the Nile of the nearby cotton counties of South Carolina; just as now, wagons loaded with all kinds of produce from Green River Cove, Cooper's Gap and the country around Mill Spring may be seen coming to Spartanburg.

If the farmers of Polk County would take the advice of their most excellent County Farm Agent, Mr. Sams, and rotate their crops, they could raise three times as much as they do now. If you rotate and sow legumes or small grain, or even the stubble, you may live in plenty. If you do not, you are living on seed corn and sooner or later will be at the end of your row, but Mr. Sams can tell you better than I can.

Attending court at Columbus many years ago, I met Mr. Dalton, then over eighty years of age. He had some business in Court and walked every step of the way from his home, near the Rock Quarry, on the railroad some eight miles, and expected to walk back that night. He told me that when he was eighteen years of age, he worked on the Howard Gap Road, named for Captain Howard. It was built by a stock-company. Some of principal stockholders were the three Mills Brothers and Richard Thomson, their father-in-law, who lived in Spartanburg.

The first time I went over the Howard Gap Road was in 1868. It was a toll road and the toll gate as I remember was at Jesse Rhodes, where I spent the night. Just this side of the toll gate (the Kennedy Place) lived Mr. Brack Lanford, much regarded by everyone. When spring came he would take a good supply of herbs, "sang", snake-root and other medicinal plants and go south thru the country prescribing for every kind of ailment. The last time I saw the old man he was quite old and feeble, sitting on his piazza with a cane about ten feet long with a leather disc at the end, killing hornets as they lit on the floor of the piazza. He seemed to enjoy the sport.

Another interesting character of Polk County known to me was Sebe Foster. He lived at

THREE LARGE STILLS LOCATED BY OFFICERS

Three stills were located and destroyed last week by Federal Prohibition Agent M. L. Hutchinson assisted by deputies Lindsey Smith of Columbus and Clinton Staton of Saluda.

The first was found last Tuesday near Pea Ridge, a still of about 70 gallons capacity together with about 400 gallons of mash. No liquor was found and no evidence was placed. The still was a galvanized sheet iron affair.

At Chestnut Springs an 80 gallon iron still was located, and destroyed and eleven beer fermenters were confiscated. About one half mile distant from this still a complete copper still in full operation together with thirteen stands of beer and twenty seven gallons of whiskey were found and destroyed. Two of the operators were identified by the officers and it is expected that arrests will be made at a later date.

TRYON HIGH DEFEATS SALUDA SCHOOL 16-7

Both teams playing a fast game of basket ball, Tryon High School defeated Saluda High by a score of 16 to 7. White and Fisher starred for the Tryon team and Pace for Saluda.

Lineup: Tryon: Nessmith, C.; Morgan, R. G.; Hardy, L. G.; White, R. F.; and Fisher, L. F. Saluda: Pace, C.; Edurns, R. G.; James, L. G.; Leland, R. F.; and Wood, L. F.

CHORAL CLUB ELECTS OFFICERS AT MEETING

Formal organization of the Tryon Choral Society was completed last Monday evening at the meeting held in the Parish House with the election of officers and adoption of a brief charter.

The following officers were elected: G. H. Holmes, president; Mrs. Howard Strong, secretary; W. B. Weigel, treasurer; Miss Emma McFarland, librarian; and Mr. Mazzanovich, director.

Regular meetings and rehearsals will be held each Monday evening promptly at 8 o'clock. About thirty five members signed the membership blank.

