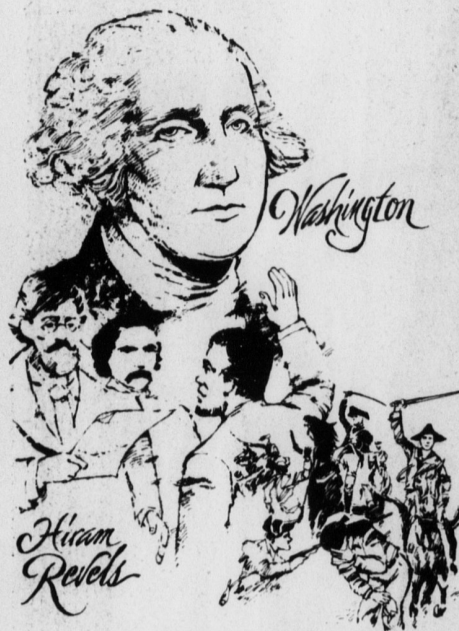


Bizarre events occurred in war



One of the most bizarre events of the American Revolution took place in North Carolina on February 22, 1781.

Known as Pyle's Defeat, it occurred near the present town of Graham in Alamance County.

An American scouting force consisting of Col. Henry Lee's cavalry and Gen. Andrew Pickens' South Carolina Militia, was approached by Tory scouts who mistook Lee's troops for those of British Col. Banastre Tarleton (both units wore green and white uniforms). Lee, pretending to be Tarleton, agreed to let the scouts guide them to the nearby camp of Col. John Pyle's Tory Militia.

As the astonished Americans rose into the camp they found some 400 enemy soldiers lined up stiffly at attention for an inspection by the celebrated Tarleton.

Lee led his command down the full length of the Tory ranks, while Pickens' infantry circled behind them through the woods to cut off retreat. When the Loyalists belatedly caught on, the Americans were in position to attack with sabers along the entire front of the Tory line.



ED SMITH

It was the briefest, bloodiest and most one-sided engagement in the war. Lee, in his memoirs, would describe the slaughter as "stinking." The Americans, while suffering no casualties, killed nearly a hundred of the foe in the first instant of battle, and Pickens' Militia shot down most of those who tried to escape.

Since the victors had neither doctors nor medical supplies, there was little they could have done in any event, but so strong was the Whig Militia's hatred of the Tories that (over Lee's protest) the wounded enemy were left lying on the field in mid-winter to survive or perish on their own.

Hiram Rhodes Revels, the first black in history to serve in the United States, was sworn into office on February 25, 1870.

The event received mammoth press coverage across the nation. Revels' selection by the State Senate of Mississippi and his arrival in Washington, (complete with parties, interviews and a reception by President Grant) had received national attention, as did the three-day debate on whether or not to seat him. His swearing-in ceremony packed the galleries in the historic old Senate chamber. The press, dignitaries, members of the diplomatic corps and famous people from many areas clamored for seats.

In introducing Revels, Senate Charles Sumner of Massachusetts called his entry into the Senate an event of "... immense historical significance, marking the triumph of the great cause for which thousands had fought and died."

Revels was born of free parents in Fayetteville, N. C., in 1822. As a young man he operated a barber shop in Lincoln but left in 1845 for Ohio and Illinois to study for the ministry. (At that time it was illegal to educate Negroes — free or slave — in North Carolina). Ordained a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church, he worked with

the Freedmen's Bureau in Mississippi after the Civil War, and began a political career in that state.

Ironically he was chosen to fill the seat formerly held by Jefferson Davis.

On February 24, 1791, on his famous Southern tour, President George Washington visited the Town of Washington, N. C., then a community of "... about one thousand souls," as he described in his diary. The North Carolina town was the first named in Washington's honor.



The Poet's Corner

A SKETCH OF MY LIFE

We have lived together
For many many years
We have enjoyed life too
There has been joy and also tears.

No where could I find anyone
I would love and care for more
He has always been so good to me
I nearly always get what I ask for.

We have a nice home to live in
We have lots of nice friends too
I can get out some, and go where I want,
My health is bad, so some days I get blue.

I guess when you have your 48rd
Anniversary coming round
Two children, four nice grandchildren
With all my blessings, I'm spellbound.

Thank you Lord for everything
That you have given me
Help me to be always sweet and kind
To everyone I see.

MYRTLE GOFORTH

DOCTOR SHOTWELL CAUGHT IN THE FLU SEASON

He gathered them with fiery cheeks
With fiery cheeks of red,
Lined them up and shot the arm
To make them well instead.
He truly believed in the needle
With loving care as well,
That's how he earned his fame
As good old Doctor Shotwell.

