

Cherokee County History Continued From Page One

memory of him be perpetuated in the name of the county seat of Cherokee County.

Settlers in considerable numbers had moved into what is now Cherokee County even before the territory was relinquished by the Indians. A post office was established at the present site of Murphy in 1835 with Archibald R. S. Hunter, the first white settler as postmaster.

Hunter was said to have been the first white man to build a house in Cherokee County. The house stood not far from the place where Fort Butler was later erected on the bluff across the Hiwassee River from Murphy.

Not until January 4, 1839, was there such a County in North Carolina, known as Cherokee County. Before this date and up to May 23, 1826, the territory embracing Cherokee County was owned and occupied by the Cherokee Indians and the United States Government was concluded, which treaty was ratified at New Echota, Ga., May 23, 1836, by the terms of which treaty the Cherokee Indians ceded all their possessions East of the Mississippi to the United States.

Upon the removal of the Cherokee Indians under command of General Winfield Scott, proceeded by General John Wood in 1836-38, the Government of the United States established a fort overlooking the Hiwassee River on the Southwest about a half a mile from the present courthouse which is known as Fort Butler, after B. F. Butler, then Secretary of War.

In 1839 a law of North Carolina stated that "until a courthouse and jail shall be built in said County, any of the buildings put up by the army at Fort Butler on the four hundred acres of land on which the Town of Murphy is situated, shall be for the use of the courts of the County, until a Courthouse and jail shall be built."

There was no hurry on the part of the State of North Carolina to dispose of the Cherokee Indian lands, and it was not until the latter part of March, 1842 that an entry taker's office was opened at Murphy. Unlike the Ocoee Dis-

trict in Tennessee, where occupants had priority of entry, the Cherokee County lands were entered on a first come, first served basis. Immediately upon the opening of the land office, Drewery Weeks, the entry taker, was besieged by a riotous crowd eager to enter their lands.

So great was the rush that the entry taker filed his office for safety. There was nothing to prevent a settler who had labored to improve his property from being dispossessed by another who could reach the taker first and claim the land.

Adjoining Cherokee County on the west is the Great Copper Basin at Copperhill, Tennessee. Cherokee County was once a part of the Old State of Franklin which is now Tennessee. Tradition has it that but for the Sahara-like thirst of the party surveying the westernmost boundary of Cherokee County, the famous Copper Basin and copper mines would have been a part of North Carolina rather than Tennessee.

The survey was to have followed the top of the Unicoi Mountain Range, which was the designated dividing line, but the surveyors, getting "in their cups", elected to take the shortest route home. As a result of this, the men took the nearest way to the Georgia line, a distance of 15 miles forming the only straight section of boundary between North Carolina and Tennessee.

As the settlers moved westward from Murphy they established themselves along creek banks from the vicinity of the town to the Tennessee line. By 1843, the population along Persimmon Creek was large enough to make a post office necessary. One was established on September 9, 1843, near the place where the creek empties into the Hiwassee River. Benjamin Stiles was postmaster of the Persimmon Creek Post Office.

Still later, and farther westward, the Turtletown Post Office was opened on Shoal Creek, December 23, 1847, by Elias W. Kilpatrick, postmaster. A mail route between Turtletown and Ducktown was inaugurated in 1853.

Several decades later another post office named Turtletown was opened across the state line in Tennessee. For a number of years there were two post offices by this name, one in Tennessee and one in North Carolina. Later the one in North Carolina was changed in 1912 to that of Oak Park.

Another main line of settlement was along the route between Murphy and Ducktown. Across Angelico Gap from Ducktown, between it and Franklin Mountains, was the site of the Wolf Creek Post Office opened on August 5, 1858 with Tyra A. Tatham as postmaster. Midway between Murphy and Ducktown was the Hot House Post Office opened on February 23, 1877, with William A. Phillips as postmaster.

Cherokee County's roads in the 1840's followed the aimless trek of settlers as they took up Indian lands along Persimmon, Shoal, and Hot House Creeks, and down the valley in the direction of the present site of Culberson.

Definite direction was given one of the routes, however, when the North Carolina Legislature of 1848-49 passed an act providing for the construction of the Western Turnpike from Salisbury to the Georgia State line by way of Asheville and Murphy.

Later on, after John Gladwell had opened his road down the Ocoee River from Ducktown the North Carolina Legislature of 1854-55 amended its previous act making Asheville the eastern terminus of the Western Turnpike. The road from Murphy to Ducktown thus became a state road, and wagon traffic between western North Carolina and lower Eastern Tennessee, through the Copper District of Ducktown

was for the first time made possible.

The Western Turnpike figured prominently in the early history of Ducktown. Over this route "cotton rock" for the furnaces at Ducktown was hauled from Cherokee County, and mail carriers and other traffic piled back and forth over its winding course between the mines and Murphy.

Although the destination Wes-

tern Turnpike has long since passed into disuse, the general direction of the road has remained and now forms a link in U. S. Highway No. 64 between Ducktown and Murphy.

