

The Watauga Democrat.

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PROFESSIONAL.

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Lawyer

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Prompt attention given to all matters of a legal nature. Collection a specialty.
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—ATTORNEY-AT-LAW—

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I have been putting much study on this subject; have received my diploma, and am now well equipped for the practice of Veterinary Surgery in all its branches, and am the only one in the county. All on or address me at Vilas, N. C. R. F. D. 1.

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5-17-11.

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4-13-11.

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1-1-11

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BANNER ELK, N. C.

Will practice in the courts Watauga, Mitchell and adjoining counties.

7-6-11

F. A. LINNEY,

—ATTORNEY AT LAW,—

—BOONE, N. C.—

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3-11-1911.

J. C. FLETCHER,

Attorney At Law,

—BOONE, N. C.—

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E. F. Lovill. W. R. Lovill

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—BOONE, N. C.—

Special attention given to all business entrusted to their care.

7-9-10.

SOME EARLY NORTH CAROLINA HISTORY.

The Second of a Series of Historical Articles Written for the Democrat By Attorney L. D. Lowe.

It is not generally known that once there was a state called Frankland, named in honor of Benjamin Franklin, the philosopher and patriot; but nevertheless it had its rise, made some little progress and then its fall.

At the close of the Revolutionary War it was found that the United States was heavily involved in responsibilities. Creditors desired their money and owing to the ravages of war, money was scarce and Congress devised many plans; one was to solicit the States, owning vacant and unappropriated lands, to throw them into the common stock to pay off and discharge this common debt of honor, justice and gratitude.

This appeal was heeded by the State of North Carolina and she at once set apart to pay her just proportion of this huge debt. So in April, 1784, at Hillsboro, among other acts for the general relief of the government, the General Assembly ceded her western lands, and authorized her delegation in Congress to execute a deed; provided, Congress would accept this offer within two years, but for some reason this offer was not accepted at that time, and the failure to do so was the source of great commotion and conflict between the different factions of the civil authorities in the then western part of the State.

The pioneers of the west had suffered great hardships, not only by the ravages of long sieges in war, but by many conflicts with the hostile Indians. Many were murdered by the savages; some had their wives and children massacred, and all suffered in privation and poverty.

Those who had started out in life in their new homes in the west, after suffering many losses of members of their families, and otherwise suffered great hardships were not pleased with such a change of conditions, viewing the act of 1784 with grave suspicion; on the 23rd day of August, 1784, a convention met at Jonesboro, (now in the State of Tennessee) and in this convention John Sevier was chosen president and Langdon Carter clerk. They resolved that a person be dispatched to Congress to press the acceptance of North Carolina, and adjourned to meet in Washington county on the 16th of September, 1784.

The General Assembly of North Carolina met at Newbern on the 22nd day of October, 1784, and repealed the act of the former session, thus undoing what had been done, and in consequence of which the convention broke up in confusion and dissatisfaction, but the spirit of revolution had started, and the people had become aroused to a considerable extent.

On the 14th of December, 1784, when the people had assembled at Jonesboro, John Sevier mounted the steps and read a letter from Joseph Martin, who had just returned from the Legislature of North Carolina, which informed them that the General Assembly had granted the people of Western North Carolina a general court, formed their militia into a brigade, appointed him a brigadier general, and repealed the cession act of last session, advising them that their grievances had been redressed, that they had nothing further to complain of, and implored them to make no further effort to separate from North Carolina, but remain firm and faithful to her laws.

At the same time five delegates from each county had assembled at Jonesboro; John Sevier was made president of this convention. They formed a constitution for the State of Frankland, which was to be rejected or received by another body to meet at Greenville in November, 1785. This body met at the time and place appointed; the constitution was ratified; Langdon Carter was speaker of the Senate and William Cage Speaker of the House of Commons. John Sevier was chosen Governor; David Campbell, Joshua Gist and John Henderson were chosen Judges of the Superior Court. Other officers, civil and military, were appointed.

The General Assembly of the State of Frankland, by a communication signed by both speakers, informed Richard Caswell, Governor of North Carolina, that the people of the counties of Washington, Sullivan and Greene had declared themselves sovereign and independent of the State of North Carolina. Governor Caswell, being a soldier and a statesman, was not disposed to overlook what he termed such a high-handed measure, and on the 25th of April, 1785, he issued his proclamation against the revolt against the laws of North Carolina.

This paper was written with much force. He stated that the cession act had been repealed; its repeal had been voted on by those engaged in the revolt; that the authority of North Carolina, executive, judicial and legislative, and exercised a tender regard for the people of the west; had granted them judges to decide of their property rights and military officers to protect them and denounced the revolt as a rank usurpation of power; that the general government, derived no benefit; that the revenue of North Carolina had been seized and the authority of law defied. He told them that such measures would bring ruin to themselves and dishonor to the country, and warned all concerned in this revolt to return to their duty and allegiance to the State, and pay no obedience to the self-created authority of Frankland, unknown to the constitution and unanctioned by law.

As the State of North Carolina still treated the new state of Frankland as a part of her territory, I shall pursue this part of the subject a little further. Governor Caswell closed his proclamation by informing the revolting element in the State of Frankland, that the General Assembly of North Carolina would soon be in session, before which all these unlawful acts would be laid; advising them to bring forward their grievances then, let their terms of separation be known, their proportion of the public debt be acknowledged, and such terms and plans as were consistent with the honor of the state would generally be granted but if this advice was not heeded they might be assured that the spirit of North Carolina was not so depressed or so exhausted; that means, even to the shedding of blood, would be resorted to to reclaim her refractory citizens and preserve her honor and dignity.

But the state of Frankland did not heed this warning, but it proceeded to erect new counties, levy taxes, appropriate money, form treaties with the Indians, and exercise the general functions and prerogatives of a sovereign State. These people continued their organization, appointed delegates to represent their case to Congress, and by making appointments of officers to positions of dignity and power, obstacles were thrown in the way to prevent restoration to the rule of North Carolina.

The scarcity of money was severely felt and this militated against the progress of the new State of Frankland. The salary of the Governor was 200 lbs, annually; a judge, 150 lbs., the treasurer, 40 lbs. to be paid from the treasury. The taxes were to be paid into the treasury of Frankland, such as they had, viz:—Linen, beaver skins, raccoon and fox skins, deer skins, tallow and whiskey and the like.

It was said that the salaries of the governor and judges were paid in fox skins, and the fees of the sheriff and constable in mink skins, and that the officers were compelled to receive the skins at the established price; and it is said that even this primitive currency by the ingenuity of man, was extensively counterfeited by sewing raccoon tails to opossum skins; raccoon skins being worthless and abundant, and raccoon skins were valued by law at one shilling and three pence each. As a necessary consequence of such a state of affairs, public opinion was divided between the advocates of the new State, and the adherents to the State of North Carolina.

The General Assembly of North Carolina assembled at Newbern in November, 1785, passed an act to bury into oblivion the conduct of the people of Frank-

land; provided they would return to the allegiance of the State, appointed elections to be held in the different counties for members to the General Assembly of North Carolina, and also appointed civil and military officers to support the State organization. The next year, 1786, a peculiar state of affairs existed: two empires existed at the same time, over the same territory and over the same people. Courts were held by authority of the State of North Carolina and also by authority of the State of Frankland and each government attempted to exercise the same powers, and often in the same county. John Tipton headed the North Carolina party, and John Sevier the Frankland party.

Provocation on one side, was followed by outrage on the other, which was repelled by greater violence. While court was being held at Buffalo under authority of North Carolina, and at Jonesboro, only ten miles away, in the same county, under authority of Frankland. While court was sitting at Jonesboro this year, for Washington county, Colonel Tipton, with a party, entered the courthouse, seized the papers, and turned the justices out of the house. Col. Sevier retaliated and he and his party turned the clerk of the court for North Carolina out of the house, in the same county. In Greene County in 1786, Colonel Tipton broke up a court held under authority of Frankland. Tipton and Sevier had some personal encounters, but fortunately for both, friends of the opponents interfered, and perhaps the lives of one or both was spared.