He had no pretty nurse, he had no family
Only a frailty cat that swiftly ran up a tree.
He was loved by the majority
Everywhere he went,
Taking temperatures and counting pulse
He surely was heaven sent.
The love between them was neutral
He was satisfied with his lot,
Numerous the times he saved a life
With just a simple shot.

He administered to the needy
The tall and the small,
Frequently went to the home
On a stormy night to call
His bedside manners were charming
Even though he gave a shot
He knew just how to cool the brow
When fever was burning hot.

But alas, he was fallen too
With no Doctor in view but him,
He threw off his shoes and resigned to bed
Wearing glasses with a circle rim.
To cool his feverish brow
He took a needle from the shelf,
He had no one to administer to him
So he calmly shot himself.

VIVIAN STEWART BILTCLIFFE

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Page 4A Thursday, February 24, 1977

Caught red-handed

The Mirror-Herald wishes to commend City Planner Al Moretz and Redevelopment Commission Executive Director Gene White for their quick action on Wednesday.

No sooner had word reached the street that there was a business planned in the Central Business District that did not conform to the city codes than these two guardians of conformity struck a death blow to the project.

Never has this newspaper seen such quick action on a zoning violation as this. It does the heart good to know at last the citizens of Kings Mountain can expect strict enforcement of the city codes.

They can expect strict enforcement of city codes, can't they, fellas?

Who was the violator of the city codes?

(Blush) It was The Mirror-Herald.

The management rented out the back portion of the main floor of the Herald building to an enterprising young businessman in town. Initially, the area was to be used for the storage of textile yarns, bought from one source and to be sold to another. Then the young businessman hit on the idea of setting up a winding operation in his rented area.

That's when the barnyard topsoil struck the rotary blades.

We've had a little fun with this subject, but we realize the seriousness of such a situation and we, in all sincerity commend Moretz and White for their quick action to rectify a wrong.

And The Mirror-Herald endorses Mr. White's strong recommendation to the city commissioners at a recent Community Development Fund hearing that the city rigidly enforce existing zoning and codes restrictions where violations are evident.

So remember commissioners, Mistrs White and Moretz, there is no one crabbier than a reformed alcoholic, tobacco fiend or anyone caught violating a city code. And you can bet we'll all be watching your performances in the future.

Help elderly Tar Heels

Just recently, an elderly man was found dead in a shabby house in one of North Carolina's larger cities. The autopsy report showed that he died of natural causes but had been dead for approximately two months before his body was finally discovered by a neighbor.

"This actual case not only demonstrates dramatically the need for North Carolinians to be more concerned about their elderly and disabled neighbors, but it shows great need for awareness across the state of the reporting law for abused, neglected, or exploited adults," Robert Ward, director of the N. C. Division of Social Services said.

He said that had this man's neighbors been more concerned about his welfare and knowledgeable of the law and reported the man's dire living situation to the local social services department while he was still alive, he could have been provided protective services that are required by state law.

These services could have included help with trying to get in touch with relatives, home repair or finding better housing, food, clothing, fuel, needed medical attention, homemaker or chore service in the home and as a last resort be placed in a home for the aging or a nursing home if necessary.

Ward emphasized again the fact that hundreds of North Carolina's elderly or disabled adults die or suffer hardships each year that could be alleviated if citizens would report these cases to their local social services department as required by law.

He indicated that the N. C. Council on Development Disabilities and the Office on Aging based on 1975 surveys indicated that about 182,000 adults are classified as developmentally disabled, 192,000 have other handicapping impairments and 600,000 are over the age of 65. Therefore, 874,000 adults in North Carolina could be considered our state's population at risk.

North Carolina's Reporting Law for Abused, Neglected or Exploited Adults became effective on January 1, 1976. Ward indicated that with the need for a consistent reporting mechanism not required in the law it is difficult to project how many reports are being made to the county social services departments across the state. Informal surveys indicate, however, that approximately 1,000 per month are currently being made.

The report should be made to the county director of social services either orally or in writing and anyone who makes such a report shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability unless they acted in bad faith or with a malicious purpose.

According to the law, a disabled adult is any person 18 years of age or over who is physically or mentally incapacitated due to mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, organic brain damage or other physical degeneration caused by advanced age, or due to conditions incurred at any age which are the result of accident, organic brain damage, mental or physical illness, or continued consumption or absorption of drugs or alcohol.

Neglect according to the law refers to situations where a disabled adult is either living alone and not able to provide for himself the services which are necessary to maintain his mental and physical health or is not receiving the services from his caretaker.

Abuse is the willful infliction of physical pain, injury or mental anguish, unreasonable confinement, or the willful deprivation by a caretaker of services which are necessary to maintain mental and physical health.

The case of the big mac attack

Last Tuesday night I put on the feedbag down at Wilson Griffin's counter and left around 7 p. m. to cover the final Community Development Fund hearing.