The natural resources in Cherokee County are limestone, marble, talc, mountains, game, fish. The limestone is located at Murphy, marble is located at Marble, talc is located at Murphy. Fish is located in most all rivers and creeks and game in most all forests and mountains.

North Carolina's most extensive marble deposits occur along with the Nottley and Valley rivers in this county.

Our courthouse is constructed of native Regal Blue Marble, quarried four miles from its location. In addition to the blue, there is pink, white, and gray marble, iron, copper, talc, manganese, flagstone, and garnet. Near the town of Marble there are blue and gray marble quarries and plants for cutting and polishing monumental and ornamental stone are in operation.

Associated with the marble deposits is the finest grade of talc to be found in the United States. This product is used extensively in the steel, textile, and cosmetic industries. Potentially there are almost inexhaustible quantities of brown iron ore, which may prove to be a valuable reserve to the nation. This ore was mined in the county chiefly in the vicinity of Andrews, during the First World War.

The John C. Campbell Folk School, located on the border between Cherokee and Clay counties was established by Mrs. John C. Campbell and Mrs. Georg Bidstrup in 1925.

The curriculum is based on the Danish Folk School idea and in addition to vocational training, handicrafts, and wood-working, the school sponsors cooperative farm enterprises.

It also sponsors supervised recreation with weekly folk dances for people of the county and surrounding areas. On display at the School are wood-carvings, in which they specialize, weaving, and various other handicrafts.

Tennessee Valley Authority

has built two dams in Cherokee County and two just across the line. Hiwassee, Appalachia, and Chatuge (in Clay County) dams are on the Hiwassee River, and Nottley (in Georgia) on Nottley River.

Twenty miles west of Murphy, near Hiwassee Dam, is the birthplace of A. J. Tomlinson, the founder of the Church of God. Commemorating this site is the Church of God Assembly Ground, Fields of the Woods. The Ten Command-

ments are spread on the mountain side with the large New Testament at the top, the All-Nations Cross on the top of the mountain from which is a breath-taking view, and sepulcher, the baptismal pool, and the garden of plants and flowers from the Holy Land.

The early settlers of Cherokee County brought into these mountains the stern virtues of honesty, self-respect, and an old fashioned speech, which many yet retain. The best

blood of four people and four countries flowed in their veins—Scotch, Irish, British, and Dutch.

It was this type of people who, early in the 1800's settled here and built their country into what it now is.

Judge Felix A. Alley, describing the county, states: "I see in it all a Design too perfect for human comprehension. To me its contemplation suggests the untold wealth of the

Infinite Universe. It inspires in my heart a reverence so profound that it leaves scarce a place for the smallness of earthly hopes and yearnings. Its natural wealth, its ruggedness and vastness, its matchless splendor, and its lavishness of beauty, sink into my soul and leave my spirit straining at its earthly bonds to gaze with longing eyes toward the Infinite Power which ordered its existence."

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1928.

THE CHEROKEE SCOUT, MURPHY, N. C.

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A MYSTERIOUS LETTER IS FOUND

Said to Have Been Written By Christ and Placed Under Stone After His Crucifixion

Country papers throughout the United States are printing what is alleged to be a letter written by Christ. In this letter was an injunction that it should be published to the world by whoever happened to find it, together with the statement that misfortune and bad luck would follow the person having possession of it in event it was not given publicity.

There was likewise a promise that whosoever may have a copy in his possession will also prosper and be followed by good fortune.

According to the history of the letter it was written by Jesus Christ himself just after the crucifixion, signed by the angel Gabriel 99 years after the Savior's birth and presumably deposited by Him under a stone at the foot of his cross.

On the stone appeared the legend, "Blessed is he who shall turn me over."

No one knows what the inscription meant, or seemed to have sufficient curiosity to investigate until the stone was turned over by a little child and the letter which follows was discovered:

"Whosoever works on the Sabbath will be cursed. I command you to go to church and keep holy the Lord's day, without any manner of work. You shall not idle or spend your time in bedecking yourself with superfluities of costly apparel and vain dressing, for I have ordered it a day of rest, and will have that day kept holy that your sins may be forgiven you.

"You will not break any commandments but will observe and keep them, they being written by my hand and spoken from my mouth. Not only go to church yourselves, but allow your man-servant and your maid servant and observe my words and hear my commandments.

"You will finish your work every Saturday afternoon at 6 o'clock, at which time the preparation of the Sabbath begins. I advise you to fast five days in the year, beginning on Good Friday and continuing the five days following in remembrance of my death for you.

"You shall love one another and cause them that are not baptised to come to the church and receive the Holy Sacrament, that is to say baptism, and then the supper of the Lord and be made a member thereof and in so doing I will give you a long life and many blessings. Your land will be replenished and bring forth abundant and will comfort you in the greatest temptation and surely he that doeth to the contrary shall be cursed.

"And he that hath a copy of this letter written by my own hand and spoken out of my own mouth and keepeth it without publishing it to others, shall not prosper, but he that publish it to others shall be blessed by me if their sons be as many as the stars of the night, and if they believe not this letter and my commandments will have my plague upon you and you will be consumed with your children, goods and chattel and all other worldly goods that I have given you; if you do it will be well for you in the world which is to come.

"Whosoever shall keep a copy of this letter and keep it in the house, nothing shall harm them; neither pestilence, thunder nor lightning and if any woman be in bed and put her trust in me she shall be delivered of her child. You shall hear no

more news of me except through the Holy Scripture until the day of judgment. All goodness and prosperity shall be in the house where a copy of this letter shall be found."

The story is that the little girl who found it passed it to one who became a convert to the Christian faith. He failed to have the letter published. He kept it a sacred memento of our Christ and gave it down to different generations of the family for more than one thousand or more years.

During this period the family suffered misfortune, migrated to different countries and finally one of them came to America bringing the letter with him. They settled in Virginia and then moved further south, still followed by misfortune, when finally the last member, a young daughter, approached her death bed and called a neighbor and then gave the letter, relating its story of more than a thousand years. The Thompson woman began the attempt to have it published and it first appeared in the Rome, Georgia Tribune, on October 31st, 1891. It then appeared in the Dalton, Ga., Citizen and Mr. Wortham, now living in Marion, Ind., clipped it and kept it in his possession for many years without an effort to have it published. He was followed by misfortune, which he attributed to no attempt to have the letter published.

Mrs. Lucy Crutchfield, of Trevaunt, Tenn., is said to have had a copy and failed to make an effort to have it published for three years and was followed by a varied lot of misfortunes; and attributed it to the neglect in this respect.—Bx.

"I hear that Jones left everything he had to an orphan asylum." "Is that so? What did he leave?" "Seven children."

30 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

In 1914 Peyton G. and Edythe Ivie founded the Ivie Funeral Home in Murphy in the Regal Hotel Building.

At the time of opening the funeral home, Mr. Ivie was encouraged to also open a furniture store by Mr.

C. W. Savage, for which Mr. Ivie says he is very grateful.

It would have taken him quite some time to get established as a funeral director.

In 1938 Peyton and Edythe built the home in which they are now

living and also the funeral home in the same building. This is the present location today.

Seeing the need for a funeral home in Hayesville, the Ivies opened the home in Hayesville in 1955. The Clay County Furniture Store

was established in 1941 and is still at the present location on the square.

In 1946 the Ivie Funeral Homes bought out Forsyth and Watkins in Andrews.

Besides the Ivies, Peyton and

Edythe, the Ivie Funeral Homes in Murphy, Hayesville and Andrews now give employment to ten additional persons.

Those employed in Murphy are J. B. Hall, assistant manager, Neal Enloe, Thad Ellis, Grady

Carringer, Juanita Hall, and Juanita Weaver.

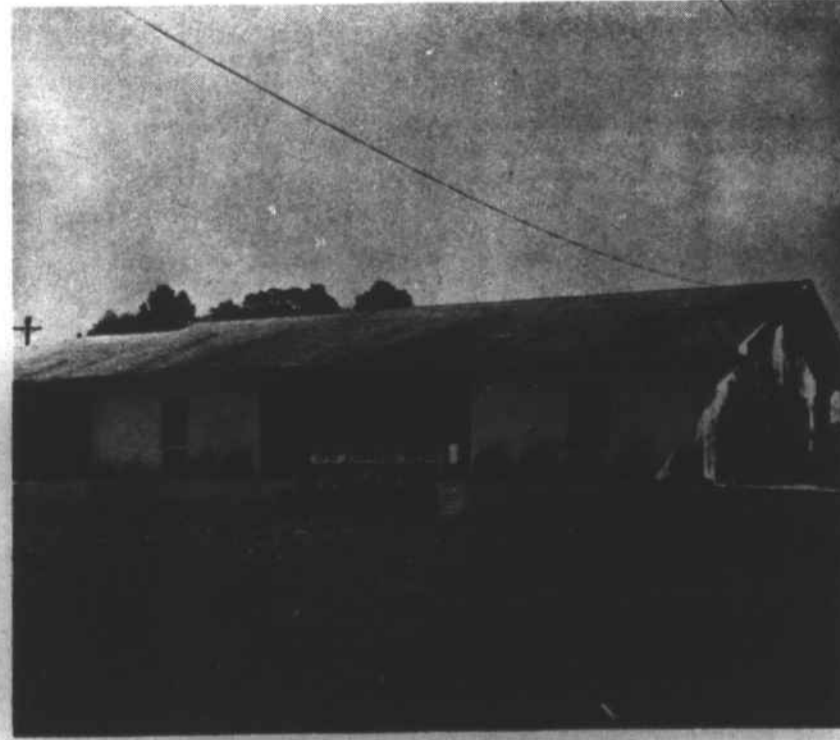
Earl Crawford, manager, Jack Rogers, and Junior Killian, are all employed in Hayesville.

Hubert Walker is manager of the Funeral Home in Andrews.

Congratulations To The Cherokee Scout On Their 75th Anniversary



Murphy - Valley River Avenue Phone 837 - 2116



Hayesville - Phone 389 - 2113



Andrews - Phone 143

24 HOUR AMBULANCE SERVICE

IVIE FUNERAL HOME