the Block House. When the railroad to Asheville was being built, Colonel Faggs had a contract at the Big Cut nearby. It was nearly all rock and it took him months to complete it. Colonel Fagg boarded at Mr. Foster's nearby. Mr. Foster took a great interest in the railroad and did all in his power to push the work along. Black powder was the only explosive then used. The rock was seamy and the explosion blew out thru the seams. Everybody seemed to be interested in Colonel Fagg's contract and the inquiry frequently made, "When will this cut be finished?" Colonel Fagg and Mr. Foster became great friends. Colonel Fagg said that Mr. Foster was the most accommodating man he knew and made a bet with one of his men that he could borrow everything that he had in his house. The bet was taken and the next day Colonel Fagg said, "I am going to have a frolic up at the camp tonight and I want to borrow some of your things." He went thru the house and had borrowed everything in sight from cups and saucers to the bureau. Mr. Foster began to wonder what he wanted so many things for. At last Colonel Fagg's eye fell upon a clock on the mantle. Then Mr. Foster said, "What in the world do you want with a clock?" His reply was, "Never mind, we need it." And so the clock went with the other things. Mr. Foster's only remark was, "Well, that beats anything, but the boys must have their fun." Needless to say the frolic was only a fake, but Mr. Foster added to his reputation of being the most accommodating man in Polk County.

Tryon Scouts Attend Spartanburg Meet

Thirty Scouts and committee-men Jervey, Kilpin, Jackson, Fraser and Schilleter attended the Annual Court of Honor meeting at the Chamber of Commerce in Spartanburg, Saturday night. Tryon should be proud of her boys. There were more scouts from Tryon in attendance than there were from the entire city of Spartanburg. Scout Executive Turner paid our boys a splendid compliment and called upon the boys of Spartanburg to imitate their example of loyalty to their troops.

TEAM NO. 2. WINS FIRST OF BOWLING SERIES

The elimination matches of the Tryon Bowling Club ended last week with Team Number Two in the lead by 161 points. This team composed of W. A. Schilleter, C. N. Sayre, W. M. Hester and G. W. Sheffer rolled 8658 against a total of 8497 points rolled by the first team composed of C. W. Morgan, Ray Jackson, W. W. Creasman and Archie Butler.

Following is the individual standing of the members of the two teams:

Jackson, 2400; Schilleter, 2313; Sayre, 2295; Morgan, 2266; Sheffer, 2057; Hester, 1993; Butler, 1992; and Creasman, 1839. The match play consisted of four sets of four games each.

SALUDA

Mrs. Jane Strother, who was taken to the Tryon Hospital recently for treatment has returned to her home here.

Miss Annine Purdy of Sumter, S. C., came to Tryon upon notice of her sister's illness and then on to Saluda upon Mrs. Strothers' return and is still visiting with her.

Last week the barn of Mr. H. O. Hipp, who lives on the Ravenal place near here, burned. Mr. Hipp was able to save the live stock but lost practically all the feed stuff stored in the barn.

Dr. D. L. Smith, of Spartanburg, who operates a baby hospital here, made a flying trip to Saluda last week. He was accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy and daughter, and Miss Johnson of Spartanburg. They spent a short time with Mrs. Strothers and Mrs. Moore.

Mrs. P. A. Bishop went to Bristol, Va-Tenn., upon notice of the death of her granddaughter, daughter of Mrs. C. F. Johnston of that place.

Mr. J. M. Foster, of Landrum, S. C., has been added to the faculty of our high school. Mr. Foster comes from Greenville where he has been attending Furman University. Mr. and Mrs. Foster will make their home with Mr. Cullipher.

There is some building activity present in our city at this time among which we note a new cedar-shingle roof on the Baptist Church. There was some complaint that the old roof was not stopping the rain.

On Friday night at eight o'clock the ladies of the Baptist church will with the help of some of the young folks of the town put on a local talent play, entitled "Son John". A small admission fee will be charged, the proceeds going for the benefit of the church. The play is said to be a pleasing comedy and those who attend are promised a pleasant two hours. We hope to give a full account of the entertainment in our next issue.

Mrs. H. D. McCallister has returned from Bristol, Va., Tenn., where she spent two weeks. On her way home she was met in Asheville by Mr. McCallister. Mr. McCallister is now located in Bryson City where Mrs. McCallister will join him soon.

Elect Officers For Tryon Country Club

The annual election of officers for the Tryon Country Club was held last Monday evening. Eugene Brownlee was re-elected as president of the organization and G. F. Stone as secretary and treasurer. Carter Brown was elected as vice-president, replacing Harry Wilkie who held that office during the past fiscal year.

