

### Happenings in Boone 50 Years Ago

Mr. W. W. Presnell, of Hagaman, furnishes us with the following interesting account of occurrences in Boone 50 years ago and since:

"On the 28th of March, 1865, General Stoneman and his command dashed into Boone and killed Jacob Council, father of B. J. Council, Ephraim Norris, father of Capt. E. J. Norris, and Warren Green. The wounded were Sheriff A. J. McBride, Thos. Holder, W. W. Gragg, and Calvin Green. Pretty much all the men in Boone were put under arrest, and many were taken prisoners to Camp Chase and other northern prisons, and the county jail burned.

"On the 29th of March, 1873, the county court house was burned together with all the records except book E of deeds. On the 28th of January, 1886, the west end of the court house was blown out by one of the worst wind and snow storms the county ever had. September, 1886, during court week, the Charleston earthquake shook up the people of Boone and the country in general."

Mr. Presnell also sends us an ancient document in the shape of an Abstract of Taxables, issued in 1855, which would be interesting reading had we the space for its publication.

### Baptist Sunday School Convention

The following paragraph which was overlooked should have appeared in the article headed as above in our last issue:

"Let each church and Sunday school in Watauga county send messengers and minutes with a full report so the statistical table in the minutes may be full and complete. If any Sunday school can not send messengers, make out your minutes and mail the minutes and minute fund to J. L. Hayes at Vilas, N. C., in time for the convention, so the minutes may be completed and printed. All messengers to the convention who receive a copy of the Democrat containing this programme will please preserve the copy and bring it to the convention as there will not be any other printed programme.

L. N. PERKINS,  
A. L. WILSON,  
J. L. HAYES,  
Committee.

### Corn as Food

Sending a brigade of cooks to Europe to teach the natives there to eat corn is only renewing an experiment tried in times of peace. "Corn Cake" Murphy gained immortal note by his efforts along this line, while Clark E. Carr and later Maurice Egan did much to give the European a notion of the delights of corn as a comestible. These apostles of a new gastronomy for the people of Europe met with the obstacle that has so far proved insurmountable. Prince and peasant alike associate corn with stock feed, and, therefore, decline it.

But corn is really a food for the gods in nutritive value. It is but little behind whole wheat flour, containing within 6 per cent as much carbohydrates and within 8 per cent as much protein. Much of the food value of wheat is sacrificed in preparation of flour so the end that our dainty appetites may be piqued by the snowy whiteness of the bread. Thus, bulk for bulk, good corn bread is quite as nutritious as is the wheaten loaf.

Many ways of cooking corn are known, but the simplest are the better. A sturdy race of pioneers thrived on mush and milk and corn pone and hoe cake. Civilization and luxury have led the

### German Secret Service

For many years past Germany has been spending on her secret service between \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000 annually, that is to say, about five times as much as France and from 12 to 15 times as much as Great Britain. The purpose to which these funds are mainly devoted is the establishment and maintenance of spies at fixed posts in potentially hostile countries, says a writer in the Atlantic. In France, where this smothered warfare has been waged most persistently, it can best be studied. The principle agents are rarely Germans. They are as a rule, Swiss, Belgians and Alsations, with a sprinkling of corrupt Frenchmen. If they are Germans, then they hasten to take out naturalization papers and to make themselves conspicuous by protestations of loyalty to the land of their adoption. But in all cases they are instructed to disguise their operations under forms of ordinary business. They take shops, land agencies, hotels, insurance offices and so on. They follow their calling just like everybody else in the locality. They attract no notice, either by having too much money or too little. Their businesses are soundly established and are in keeping with the requirements of the neighborhood. The expenses of starting them are borne out of the secret service funds, and from the same source the deficits, if any, in the annual balance sheets are made good. The man in charge identifies himself with the life around him, sits on committees, makes as many friends as possible, subscribes generously to local charities, and not infrequently gets himself elected to some minor office.—Chicago Journal.

