

**WATAUGA DEMOCRAT**  
An Independent Weekly Newspaper  
**EVERY THURSDAY**  
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R. C. RIVERS, Jr. - Publisher

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The basic of our government being the opinion of the people, the very first objective should be to keep that right, and were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without government, I should hesitate a moment to choose the latter. But I should mean that every man should receive these papers and be capable of reading them. —Thomas Jefferson.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1949

**WISE DECISION**  
Governor Scott is to be applauded for his appointment of Dr. Frank Graham, president of the University, to fill the seat held so briefly by the late J. M. Broughton.

A man of sincere convictions, outstanding capacity, and tireless industry, Senator Graham is known as one of the truly great liberal leaders of the nation. It is fitting that North Carolina, the most progressive of the Southern tier of States should have one outstandingly progressive member of the Senate. Politically, the appointment is likewise sound. Election returns indicate that with the advent of the New Deal, the Democratic majority in the State grew top-heavy, and has never yet returned to the slimmer majorities of the old days. Even with the prejudice born of the civil rights issue the States Rights candidate could only muster about 60,000 votes in North Carolina, where, like it or not, the New Deal and Fair Deal sentiment is rather predominant. It follows that the pre-front wing should have a champion.

Of course, Senator Graham has been labeled a Communist by the unthinking. There are those who attach the label to every leader who don't want to take the folks back along the dismal road who like the high standard of living developed during the past few years. . . . the farm stability, the high wages, the farm program, REA, social security, old age benefits. . . . the folks don't want to go back, and they won't with men like Dr. Frank Graham in places of influence. Off hand prediction is that if the new Senator gives the same measure of constructive service to the nation that he gave to the University, there will be no need of an opposition candidate filing next year. The folks will like him!

**Letters to the Editor**

**Liquor and Bootleggers**  
Boone, N. C., Route 2  
Dear Editor:

Thank you for printing my letter against auto inspection. Enough of us howled that time to do some good. I believe we should keep our cars in the best possible condition for our own protection as well as others. But what a system. Oh, what a headache.

I am thankful for our papers whereby we can let our ideas be known. I think you are putting out a dandy paper in spite of the name and I don't mind that as bad as I once did.

I would like to say a few things about whiskey and bootleggers, if you think it is worth the space.

Voting out wine and beer was just a start. Now we need to get after the bootleggers. It is common knowledge that you can buy whiskey in Boone as easily as a pair of shoes. Also east and west of town they operate almost openly.

I didn't have anything to do with putting in the police, but I did help elect the sheriff. Up till now I am not satisfied with what he has done against these bootleggers. I think he can do better, ditto the police. Of course our officers can't do it all; if all of us who voted dry would really do something to make it that way then we would get somewhere.

Oh, you say the bootlegger is a good friend of yours. Listen: No man that sells that rotten stuff to your boy is your friend. He knows he is working against the individual and the community, tearing down the good that others try to do. We should regard them as parasites. Let's use DDT on them.

**THE BUS DRIVER**  
Sir: In rural areas we have to depend on buses for our children to get to school as you know. I'm wondering how many parents teach their children to respect the bus driver? How many realize that a great percentage of bus accidents are caused by the chil-

ren's behavior? One accident I know of described as a faulty steering gear was started by a paper wad shot at the driver, which found its mark.  
I say, please teach your children to respect and obey the bus driver. Your child's life may depend upon his conduct.  
ESTEL CULLER  
Zionville, N. C.

**KING STREET**

(Continued from page 1)  
town were utilized in promoting new business, there'd likely be a lot more available coin, when the solicitors for some of the obviously sound proposals came along.

**Washington Notes**

**FARM VISITORS**  
Thirty-three young farmers from the Netherlands will arrive in the United States early in April to spend six months working on American farms under the sponsorship of the Economic Cooperation Administration. Farm families in fourteen states, from Maine to Wisconsin, will take the visitors into their homes and provide on-the-farm training in animal husbandry, farm mechanization, stock and crop disease control, pest and weed control, general farm practices and 4-H Club work.

**TV SETS**  
Production of television receivers in February totaled 118,938 sets, compared with 121,238 produced in January. February production was held back by a shortage of cathode ray tubes.

