

THE NEW BERN MIRROR

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A CITY OF FAITH

New Bern lacks many things, including much needed industries, but we need never apologize for our churches—old and new.

These religious edifices, scattered throughout the town, speak eloquently of a community's awareness of God. Brick and mortar do not necessarily bring about increased sacredness nor more devout worship. Yet, they're a pretty good indication that somebody is taking religion seriously.

There's something uniquely inspiring about an old church, like Christ Episcopal or the First Presbyterian. Step inside their doors from a world of busy scrambling, and you sense a serenity that only age can bring.

But hardly less impressive are the sanctuaries that have been built in recent years by you and by your neighbors. In every instance they entailed sacrifice, even as our forefathers sacrificed to erect the few historic churches that still remain in our midst.

Churches of the past cost less to build, but there was less money, too. Building a church is always a challenge, in any era and in any locality. And even greater challenge, of course, is the task of filling it with a membership truly devout.

None of us would want to live in New Bern nor any other town, if it had no churches. Even those New Bernians who never attend a place of worship feel more secure because ours is a community where churches flourish materially if not spiritually.

For our part, we never pass the intersection of Middle and New Streets without thinking of one of America's great freedoms—freedom of worship. There, within a distance of a few feet are Protestant and Catholic churches and a Jewish synagogue.

They differ in creed, but each has the unfettered privilege of serving Almighty God according to the dictates of its conscience. No Protestant, Catholic nor Jew in New Bern is denied his or her chance to worship, how they please, where they please, and when they please.

That is as it should be. What a man does with his own soul is a matter between him and the Creator who gave him life. Our founding fathers recognized that fact, and constructed the framework of our Democracy accordingly.

Before any of us condemn those with creeds different from our own, we ought to honestly admit to ourselves that, religiously speaking, we are what we are through the circumstances of our birth.

Those of us who were born to Protestant parents usually become Protestants if we become anything. If our parents are Catholics, we become Catholics, and if our parents are Jewish we too worship in the synagogue.

Religion, by any name, should embody tolerance rather than a holier than thou attitude. Warped indeed is the outlook of any mortal who reaches the age of accountability and fails to recognize his own frailties.

None of us, in or out of a church, makes the most of our opportunity to serve God and benefit mankind. Alas, none of us ever will. From the cradle to the grave we often pass up our chances to lend a helping hand to those less fortunate.

But, in our imperfection, we at least build churches. And, in varying degrees, we make use of them.

Historical Gleanings

—By—
ELIZABETH MOORE

AN INVENTORY OF THE PROPERTY OF LEWIS BRAYAN. DECEASED, CRAVEN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, 31 March 1815. (continued)

Names of Purchasers: Thomas Anderson, Jr., Charles Butler, Jr., Sarah Butler, Shad Corbin, John Haddock, Michael Powers, G. M. Rains, Latham Moore, Davis Lewis, John R. Good, Samuel McCafferty, Margaret Bryan, W. M. Nelson, N. Parson, Hollister and Cannon, Christopher Dawson, C. H. Dudley, S. McCafferty, Sarah Hull, Joel Wall, Stephen Ernul, Allen Dubberly, Thomas Allen, Ben Harden, E. Bartlett, A. White, John Williams, W. Hill, M. Nelson, J. L. Clements, George Lane, John Carney, R. and Joseph Anderson, John Williams, Ben Sutton, Chris. Bragg, D. A. Murdock, Joshua Mitchell, William S. Morris, E. Bartlett, H. Tinker, Burton Allen, Guilford Murphy, Betsy Nelson, Joseph Avery, Samuel Avery, William Mitchell, Chris. Dawson, S. Harris, Sarah Whitfield, John Bright, John Avery, E. Rease, Jesse Spear James Bright, Equilla Pollard, Lee Bell, J. N. Langdon, Hardy Willis, Benejah White, Robert Ramsey, Daniel Carthy, Tolbert Williams, Alvin Prescott, Simon Bright, William Bright, Samuel Street, E. Wiggins, E. Holloway, Thomas Anderson, Williams Sears, Southy Witherington, Thomas Taunt, Irving Taunt, Eliza Weatherington, John Carney, Leonard Loftin, James Anderson, Amey Brown, Shad Holloway, Lewis Anderson, Charles Anderson, Oliver Stanliff, Jordon Butler, Joel Wall, Samuel Wiggins, Labon Morris, Martin Hagins, William Loftin, Stephen Searles, William Hardy, Silas Laughinghouse. N. Weatherington, A. Copper, William Browning, Earnel Willis, S. Willis, Joseph Wiggins. Notes owing to the Estate of Lewis Bryan. Returned by Samuel Street, Administrator. (11 pages of personalty. Clerk's Loose Papers Craven County N. C.)

+++++ Supplement to the inventory of Estate of Lewis Bryan deceased, which was omitted in former return. A schedule and receipts of Christopher Dawson for notes and accounts in his hands for collection for \$822.25, one half of which belongs to the estate of said deceased; \$109.00 in bank dividends. June 15, 1819. Returned by Samuel Street, late administrator of Lewis Bryan.

+++++ Clerk's Loose Papers, Craven County, N. C.

Village Verses

IT'S UP TO THEM

Wisdom and experience
That's what old age brings,
But progress always will depend
On a youthful heart that sings.
Old timers look back on their trail,
With mingled bitter sweet;
While youngsters blaze a new one
For eager, willing feet.
So if we have a right to hope
For better days ahead,
If we can dream of peace on earth—
A world that has no dread,
We won't depend on oldsters
For our faith in future things,
We'll rally to a leader
With a youthful heart that sings.

—JGMcd.

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