

it. There never was any doubt in the minds of anyone that Gastonia was much more centrally located than Dallas, and therefore more convenient to those having business at the court house. It was on the line of both the Southern and the Carolina & Northwestern, while Dallas had only the last named road, and there were numbers of other good arguments in its favor. But those in favor of keeping the county seat at the old town had a host of friends, and it was only after long years of discussion that an agreement was reached by which the Dallas people were paid for the old court house and other buildings, and for the loss entailed. A committee of progressive business men was formed, and they paid out, it is supposed, something in the neighborhood of \$60,000 for the privilege of having the court house here. Doubtless it was a good investment for it added a number of valuable citizens to our population and brought a good deal of trade here, but even today, after the fight is over, the subject of the removal of the court house had better be touched on lightly in the hearing of a man from Dallas. The new court house was first occupied last year and is one of the handsomest as well as the most modern in the State.

engaged on the side of the British, only 468 were able to surrender, the rest being either killed or wounded. Not a single man escaped. The American loss was 23 killed and 117 wounded. As a result of this epochal fight Cornwallis, who, with his army, was only 14 miles away for the purpose of forming a junction with Ferguson, and subduing the Carolinas, evacuated Charlotte, and retreated to Charleston, so as to be under the cover of the guns of his ships. The Carolinas were saved, and one of the hardest blows for independence had been struck by a lot of untrained mountaineers against the picked soldiers of the English army. The American troops were entirely from North Carolina and Virginia, hardy pioneers, many of whose descendants live in Gastonia and the same pluck and perseverance in times of peace as they did in war, in developing the resources of this wonderful section. At King's Mountain there is a handsome monument erected by the government inscribed: "Here on the 7th day of October, 1780, the British forces, commanded by Col. Patrick Ferguson, were met and totally defeated by Campbell, Shelby, Williams, Cleveland, Sevier, and McDonald."

panies, and of the Monarch Cotton Mill Company. E. B. Brittain, secretary of the company, has the general management of the office, and is a young man of marked ability who understands the business thoroughly. Mr. Rankin and Mr. Armstrong, with the following gentlemen, constitute the board of directors: R. Grady Rankin, secretary-treasurer Gastonia Garage Company; S. M. Robinson, secretary-treasurer Lowell and Peerless Mills; R. R. Ray, treasurer McAden Mills; G. M. Gullick, merchant; J. K. Dixon, treasurer Trenton Mills; Andrew E. Moore, assistant treasurer and general manager Loray Mills, President Citizens National Bank, and secretary-treasurer Mayes Manufacturing Company; T. W. Wilson, merchant. The large and magnificent offices of the company are located on the main floor of the Realty building, which is the largest and finest structure of its kind in the county. The company has fully maintained the high standard set it when established, and under its honorable methods, and wide-awake and energetic management, has continued the successful career it has so long enjoyed. Every class of insurance is written—life, fire, liability, surety and fidelity bonds, burglary, automobile,

a farmer for a number of years but always took an active interest in the public affairs of his county, and served one term as commissioner. This was the only public office he ever held until he was elected sheriff in 1910, when he removed to Gastonia where he has since made his home. He made an excellent record as a commissioner, as he has as sheriff, and gave his personal attention to all questions brought before the board. Sheriff McLean is a man in the prime of life, is full of energy and enterprise, and has an abiding faith in the future progress of his native county the resources of which have as yet been only partly developed. Sheriff McLean is a public spirited and progressive man who is always ready to do his part in any public service. He is a Mason and Odd Fellow.

implements, which has been established here since 1886. He has just been elected president of the Gaston Loan & Trust Company, and is a director of the First National Bank, the Modena Cotton Mills, and the Gray Manufacturing Company. He is also chairman of the Democratic County Committee. Mayor Craig is public spirited and progressive, and ever ready to lend a helping hand to any cause that will advance the welfare of Gastonia, his home. Mayor Craig was unanimously elected chairman of the 4th of July celebration.



HON. THOMAS L. CRAIG

HONORABLE THOMAS L. CRAIG

Gastonia's Progressive Mayor.

There is always in every community a number of men who seem qualified by nature to take the lead in every movement that is for the progress and advancement of the city in which

Gastonia's Fourth of July celebration is nothing short of great. It's pretty hard to beat the old town in anything.

This "Boom Gastonia Edition" of the Progress might have been a few pages larger, and shown off our city to still greater advantage were it not for one or two "patriots" who poisoned the well.

had to content themselves with a wreath of flowers, plucked from the virgin fields and woods. For the last 10 years or ever since they started millinery parlors on their own account, the Misses Ruddock have been the leading milliners of Gastonia, and their establishment at 113 Main ave., has been the headquarters of the best dressed and most fashionable women of this city and section. Here can always be found, in season, the latest styles from Paris, London and New York, in infinite variety and at the most reasonable prices when the quality of the work and materials used is considered. In millinery at this season of the year the creations in straw, flowers, and ribbons that come from the skillful fingers of these ladies are marvels of taste and beauty. So handsome are these dainty creations that even the man who has to pay the bill can appreciate their artistic beauty and this is saying much. The firm is composed of Misses Cynthia and Carrie Ruddock, who came to Gastonia about 12 years ago from Charlotte, and for two years were employed at Yeagers. Then they went into business for themselves and have been most successful, much to the gratification of the hosts of friends and patrons they have made since coming here to reside.