The next day when I dropped in with Gene White for coffee Wilson casually mentioned that I had "missed the floor show" the night before.

Knowing Wilson and his sense of humor, I figured he had a goody to spring on me, so, with a smile, I commented, "Yeah? What was it? Fifty dancing girls with 26 costumes?"

But Wilson was serious.

It seems a rather large gentleman, not fat-large, but muscular-large, had consumed five hamburgers and five soft drinks during his anchorage at the back table.

I remembered the man because he asked me for a light for his cigarette a few minutes before I left.

A few minutes later this rather muscular gent arose from the table and went into a weird dance in the middle of the floor. With feet flashing and arms flailing, the gent began to mumble and chant.

"I thought at first he was choking," Wilson said. "But, then I could see he was breathing."

"What was the matter with him?" I asked.

"I think he was having a Big Mac Attack!"

Gus Huffstetler, a lieutenant on the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department, was sitting in a booth having coffee and perusing the newspaper when the Big Mac Attack began. Wilson said Gus was so startled he laid his hand on his holstered shooting iron.

"Want me to do something?" Gus asked.

"Let me see if I can get him outside," Wilson replied. By this time the big gent was up off his knees where he had been doing something akin to the bugaloo. Together, Wilson and the gent danced to the front door and onto the sidewalk. By this time a couple of the local men in blue arrived to respond to Wilson's summons. They took one look at the size of the dancing gent and called for reinforcements.

The dancing gent wasn't receptive to the request of the officers to go with them. Instead, he stretched out in the street.

A KM Rescue ambulance arrived a few moments later to assist. Wilson said he didn't know how it happened, but somehow



TOM MCINTYRE

the officers and rescuers coaxed the dancing gent into the ambulance and they took him away.

"He kinda scuffed up the floor with his shoes and scattered the refuse from his hamburgers and drinks about, but other than that there was no damage," Wilson said.

Wilson said he had never seen the man before, but he had decided one thing right then and there. . . .

"... I don't care who it is or how hungry they are, but in the future I'm cutting them off at four hamburgers!"

What's your opinion?

The Mirror-Herald welcomes letters from readers expressing your opinions on any subject you choose, or rebutting any editorial opinion we express.

All letters must be signed by writer with address included. Unsigned letters will not be published.

Address all correspondence for this page to Reader Dialogue, Mirror-Herald, P. O. Drawer 752, Kings Mountain, N. C., 28086.

There's hope against heart attack

Until recently there seemed to be little that anyone could do but hope that heart attack would pass by his family. Now there is new hope. As the result of scientific studies there is evidence that the risk of heart attack is greater for people with particular life-styles. So if we avoid those things which contribute greatly to heart attack, the odds against it are much more in our favor.

What are these risk factors in our lives? The North Carolina Heart Association is sending free of charge to anyone who requests it, a pamphlet called "Why Risk Heart Attack?" In this pamphlet, the risks that can be changed are outlined. These are cholesterol and saturated fat in the diet, being overweight, high blood pressure, smoking, and lack of exercise. More recently, stress has been identified as a strong possible risk factor.

If people cut down on the number of eggs they eat (high in cholesterol) and on fatty meats, cut out the saturated shortenings and substitute polyunsaturated cooking oil and

margarine, they will be reducing their risks. They'll be doing even more for the children in the family. Our eating habits are established in our early years. If the children are started on diets with less fat and less cholesterol, their chances are much better to avoid heart disease.

The same is true of being overweight. If the parents set the example, and the calories are watched, if foods that are not as rich and fattening are on the table, the children will tend to grow up within a more normal weight range. Overweight children usually grow up to be overweight adults. People who quit smoking reduce their risk almost to the level of someone who has never smoked. Children of non-smokers tend to be non-smokers.

High blood pressure is something that in almost every case can be controlled. High blood pressure, or high blood, as it is sometimes called, is one of the biggest risk factors. With proper medicine and following the doctor's orders, it can be brought down and kept under control.

Lack of exercise is another risk. Your doctor can tell you what exercise you can take for your age and physical condition. This will help keep your whole body in good muscle tone and especially the heart muscles. Exercise helps keep weight down, too.

Why don't we follow the advice of the authorities? Why do we risk heart attack when there is something we can do to reduce that risk? Maybe a lot of people haven't heard the news. Maybe they don't believe it. Maybe they think they can't change their lives. But people can and more people are beginning to do it every day.

Will this guarantee you that you won't have a heart attack? Well, there's no sure thing, but medical scientists agree that you'll stand a lot better chance and your whole family can benefit from a generally healthier life.

Get the free pamphlet, "Why Risk Heart Attack?". Write to: North Carolina Heart Association, I Heart Circle, Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514.

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