

THE NEW BERN MIRROR

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FOR POSTERITY

Some of our modern discoveries and inventions have done little for our peace of mind and our happiness. Much to the contrary, they have made us apprehensive if not downright fearful.

This holds true especially in the military field, where it is frankly predicted that every nation large and small will eventually have a ready supply of the deadliest missiles yet perfected.

However, there really are a few things that have brought improvement to our era. One invention that qualifies in this respect is the tape recorder. It isn't always utilized to good advantage, or even employed in an ethical manner, but from the standpoint of preserving history the device is of value beyond compare.

At relatively low cost it is now possible to permanently record the actual voices of those who speak on epic occasions, as well as the other sounds attendant to these unforgettable moments.

There is nothing complex about the operation of a tape recorder. A child can make it function as easily as an adult can, and it is light enough to be transported on foot without difficulty.

The invention isn't new, of course, but not until recently has its worth for historical purposes been fully recognized. From here on out you may be sure that files will be kept on all major events, as well as events that could hardly be regarded as important or significant.

It's too bad that we can't turn back the clock and put on tape such things as Lincoln's Gettysburg address, Patrick Henry's "Liberty or Death" speech, and George Washington's farewell oration.

To go back even further, think how momentous it would be to hear Christ preach His sermon on the mount, and Moses speak to the Jews as he brought to them the Ten Commandments handed down by God.

Wishful thinking such as this may seem pretty ridiculous, but science tells us that every sound ever made still exists. If this is indeed a scientific fact, then the songs the angels sang over a Bethlehem stable are still a part of the space around our globe.

It would be utterly fantastic to assume that man in his increasing knowledge will someday figure out a way to isolate and reclaim sounds from the past. But who among us, a few years ago, expected satellites manufactured by human hands to be whizzing over our heads?

Getting a little closer home, it would be intriguing to have recorded on tape the comments of Baron de Graffenreid when he landed at the junction of the Neuse and Trent, and decided to stop for a spell.

And some New Bernians who are still wondering just what sort of a guy this Governor Tryon really was might get a true picture, if only a few tapes of his activities could have been made.

Much of history, including New Bern's publicized past, is saturated with legends that may not be accurate. Considering the fact that stories have passed from one person to another, and on down the line, change drastically within the distance of a city block, you can imagine what happens when they are passed along for generations.

Putting the facts on tape, when and where they occur, and should give our children and grandchildren more accurate history than the history we had to rely on. And because of its accuracy, the chances are it won't be half so colorful.

As for this business of reclaiming voices from the past, it could bring great repercussions right in your own household. Imagine how delighted a wife could be if she ensnared the endearing words and glowing promises made years before by her now neglectful husband.

Every time he grumbled, or complained about his lot, she could play the tape to remind him of the noose he stuck his head in during a carelessly romantic moment.

Maybe science is getting too smart for its own britches.

Historical Gleanings

—By—

FRANCES B. CLAYPOOLE and ELIZABETH MOORE

THE ESTATE OF LANCELOT GRAVES BERRY, ESQ., DECEASED, WITH JOHN HAWKS, ESQ.

1774, To a horse cart sold Mr. Berry, 215 0; 1775, Nov. 10, to John McKey for a gallon of rum, 7 4; 16 to 3 negroes assisting about Mr. Berry's grave, 1 6 8; 18 to David Cauthorn, bricklayer, 1 15 0; to John Harrison for carting bricks, 0 11 0; 20, to a barrel of fish, 1 0 0; to William Saunders, Jun., for inviting people to Mr. Berry's funeral, 0 5 0;

Dec. 4, to John Green, clerk, fees, 1 0 0; 9, to William Pyott, in full, 0 12 10;

1776—Jan. 7, to Mr. John Sitgreaves for assisting in making out quarterly accounts, 5 0 0; 9, to ditto down in full for attendance, 18 15 8; to Mr. Neale for letters testamentary, 1 6 8; to my expense going to consult Mr. Johnston respecting Mr. Berry's affair, 7 5 0;

Nov. 3, to Richard Caswell, Esq., public treasurer, the amount of duties received by Mr. Berry between the 1st of January and 26 of October, 1775, inclusive, 283 10 10;

1777—April 1, to Mr. William Even for services, 5 7 6; to Mr. Brice for copies of account of sales, 1 12 0;

July 9, to Anders Mack for making clothes, 7 4 8; total, 339 17 10.