E. GRANT PASOUR

Postmaster of Gastonia

Few positions in the government service carry with them more important duties and graver responsibilities than those that devolve upon the postmaster. The systematized handling of mails so that they are delivered promptly and correctly requires the undivided attention of an intelligent and resourceful man, and when a community once gets a postmaster who understands his business and attends to it, he should be kept in the position. This has become more and more the rule of recent years. During the two years he has been postmaster of Gastonia the present incumbent, Mr. E. Grant Pasour, has demonstrated his fitness for the office to the entire satisfaction of the people of the city. Mr. Pasour does not, like so many postmasters, regard the position simply as a sinecure given as a reward for political services rendered. He looks upon it purely as a business proposition, to be handled as any good business man would conduct his own affairs, and as a consequence the people of Gastonia have had no cause to complain. He gives his personal attention to the conduct of the office and their is no detail with which he is not familiar. Mr. Pasour is a native of Gaston county, and has lived here in Gastonia for the past 20 years, making his home

BATTLE OF KING'S MOUNTAIN.

Not far from Gastonia on the line of the Southern railroad, and also reached by a fairly good turnpike, is King's Mountain, where was fought during the Revolution one of its decisive battles. Many historians have placed this battle (although only a comparatively few men were engaged) among the epochal battles of the war with England, claim that it was the turning point of the struggle for liberty, and by putting new life in the patriots led them on to final success. Many of the scenes about the battle ground are just as they were when the battle was fought 132 years ago, but near by the little town of King's Mountain which is flourishing and has hopes of becoming one of the great cotton manufacturing centers of the South. 1780 things could not have been more different than they were for the young patriots struggling for existence. The scene was from bad to worse since the British had been driven from the mountains it would have been. Col. Pat Ferguson, with a body of picked men, was ravaging the Carolinas, hanging and shooting, right and left, and taking no prisoners. He had under his command 1,500 men, trained veterans, splendidly equipped and everything had been coming his way until one fateful day he sent word to these "men over the mountains" that he intended to come over to them and lay the country in waste unless they lay down their arms and took the oath of allegiance to King George. They accepted the challenge but instead of waiting for him to come to them the King's Mountain men came to him 1,390 strong, and the battle was fought on the afternoon of October 7, 1780. It lasted but an hour. As usual the British formed in a solid column while the Americans resorted to Indian warfare. "Here they are, boys," cried Col. Campbell, who was in command, "shoot like hell and fight like devils." And these mountain chaps did just that, with the result that in less than 60 minutes out of the 1,127 men actively

GASTONIA INSURANCE & REALTY COMPANY.

The real estate and insurance business may most properly be ranked as a profession rather than a commercial pursuit. The agent's patrons are his clients, and his success is built upon the faith and confidence they repose in his technical knowledge, his ability and his honesty of purpose. No class of citizens do more, and few as much, for the advancement and the growth of a community as the real estate broker. He is one of the biggest assets any town can have. He does more than any one else to advertise its advantages, and brings settlers and industries than any other one element, if he is a hustling, energetic man. Every owner of property, real or personal, whether his holdings are large or small, cannot help but recognize the tremendous value, indeed the absolute necessity, of insurance, and nearly every one carries it to a greater or less degree. Many property owners, however, are not insured to the extent that they should be, and why this large class of people are not well insured is the knowledge that accumulates into the ravages of fire, lightning or tornado. Having decided to insure, the next most important question is the selection of the companies in which to place the risks, and the plan pursued by the great majority of shrewd business men is to leave this matter to experienced agents of known reputation who represent companies of the highest character and standing. By far the largest concern engaged in the insurance, real estate, loan and general investment business, is the Gastonia Insurance & Realty Company, which was incorporated February 15, 1906, with a paid in capital of \$30,000. The president and treasurer of the company is W. T. Rankin, who is also president and treasurer of the Ozark Mills, and an active member of the Commercial Club. The vice-president, C. B. Armstrong, is a former mayor of Gastonia, former sheriff of Gaston county, an officer of Gov. Kitchener's staff, ex-chairman of the Democratic County Executive Committee, and president and treasurer of the Clara and Dunn Manufacturing Com-



REALTY BUILDING—THE CITY HOSPITAL

THE MISSES RUDDOCK.

Leading Milliners.

No one can deny that the crowning glory of a woman's toilet is her hat, and the majority of well-dressed women will expend more time, care and money on this important accessory to her costume than all the rest of it combined. This has been so, perhaps, from the time, somewhere back in prehistoric days, before the first milliner set up shop, and the dear creatures

plate glass, tornado, etc., and only high-class companies are represented. The officers and directors, one and all, are public spirited and progressive citizens who are ever ready and willing to lend a helping hand to any cause that is for the welfare of Gastonia and Gaston county, where they have made their homes.

J. D. B. McLEAN.

Sheriff of Gaston County.

Although he has only occupied the position for the comparatively brief period of two years, or one term, Sheriff J. D. B. McLean, of Gaston county, has fully demonstrated to his fellow citizens that they made no mistake in electing him to the important office which he so capably fills, and they showed their appreciation at the last primaries by again nominating him for the office which is the equivalent to an election. The office held by Sheriff McLean is one of the most responsible in the gift of the people, and some of the duties attached to it are of the gravest nature requiring a man of the greatest nerve and resource in time of trouble. All of them are important, and the man who is called upon to perform them should be one of the highest calibre and character. Sheriff McLean has been tried and has not been found wanting. During his administration the county has never been more orderly. The taxes have been promptly collected, and turned over to the treasurer for the sheriff, unlike those in many states, occupies also the position of collector of taxes. Sheriff McLean is from South Point township, where he was born on a farm, in 1852. He followed the life of



GENERAL FERGUSON'S GRAVE—KING'S MOUNTAIN



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH