

## THE NEW BERN MIRROR

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## POST MORTEM

It is not beyond the realm of possibility that increasing Craven County's Commissioners from five to seven could have been a good thing.

However, determined efforts to bring this about appeared to be, for the most part, a move to regain lost power, and prestige that goes with it.

As presently constituted, the board is divided three to two in much of its thinking. Certainly, divisions of this sort are not uncommon in politics.

Wielding the deciding vote, whenever there is a deadlock, is the present chairman. The board member he deposed as chairman had, of course, the same power.

The former chairman, as all informed citizens know, is now identified with the minority, and the picture isn't likely to change in the immediate future.

What might have altered the picture would have been the addition of the aforementioned two members to the board. Voting with the present minority they could have established a four to three majority.

There are a number of "ifs" in this line of reasoning, but the minority in this instance appeared to have nothing to lose in the event a majority did not result from the maneuver.

The present majority, by the same token, had nothing to gain by increasing the number of board members to seven. When you hold the winning hand, what is the point in giving your opponent a chance for two more cards?

There are those who will criticize either the majority or the minority, or maybe both, but in politics the name of the game is power, and pious pronouncements shouldn't be taken too seriously.

If, as widely rumored, the former chairman chooses to run against Congressman Walter Jones, it would enhance his image if he were chairman of the board, rather than simply one of its members.

Considering the suggested increase of two members on its merits, we frown on the possibility that New Bern could very easily have three of the seven members, instead of the two out of five it now has.

The Mirror isn't at all sure that the rest of Craven County wants this sort of thing saddled on it.

## Historical Gleanings

—By—  
ELIZABETH MOORE

**THE HEIRS OF WILLIAM SHEPARD**  
To the Worshipful the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of the County of Craven:

The petition of John S. Shepard, William B. Shepard, John H. Bryan, and wife, Mary; Frederick B. Shepard, Charles Shepard, Richard M. Shepard, James B. Shepard, Charles Pettigrew, William S. Pettigrew, Mary Pettigrew, Johnstone Pettigrew and Anne B. Pettigrew, children and heirs of law of Anne B. Pettigrew, the daughter of William Shepard, deceased, the last four by their guardian Ebenezer Pettigrew, respectfully sheweth unto your worship that they are the heirs of William Shepard, deceased.

They further show that the said William died many years ago, having a last will and testament in which he authorized his executors to keep and possess his real estate until his youngest child, James B. Shepard, should reach the age of 21 years, and then the said real estate to be equally divided, &c.

That the above mentioned are the only heirs and existing representatives of the said William Shepard, those of the name of Pettigrew being entitled to the interest of their mother, one of the heirs of the testator.

They further show that William Shepard died seized of certain parcels of land lying in the Town of New Bern, &c, to wit: a portion of Lot No. 89; also a portion of ground on the west side of Craven Street, beginning at the Southern corner of Lot No. 55, the property of the late Nathan Smith, and running South-

wardly, &c being part of Lot No. 15, the first of these parcels of land is improved with a good dwelling house and outhouses; the last has been leased to tenants who have erected their own dwellings. The said William Shepard died seized of a piece of ground being a portion of Lot No. 19, also a parcel of ground on the West side of Middle Street, &c to Southern corner of John S. Morris' formerly John Stanly's line, Southwardly to the channel of Trent River, and westward to the line of John S. Morris, formerly Tinker's &c with wharf and water privileges. In the last two parcels of ground, Mary Shepard, the widow, has her dower so that the reversion only belonging to the heirs of the testator. Petitioners pray for division. -s- John H. Bryan and Charles Shepard. February Term, 1837. Commissioners: George S. Attmore, John M. Roberts, Asa Jones, Stephen B. Forbes, George Wilson.

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Query: "My grandfather Hezekiah Carr Edwin Hurst, born 1822 in Georgia. According to 1880 Census, his mother and father were born in Georgia,

What were their names? Did Hezekiah have any brothers and sisters? Their Names. My grandmother Sara A. Freeman, born 1830 in Tenn. had one brother Mose, who lived in Clay County, Ala. Her father born in N. C. Her mother born in S. C. Name of father unknown. Sara's mother Tabitha E. born 1808, was living with Hezekiah and Sarah in 1880. What was her maiden name.

"My great grandfather Jacob H. Watts, born 1819 in Ga. Who were his parents and did he have brothers and sisters. His father born in S. C. his mother in N. C., town and county unknown. My great grandmother Luamy E. Metcalf (Midcalf), born 1845 in Ala. My great great grandmother Sara Metcalf (midcalf) was born in Georgia. Who were Sara's mother and father? They were born in Georgia. My family moved West in 1920. Mrs. Eva Hurst Gillespie, P. O. Box 61, San Jon, N. M. 88434.

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