**AUSTRALIAN ROCKET RANGE**  
An agreement is expected to be reached between the Australian, British and United States governments, for the use of the British Empire Rocket range at Woomera, Central Australia, for testing rockets with atomic warheads. The present range in New Mexico has been declared too small.

**"MATERNAL MORTALITY"**  
The "maternal mortality" rate, declining steadily since 1933 was 1.3 per 1,000 live births in 1947 compared with 1.6 in 1946 and 6.2 in 1933. The 1947 rate for white women was 1.1 per 1,000 live births, that for non-white women 3.3. In 1933 the comparative rates were 5.6 and 9.7. In spite of a record 3,876,000 births in 1947 the deaths in or soon after childbirth, or from diseases of pregnancy, were 175 fewer than in 1946. In 1947 "maternal deaths" totaled 4,978.

**"AIR MASK"**  
The Navy has developed an "air mask" to enable a man to breathe and retain his natural body warmth in the coldest Arctic climates. Weighing less than a pound, the mask covers the nose and mouth with a small but complicated, system of air ducts several feet in length. Heat and moisture is extracted from exhaled air and retained in the passages, warming and humidifying the cold air being inhaled.

**A FORGIVING HEART**  
Los Angeles.—Solly Manasse is a man with a forgiving heart. Manasse, now a Palm Springs hotel operator, and a survivor of the Bataan death march and 44 months in a Jap prison camp, recently walked into the Los Angeles CARE office and handed officials a \$100 bill. "This is for CARE packages to go to Japan," he said. "I think we need a few more gestures of international friendship to help out the peace of the world."

**The Clevelands and Riddle**

The First of a Series of Three Historical Articles Relating to the Early History of Watauga County by DR. J. E. HODGES of Maiden, N. C.

The territory now embraced by Watauga county was little concerned with the Revolutionary War for the simple reason that nobody lived in it and also, that no event of arms other than two small skirmishes occurred within her borders, and of one of these we have almost no details.

No man, or men, were more concerned with the Revolutionary history we do have, than the subjects of these articles. To do them justice in a single article, would require more space than a newspaper could be expected to donate in one issue, so the little information we do have concerning them, and of interest to the readers of the Democrat, is divided into three articles and will appear as the Editor has space to spare.

Of all the thousands of unselfish, patriotic, self-sacrificing Americans of the Thirteen Colonies of the infant republic, who offered their all, their lives, their fortunes, their honor, that their children, their neighbors and their fellowmen in general, might be free, have free homes, free schools and a free government of their own choosing, we find no mention in history of any whose unspotted, unselfish patriotism exceeded that of Benjamin Cleveland. A few historians have branded him as cruel, heartless and inhuman.

But we must remember that he lived in a cruel time and dealt with heartless and inhuman men—men who shot their neighbors in the back, who in the darkness of the night time put the torch to the humble cabin homes of widows and orphans, whose husbands and fathers had given their lives that their young nation might live, who stole the bread and meat from the very mouths of these orphans and shot the cattle and horses and hogs they could not steal from ambush.

With these men he was stern as iron. But when occasion demanded, he could be gentle as a woman. Instances of both will be mentioned later. A band of resolute patriots, of his type, gathered about him, and never left him while life or the necessity lasted.

They called themselves "Cleveland's Bull Dogs," the people called them "Cleveland's Heroes," the Tories called them "Cleveland's Wolves" and "Cleveland's Devils."

Benjamin Cleveland's ancestors came from England to America, according to some historians, about 1700. He was born in Virginia in 1738 and came to North Carolina about 1769. He settled with some members of his family in Rowan county, which territory became Wilkes in 1777.

He settled on a fine tract of land in a bend of the Yadkin a few miles up the river from Elkin. His brothers settled in other parts of what is now Wilkes county. He lost the farm on the Yadkin through a defective title, soon after the close of the Revolution. It is now owned by Hon. Hugh Chatham of Winston-Salem, and is one of the show places of the country.

The place where the doughty

Colonel built his house is not known, and the only thing remaining reminding of his ownership is the name he gave it—"Roundabout."