It was pointed out that the club was on a self-maintaining basis for the first time since its organization and has now a substantial balance in its treasury with no additional outstanding debts.

G. H. Holmes and B. L. Ballenger were elected as directors.

Following the election of officers and the hearing of committee reports, discussion was held in regard to a swimming pool for the club. It was generally conceded that a pool would be a valuable asset and a much needed one. Approximate estimates showed that a pool 45 feet by 75 feet would, together with equipment, cost in the neighborhood of \$2,500.

A committee composed of G. H. Holmes, chairman, F. P. Bacon and B. L. Ballenger was appointed to examine more closely into the question and report to the membership at a meeting to be held within the next week or ten days. It is planned tentatively to place the pool near the second green directly across from the club house.

The club now has 39 members on its roster, twelve of whom are non-resident members.

P. T. A. MEETING MONDAY

The Parent-Teacher Association will hold its February meeting at the school building Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock. A full attendance is urged in order that matters of vital interest to the school may be discussed and passed upon.

Washington's Birthday Entertainment At School.

The first five grades of the Tryon Graded School will give a free Washington's Birthday Entertainment at the school house Friday afternoon, February 22, at 1:30 P. M. Tea, cake, candy, and lemonade will be sold proceeds from which will be devoted to play ground and equipment.

SUNNY VIEW

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Jackson and children visited at the home of Mr. Birch Jackson Sunday afternoon.

Mr. W. B. McGuinn who has a position at Forest City, N. C., spent Saturday night at the home of W. D. Helton.

Mr. Jay Jackson was a visitor of Belton Jackson Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Wilson and children visited the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. N. Wilson Sunday last.

Miss Oma Reynolds and Miss Millie McMeKinney spent the week-end with their home folks.

Mrs. G. L. Taylor visited Mrs. W. D. Helton Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Ernest Corn was a dinner guest at the home of J. L. Jackson Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Garner Skipper and children and Mrs. O. L. Wilson visited Mrs. S. J. Helton Sunday last.

Mr. and Mrs. Hobart Whiteside have moved onto the farm of G. S. Whiteside.

Mrs. Gartha McGuinn visited at the home of W. D. Helton Monday.

We are glad to say that Mr. Buford McGuinn who is in Rutherfordton Hospital after an operation is getting along nicely.

Prof. E. W. S. Cobb visited our school Monday and made a very interesting talk.

MRS. JAMES LEONARD DIED LAST FRIDAY

Funeral services for Mrs. James Leonard, who died last Friday morning at 9 o'clock, were held on Saturday morning at 10 o'clock from St. John's Church, the Reverend James A. Manly officiating.

Mrs. Leonard had been in ill health for about three months prior to her death, all hope for recovery having been given up during the last month. She is survived by her husband and a daughter, Helen, aged 10, four sisters, Mrs. Nora Kirsme, of Dundee, Ill., Mrs. Josephine Monahan of Barrington, Ill., Mrs. Mary Buckley of Chicago and Mrs. Ann Baldwin of Lincoln, Neb., also by a brother, Lawrence Donlea of Chicago. Mrs. Leonard was Miss Helen Donlea before her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard came to Tryon about ten years ago to make their residence.

Interment was made in the Tryon Cemetery.

JANET FREEMAN WEDS JOHN TAYLOR PHILIPS

The wedding of Miss Janet H. Freeman, daughter of Mrs. James D. Freeman of 123 Waverly Place, and John Taylor Philips, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederic D. Philips of 115 East Thirty-seventh Street, took place recently in the chantry of St. Thomas's Church. The Rev. Dr. William G. Thayer, headmaster of St. Marks School performed the ceremony, which was followed by a small reception at the Hotel Gotham. The engagement was announced last November.

MRS. HEYWARD TO GIVE RECITAL FEBRUARY 29

Mrs. Jane Screven Heyward, well known dialect reader, will offer a recital of her "Gullah" poems and character sketches on the evening of February 29 at the Parish House.