The next year, 1787, taxes were imposed by both administrations, but the people most innocently pretended that they did not know to whom to pay, so they paid to neither; and as life cannot exist long without food or drink, a government survive for a great while unless it has some means of collecting its revenues to defray its current expenses; and being deprived of one of the chief means of government the affairs of Frankland were approaching the end, like small republics which are constantly in a state of insurrection. Tipton and Sevier were residents of the same county, Washington. Sevier was a brave soldier; he proved his valor at King's Mountain, but it was said of him: "He was seduced by the allurements of office and ambition" He sought the advice and support of Dr. Franklin, the Governors of Georgia and Virginia but none gave him aid or advantage.

[To be Continued.]

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What we all want is a road that is good 365 days in the year. This thing of being cut off from town, from church and from your neighbors three or four months out of the year because of bad roads, is not to be borne in these days of progress.—Lexington Dispatch.

Senator Overman has appointed Mr. Ogden E. Crowson, editor of the Burlington News, to a clerkship on the Senate Rules committee. Mr. Crowson is one of the bright newspaper men of the State, and we are glad to hear of his promotion, if promotion it may be called.

Prof. Willis L. Moore, who since 1895, has been chief of the Weather Bureau, has been removed from office by President Wilson. Charges of a serious nature were filed with the Secretary against Prof. Moore. Moore was an appointee of the Cleveland administration.

It has been alleged that among the enlisted men at the naval station in San Francisco, there is a wide spread use of cocaine. Secretary Daniels has directed investigation, made and says, he will not wait for any red tape, or long collection of proofs. It simply must be eliminated.

William H. Osborne, of Greensboro, has been appointed Commissioner of Internal Revenue. It seems likely that Charles B. Crane, of Chicago, will be nominated Ambassador to Rome.

The estate of the late John Jacob Astor, who went down with the Titanic, is valued at \$87,216,691.

R. Don Laws, postmaster at Moravion Falls, has tendered his resignation to take effect when his successor is appointed.

The State of New York will receive from three to four million dollars inheritance tax from the estate of the late J. Pierpont Morgan.

The post office at Pilot Mountain, with two stores, was destroyed by fire a few days since, entailing a loss of \$4,000.

R. S. Whaley, of Charleston, has been nominated for Congress in the Charleston district, to succeed Congressman Lagare, who died recently.

Carl Hagenback, the world famed animal collector, and senior partner of the Handels Menagerie and Fe'er Park at Stellingen, near Hamburg, Germany, is dead.

At Walkertown, in Forsyth county, fire destroyed the plant of the Walkertown Chair Company. Loss about \$15,000 with no insurance.

Hickory is noted as an automobile city. There are about 40 of them here, costing about \$35,000. Then say our city is not a fast city.—Mercury.

Two English families, Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Baker, son and daughter, from Trunbridge Wells, Kent, England, have purchased large tracts of land near Skyland, and will become truck farmers.

Rev. G. H. Church, former pastor of Lenoir Baptist church, (well known in Watauga) and for several years pastor at Morvan, N. C., has recently entered upon his pastorate at Statesville with bright prospects.—Lenoir Topic.

Will Avery, a highly respected colored man who lives out on route 2 about three miles from town, suicided last afternoon by shooting a hole through his stomach. Ill health is supposed to have unbalanced his reason.—Morgan Messenger.

Save Farm Labor Make it Produce More

With practically the same labor, horses, mules, wagons and implements, you can produce bigger crops from the same, or less acreage. It takes no more work to raise 60 to 80 bushels of corn, or one and a half to two bales of cotton, to the acre than it takes to make ordinary yields. It is not necessary to plant a larger acreage to get a bigger yield. Simply work and cultivate the same amount of land more thoroughly. You can produce bigger crops of

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