1775—Dec. 1, by half fees on the Sloop INDUSTRY, TIMOTHY DOGGETT, Master, 1 10 0; by ditto on the Sloop DOROTHY, John Smith, Master, 1 10 0; by a hat received agreeable to Mr. Berry's desire, 2 0 0; 9, Cash, 2 16 0;

Jan. 3, by ditto, 26 0 0;

Sept. 24, by ditto of Mr. Thomas Sitgreaves, part of the money by him collected for the sales of the personal estate of L. G. Berry, Esq., deceased, 30 0 0;

Oct. 7, by ditto of ditto, 8 0 0; by ditto of Mr. Thos. Thomlinson the balance of an order on Mr. Graves in London, for sterling, 23 15 0; by ditto of Mr. Sitgreaves the balance by him collected on account of the vendue, 49 6 3/4;

1777—July 9, by ditto of Andrew Mack vendue account, 22 11 11;

1778—Mar. 10, by ditto of Mr. Green vendue acct. with interest, 24 10 4; 17, by ditto of Mr. Stanly vendue acct. with interest, 51 5 1; 27, by ditto of John Ashe, Jun. Esq., 319 3 0; 30, by ditto of Mr. Nash vendue acct. with interest, 8 0 0;

Apr. 4, by ditto of Mr. Ellis vendue account and duties on spirits, 42 19 4 1/4; by ditto of Robt. Burney

Village Verses

MEMORIES

Sometimes I get to dreaming
Of the days that used to be;
I seem to see that gang of mine,
And do I miss them—Gee!
I'd like to go in swimming
In that oft-remembered hole;
And hear the fellows shout again
"Gosh, ain't the water cold!"
We used to have good times,
When we'd play and fuss and fight;
It may seem sort of foolish
But I long for them tonight.
And though I know my idle thoughts
Will have to be in vain;
It seems I can't help dreaming
Of that boyhood gang again.

—JGMCD.

vendue account with interest, 5 15 11; 9, by Mr. Barrons vendue account with int., 17 1 4; total 591,7.6.

1777—Sept. 20, to Mr. Rumsey for rum and wine expended at Mr. Berry's funeral, 3 7 0;

1778—Jan. 12, to Mr. Herbert for rum, 1 0 1;

Feb. 21, to Mr. Cogdell for Gazette and postage of letter, 19 2;

Mar. 13, to Mr. John Green for black mode, 12 6 0;

Apr. 4, to Mr. Ellis amount of his account, 22 2 1; 9, to the executors of Mr. Barron, 72 9 8; 13, to Mr. Good for bricks and lime and making Mr. Berry's coffin, 9 0 4; 16, to James Davis, Esq., for blanks, 3 5 4; 27, to John Bryan, Esq., Commr. on vendue, 21 5 0;

June 2, to John Bragg by Mr. Emery on order of the commissioners for keeping the navigation in repair, half of year due the first of Sept., 1775, 30 0 0; 9, to ditto the balance received by Mr. Berry during his acting as collector of Port Beaufort, 12 6 0; to Legacy left me by Mr. Berry in his will, 100 0 0; total, 627 8 6; Commissions &c., 52 14 6; total, 680 3 3;

1778—By cash of Mr. Leach vendue account etc., 20 10 8;

Apr. 16, by ditto of Mr. Davis vendue account, 2 2 0; by ditto of Mr. Owen vendue acct. by Mr. Ogden, 9 0 0; 27, by ditto of John Bryan, Esq., vendue account, 2 10 0; by

my vendue account, 22 9 6; by balance due on note to Mr. Berry, 20 0 0; total, 667 19 8; balance due John Hawks, 12 3 3; total, 680 3 3; Errors excepted New Bern, N. C., 16 June 1779.

This account examined and approved by us as commissioners appointed by the Court. Andrew Blanchard, John Daly, William Tisdale.

June Craven County Court, 1779. The account of John Hawks, executor of LANCELOT GRAVES BERRY, deceased, being returned by the committee was examined in open court, approved of and ordered to be filed.

Christopher Neale, C.C.

Many a man is misunderstood because there's nothing in him worth studying.

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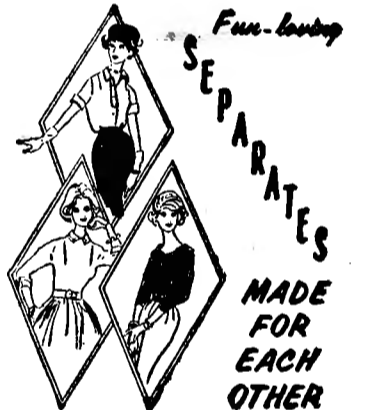
CONSOLATION

There is never a day so dreary
But God can make it bright,
And unto the soul that trusts Him,
He giveth songs in the night,
There is never a path so hidden,
But God can lead the way,
If we seek for the Spirit's guidance
And patiently wait and pray.

There is never a cross so heavy
But the nail-scarred hands are there
Outstretched in tender compassion
The burden to help us bear.
There is never a heart so broken,
But the loving Lord can heal
The heart that was pierced on Calvary
Doth still for His loved ones feel.

There is never a life so darkened,
So hopeless and unblessed,
But may be filled with the light of God
And enter His promised rest.
There is never a sin or sorrow,
There is never a care or loss,
But that we may bring to Jesus
And leave at the foot of the cross.

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