Mrs. Heyward is able to bring out in her original poems and anecdotes as no artist before has attempted to do the love and devotion which existed between the white people and the dependent blacks in the days "befo' de wah."

Tryon audiences who were fortunate enough to hear her last year were delighted with the readings.

TRYON ROUTE ONE

Quite a few attended church at Bethel last Sunday and there were many comments made on the sermon delivered by Pastor Freeman.

If the "Ground Hog Day" theory proves correct we surely will have fruit this year.

We are glad indeed to see our carrier, Lester Wilson, on the route again after his illness.

The Misses Clara and Irene Edwards were the Sunday guests of the Misses Bessie and Grace Hamilton.

J. D. Carpenter and Harley Jackson attended the Township Sunday School Institute at Greens Creek Sunday.

The teachers of Green Creek school are happy over the prospect of moving into their new building. It is a building that the county should be proud of.

The Lanier Club

The next meeting of the Lanier Club to be held February 21 at 3:30 in the afternoon will have an interesting programme consisting of two papers, one of which will be read by Miss Durand, an alumna of Vassar, the paper to be on the subject of "Before College, What?", and the second by Mrs. S. F. Clark, entitled "After College, What?" Tea will be served as usual.

Turkish Delight, 80 cents a pound. Sold at the Library Exchange or order by phoning 22.

C. of C. Secretaries Of South May Visit Here

Trip To Tryon On Program Of Spartanburg Conference

Indications are that Tryon will have the pleasure of entertaining for one day the secretaries and other representatives of the Chambers of Commerce and similar organizations of the Southern States early in the summer.

A committee composed of B. L. Ballenger, president of the Tryon Chamber of Commerce, C. J. Lynch and W. H. Stearns called upon secretary Beebe of the Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce to invite the secretaries who will attend the school and conference to be held in that city in June to spend the day in the mountains. According to the present plans the afternoon and evening of June has been set aside by the programme committee for recreation. A large number of the secretaries who are indicating their intention of attending the conference and school have expressed a desire to spend a day or at least a portion of it in the mountains of this section. Delegates as far West as Texas are planning to attend. Plans are already well under way for the entertainment of these men and will include a motor tour of the region and barbecue dinner.

MISSION UNION WILL HOLD MEET AT LANDRUM

Every church in the western division of the North-Spartanburg Woman's Missionary Union is expected to send delegates to the quarterly meeting to be held at Landrum Baptist church next Saturday February 16.

Mrs. A. J. Clement, president of the division will preside at the meeting. Mrs. H. C. Bradham is secretary of the division.

The division: Appalache, Bethel, Campbell, Engleside, Fairview No. 1, Friendship, Holly Springs, Inman, First Baptist church, Inman Mill, Jackson, Morgan Chapel, Mountain View, North Pacolet, Rock Hill, Walnut Grove and Wolf Creek, near Landrum.

Every church in this division is urged to send representatives whether or not it supports a woman's missionary union, and all pastors are invited to attend the quarterly meeting.

FISHTOP

Several from here visited Turner Shoals Sunday. Jess Case visited his cousin, Newt Case, Sunday.

Miss Birze, our school teacher, visited N. Case and family Sunday.

T. W. Bradley sang for the Mount Lebanon folks Sunday.

N. Case had a chopping Friday. Several hands partook.

A good occupation to keep warm.

We should have staved in last week's issue that D. Tutz got very badly burned on the forehead a few days back from a pot falling off the stove.

Fire was out Saturday on what is known as the Tutz place according to one of the surveyors.

We learn that Aunt Elizabeth Jones, as she is called by all, is very sick. She is about 80 years old.

Newton Case lost a good milch cow one day last week. She was sick only a few hours. Cause unknown.

T. Laughter went to Hendersonville Friday.

J. B. Bradley was in Spartanburg a day or two last week and bought a fine looking mule.

Jess Case took a flying trip to Asheville last week returning on Saturday.

Squaring the Circle.

Three more fortune tellers declare the world is coming to an end. They just will keep right on trying to square the circle.