

THE NEW BERN MIRROR

Published Every Friday at 410 Johnson Street
New Bern, N. C., by the Sole Owner

J. GASKILL McDANIEL Editor and Publisher

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

One Year \$2.50

Second Class Postage Paid at New Bern, N. C.

YOUR TOWN

Instead of telling inquiring motorists that New Bern was settled in 1710, you might offer these facts to emphasize its age.

Our village at the junction of the Neuse and Trent was already 22 years old when George Washington first saw the light of day.

It was 23 years old when Daniel Boone showed up, and 24 years old at the time Paul Revere wore his very first diaper.

The town had celebrated its 26th birthday before the stork brought Patrick Henry. Like other babies, his initial cry wasn't for liberty or death but for milk.

What about Abraham Lincoln? Well, if he had waited another year to be born, New Bern would have been exactly 100 years old.

When Charles Dickens checked in, the town was 102 years old, and 125 years old when Mark Twain arrived.

Noah Webster, who gave us our first dictionary, put in his appearance on New Bern's 48th anniversary. Nathan Hale had come along three years earlier.

The town was 57 years old when Andrew Jackson was born, and 67 years old when Henry Clay got his first night's rest in a cradle.

So you see, by America's yardstick at least, New Bern has been around for quite a spell.

Speaking of tourists, here are the questions they ask most often from coast to coast:

1. How did your town get its name?
2. What is the population of your town?
3. Where is your post office?
4. Are there any colleges in your area?
5. Where is the public library?
6. What historical points are to be seen here?
7. Where is an attractive place for a picnic?
8. What is the altitude of your area?
9. Can I go fishing and swimming here? Where?
10. Do you have any service clubs in your town?
11. Are there any detours or road hazards, leaving here?
12. What flowers can I get some pictures of now?
13. Where can we go to play golf while we're here?
14. Where will I find tourist information?
15. Are there any parks or resorts nearby?
16. What churches do you have here?
17. What industry employs the most people here?
18. Where can I get service for my automobile?
19. Where can I find a doctor? Hospital?
20. What can I buy that is typical of this community?
21. Where can I find a good hotel or motor court?
22. Where can I get some food in a good, clean restaurant.

If you know the answers, and treat visitors courteously, it can attract many an extra tourist dollar to New Bern when the word gets around. Why not give it a try?

Historical Gleanings

—By—
ELIZABETH MOORE

1814. Mary Vail, Administrator of Thomas Vail vs. George M. Leech Fanny Leech, Mary J. Spaight, Heirs at Law of Colonel Joseph Leech.

Claim is made for one thousand one hundred and 58 pounds 16-8 the balance found to have been in the hands of their ancestor of the proceeds of land devised by his testator William Harding Jones to be sold and divided between his widow and the children of his uncles Thomas Jones, John Vail, and Edward Vail.

Know all men by these presents that we Mary Vail, Charles Roberts and Abner N. Vail, are held and firmly bound to Alexander Millen, Clerk and Master in Equity for the District of Edenton, in the sum of One Hundred pounds for the payment whereof to the said Alexander Millen, &c.

The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas the above bounden Mary Vail, Administratrix of Thomas Vail, Dec'd, and others have this day obtained a decree in the Court of Equity for Edenton District against the heirs of Joseph Leech, late of New Bern, dec'd, who was one of the Executors of William Harding Jones formerly of Craven County, dec'd, for the distribution of the proceeds of certain lands divided by the said William Harding Jones to be sold by his Executors and the proceeds to be divided between the children of his uncles Thomas Jones, John Vail and Edward Vail and which said lands were accordingly sold by the said Joseph Leech as by the said decree and the proceedings remaining in the said Court of Equity will more fully appear; and whereas the said Mary Vail hath received from the said Alexander Millen C&M, as aforesaid L38. 10.9 being the share of her intestate the said Thomas Vail was one of the sons of the aforesaid Edward Vail, and also the further sum of L 12 .16.11, being one third of the share of Fred Vail who was another of the sons of the said Edward Vail, and under age intestate, and without issue, and his said share was supposed to be distributable between the said Thomas Vail, Jer. Vail and Edward Vail, brothers of the said Thomas Vail, &c. signed Mary Vail, Administratrix. Charles Roberts, Abner N. Vail, in the presence of Mary Vail, and Fran. Wilder.

Received April 18, 1806 of Alex. Millen sixty pounds 18-2 being the sum mentioned in the foregoing bond, and nine pounds 10-6 the amount of

Village Verses

THIS WE PRAY

When our town observes the birthday
Of One called Prince of Peace,
Let's lift our hearts in fervent prayer
That wars and hate may cease.
Man's inhumanity to man
Must vanish from the earth,
And this deserves our serious thought
Amid our Christmas mirth.
For New Bern may the Yuletide bring
Blessings, large and small,
But a world where peace can reign supreme
Pray for most of all.

—JGMCD.

certain costs advanced by Thomas Vail in prosecution of the suit therein mentioned &c. Mary Vail.

Thomas Vail's part 38.10.9— one third of T. Vail's part 12.16.11. Costs paid by Thomas Vail 9.10.6. Copy by J. B. Blount

Decree in favor of the complainants 1158.16.8. George Ellis' prop. for Widow Jones 222.12.4 Thomas Jones 9-21 parts each 38.10.9 - 346.16.8. John Vail 8-21 ditto 308.5.11 Edward Vail 4-21 ditto 154.3.0. Costs as below, viz. 126.18.9.

William Blackledge says, among other things: That certain lands which had descended to George M. Leech, Mary J. Spaight, and Frances Ann Leech, heirs at law of Colonel Joseph Leech, part of said lands were bought in partnership with James Dickson.

That Benjamin Woods, Esquire, was attorney for the heirs of Colonel Leech.

That William Gaston states that he is holding a note for \$600.00, and suggested that on his return from Congress he might throw some light on the subject.

That in February 1814 he called on Elias Hawes who married the widow of Benjamin Woods.

That he, the deponent, was lately approved of as guardian to the children of Mrs. Spaight, and Attorney in fact for Richard B. Jones and Frances Ann his wife.

That Joseph Leech was the Executor of Harding Jones,

That a decree made at April Term 1806, it appeared that:

Mr. Woods on April 19, 1806, paid the sum of 124.18.8 of which sum 60.18.2 was paid to Mary Vail, the Administratrix of Thomas Vail.

Among the papers found was the bond of Mary Vail, Admx. of Thomas Vail, and no other bond was found.

With reference to the heirs, two are dead, and the other gone out of the United State with her husband, who is the United States Consul at Tripoli, with whom, owing to the war it was

impossible to correspond. They left New Bern for Philadelphia in the early part of the year 1810, and Mrs. Spaight and George M. Leech died about July, August or September 1810.

Frances Ann Leech, the other heir, intermarried with Richard B. Jones and they came that fall to New Bern where they staid until the summer. From the affidavit of Mr. Hawks it appears that these notes had been found previously to this period. Yet no intimation appears to have been given said Jones or his lady of their being in the hands of Mr. Woods' Executors, nor had the deponent received any notice of the fact. Signed by William Blackledge before John F. Smith, one of the Justices for Craven County.

(Records of Craven County. Vail No. 1.)

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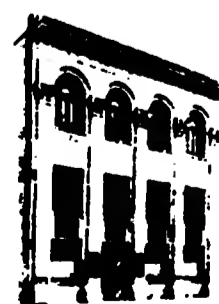
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