His men affectionately called him "Old Roundabout." His brothers, Capt. Robert Cleveland and Lieut. Larkin Cleveland, will be mentioned in a later article.

The other name in the title, "Riddle," is that of the arch Tory, who operated a part of his time in this section and got his name attached to a stream, "Riddle's Fork" and a hill or knob, "Riddle's Knob," near the head of the stream. This particular section seems to have been used by him as a hide-out and passway, as his operations extended from Virginia to South Carolina.

Dr. Draper says that Capt. William Riddle was a son of Col. James Riddle of Surry county. Both were rank Royalists and held British commissions.

The neighboring territory now including Ashe county have been settled a little earlier than Watauga contained a sprinkling of Tories among whom Riddle was at home.

Two of these were Joseph and Timothy Perkins who had settled near a place known as the "Old Fields." These men were from New England and had been men of some prominence in Massachusetts, where prior to the opening of the Revolution they had been tax collectors. They came south to escape certain punishment at home. The remainder of the family were ardent patriots, one, Dr. Richard Perkins, said to have been a brother, represented the town of Bridgewater in Plymouth county in both the first and second Provincial

Congresses, and served on many of the most important committees. He later served as surgeon in the patriot army. Another, Capt. Ephraim Perkins, master of the sloop, Polly, did valiant service for the patriots.

Throughout the war, the hatred between the Whigs and Tories was something terrible. As a rule the British regulars observed the rules of war and respected the laws of nations, and usually the people at home had no-thing to fear from British soldiers commanded by English officers when passing through. But with the Tories, who were often neighbors and former friends, it was a hide-out and passway, as his operations extended from Virginia to South Carolina.

Morgan Bryan, first settler in the "Forks of the Yadkin," had five sons. Two of them, Samuel and Joseph, were rank Tories and held commissions in the British army. Their three brothers were just as rank Whigs. In the battle of Kings Mountain, these three Whigs were said to have been eagerly seeking their Tory brothers to kill them.

At the battle of Rameur's Mill, fought entirely by Whigs and Tories, when collecting the dead and wounded, two brothers lay facing each other, each shot in the forehead, and each with his left eye tightly closed. It was thought both shot at the same instant, and I have heard the hope expressed that they did not recognize each other.

It was this type of warfare that touched Watauga territory. As the cloud passed her territory was just in the edge of the path of

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NOW'S THE TIME TO BUY THAT BELATED ENGAGEMENT DIAMOND . . .  
Of course you always meant to buy a beautiful engagement ring for your wife . . . but things interfered. Now is a wonderful time to do it during our Diamond Jubilee, March 27th through April 9th. We've been collecting diamonds for months and our stock is complete and distinctive. Stop in with your wife during the Diamond Jubilee . . . let us give you expert help in selecting the diamond of her dreams.  
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BOONE, N. C.

the storm. One of the Perkins mentioned above was killed in a skirmish in Ashe county. The first episode in the Revolutionary history of Watauga occurred by reason of the capture of Col. Cleveland by Riddle at Old Fields in Ashe county. According to Dr. Draper, Col. Cleveland owned the Old Fields and used the land in peace time for grazing stock. At the time of his capture in 1881, he had a tenant, Jesse Duncan, residing there. Joseph and Timothy Perkins lived about a mile above Duncan's, but both were absent in Tory service at the time. (The next article will tell of Cleveland's capture and rescue.)

**ARMY DAY**  
The slogan—"The United States Army—part of the team—for security," has been approved by General Omar N. Bradley, Army chief of staff, as the theme of Army Day, on April 6th.  
**NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF C & M TRANSIT CO. A PARTNERSHIP**  
Notice is hereby given that the partnership of RAY CASTLE and CHARLES L. MARTIN as partners, conducting the business of general building supply and trucking under the firm name and style of "C & M TRANSIT CO." has this day been dissolved by mutual consent. RAY CASTLE will collect all debts owing to the firm and pay all debts due by the firm.  
This 14th day of February, 1949.  
CHARLES L. MARTIN  
RAY W. CASTLE  
Formerly doing business as "C & M TRANSIT CO."  
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