### Mrs. Stonewall Jackson

Never before in the history of Charlotte has the city been stirred so profoundly and universally as by the death of Mrs. Stonewall Jackson. She was the city's most cherished possession, and no occasion was complete without her benign presence, whenever it was practicable. She was the living link between the present and a glorious past, and around the name she bore clustered the memory of the South's most beloved hero.

Living far beyond man's allotted span of life, she exemplified all that was lovely in the past as well as in the present. From early youth she professed the faith of our Saviour, and without wavering she tried to walk in His steps. While others were swept away by novelties in doctrine and practice, she conformed to the strict standards of old, and had no sympathy with the modern woman.

Wherever she went, whether North or South, homage was paid her, at first because she bore the name of her famous husband, and then because they recognized in her the highest type of Southern womanhood.

Amid all the honors heaped upon her, she continued to be the last an old-fashioned Christian mother who feared God and no one else.—Presbyterian Standard

A torpedo invented by a United States naval officer carries a gun that discharges an explosive shell inside a vessel after the torpedo has punctured its hull below the water line.

Children of these pioneers to look with disdain on corn, and prefer to secure its great health-giving properties through other mediums. We have been taking our corn by way of pork and beef.—Omaha Bee.

### A North Carolina Poplar

Mr. Burt Barlow has slaughtered the largest tree in Lincoln county, a large poplar, which came from the farm of Mrs. Sallie Wise. This large poplar has shaded many who have gone before. It was located near the Pleasant Home Schoolhouse spring. Many are familiar with the surroundings and the spot where the huge tree stood. Wagons have been hauling the cuts from this tree to town for shipment for several days. The tree was seven feet nine inches in diameter widest point, and six feet and four inches at the narrowest; 21 cuts, 81 inches long have been hauled in. The total of lumber will be about 5,500 feet. Much might be written about this great tree. To give an idea of its size a platform had to be provided for the workmen to stand on while sawing the cuts. To see a tree equal to this one means a trip to the California Exposition.—Lincoln News.

### Divine Healer in the Meshes

From a recent issue of the Charlotte Observer we clip the following interesting information as regards a fake healer who had been doing business in that city:

Before Recorder H. C. Jones yesterday, "Doc" Turner, alias John Carpenter, was tried on a charge of false pretense.

Jane McCollough, whose tongue had been silent these many years, was the main prosecuting witness against Turner yesterday morning. The mute, through the aid of a pencil, testified that Turner had offered for the sum of \$15 to restore the speech which she had lost.

This seems to have been in proper ratio to Turner's sliding scale of prices for the restoring of any faculty, based upon his alleged power as a "divine" healer. As a custodian of any especial celestial secrets, the "Doc" assuredly fails to measure up to the popular demand with regard to physical characteristics. A head shaped after the similitude of a Zeppelin; eyes crowding one another too close for comfort, a complexion which is guaranteed not to run, and ears which sit out from his cranium at right angles, the "divine" healer is as queer a looking specimen as ever brought up by deep-sea fishermen. A pair of enormous gold-rimmed spectacles, the outward and visible sign of his miraculous powers, completed the defendant's uncanny physiognomy.

"Sixteen years ago last September," whispered Detective Bradley reminiscently, "I caught something that looked just like that, but I cut the line and let it go."

Before Magistrate Alexander yesterday, Turner was held for the higher court under a similar charge. Henry Harris, a blind negro of Crab Orchard Township, appeared as a prosecuting witness against the fakir. Harris stated that for the sum of \$40 the "divine" healer had offered an iron-bound contract to restore his sight. After discovering that the afflicted one was not in possession of so much coin, the healer descended to a measly five, which was paid by Harris for the promised cure. A rag wrapped about the patient's head, with three brass rings sewn upon it, was shown as the medium with which Turner proposed to effect the transformation. Within the magic rag was enclosed the \$5. After a number of incantations and mysterious passes, the witness testified that the healer replaced the rag, minus the money, and disappeared.

The cure has not yet taken place.

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