

# † The Cherokee Scout †

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The Leading Weekly Newspaper in Western North Carolina, Serving a large and Potentially Rich Territory in this state

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## A SUMMARY OF CHEROKEE COUNTY AND HER INSTITUTIONS

(By W. M. West, County Historian)

Again the County of Cherokee is possessed of a court house, having recently completed and equipped a magnificent and imposing edifice of marble on the site of the former court house, a building that will attract the attention of all, and would do a credit to a far more opulent commonwealth than ours.

In view of the fact we deem it appropriate and opportune that we should briefly scan the past history of the county, in so far as the available data will admit, for it is a deplorable fact that most of our past history has been irretrievably lost by reason of misfortune, and indifference on the part of the public.

The territory, of which Cherokee County occupies a part, prior to its settlement by whites, was occupied and possessed by the Cherokee Indians. The ever increasing number and expanding of the whites, who were pressing and hovering on the frontier, was a source of friction between the two races, and necessitated the maintenance of Federal troops at different stations in the Cherokee Nation to preserve harmony and peace between the two races. Before the establishment of the county, by strategy, intrigue, or otherwise, the Indians were induced to enter into a treaty with the Federal government, by which they ceded their possessions here for other lands in the Indian territory and other emoluments granted to them. In compliance with this treaty, the Indians were removed to the assigned territory in the year 1838.

By virtue of colonial rights, the State of North Carolina exercised a sort of suzerainty over that portion of the Cherokee lands that were within her domain.

### County Organized 1838

By Act of the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, ratified on the 4th day of January, 1838, the County of Cherokee was formed, from the western portion of the County of Macon, bounded north and west by the State line of Georgia. In addition to its present boundaries, at the time of its formation, the county embraced the territory now included in the counties of Clay and Graham. Clay County was formed, from a portion of Cherokee in 1864, and likewise Graham County was formed in 1871-72. The present area of the county is estimated at about 500 square miles. The surface is broken and undulating and mountainous in part; the scenery is picturesque and beautiful; the climate is salubrious; the soils are fertile, yielding bountiful crops to the industrious husbandman; pure and limpid streams of water abound in all parts of the county.

Immediately after the establishment of the county there was a great influx of immigrants to this veritable Eldorado, in search of homes and other attendant blessings. These sturdy and industrious pioneers were the ancestors of the present citizens of the county. They found an almost unbroken forest without roads or houses and doubtless endured many privations and hardships.

In anticipation of the establishment of the county the state had had the lands of the county surveyed in 1837 and 1838 by Jas. Whitaker and Ruben Deaver, only the better class of lands being surveyed at that time. After the survey, the lands so surveyed were advertised and sold to the highest bidders. These sales were made at Franklin September 12, 1838, following this other unsurveyed lands were obtained by right of occupancy in 1847 to the amount of one hundred acres to each claimant by the payment of a stipulated sum to the state, and

(Continued on page 2)

## REV. HARBISON GOES TO CHURCH AT HIGH POINT

H. P. Powell Named for Murphy Church by Conference Meeting in Asheville

Rev. E. J. Harbison, pastor of the local Methodist church for the past year, was named junior pastor of the Wesley Memorial Church at High Point this week by the Conference of the Methodist Church, South, which held its thirty-eighth annual conference in Asheville last week and the first part of this week, according to news dispatches.

Among the former pastors of the Murphy church being named to pastorate by the conference were M. E. Clegg, to Biltmore, Asheville district, and D. H. Rhinehart, Cliffside-Allendale, in the Marion district.

The appointments for the Waynesville district were as follows:

F. W. Tucker, presiding elder; Andrews, J. R. Church; G. L. J. C. Gentry; Bryson City; Howell Canton, A. C. Gibbs; Cherokee Mission, William Hornbuckle; Cullowhee, J. S. Folger; Dellwood, E. W. Needham; Franklin, R. F. Mock; Franklin circuit, J. H. Strickland; Fines Creek, H. C. Freeman.

Glenville, C. C. Totherow (supply); Hayesville, C. S. Plyler (supply); Haywood, Van B. Harrison; Highlands, C. E. Williams; Jonathan, G. N. Dulin; Judson, L. H. Hipps (supply); Clyde-Junaluska, Frank Suet.

Macon, T. S. Roten (supply); Murphy, H. P. Powell; Murphy circuit, J. Winkler (supply); Sylva, G. B. Clemmer; Waynesville, J. T. Mangum; Webster, F. W. Kirker; Whittier, R. L. Pass.

Mr. Harbison has been pastor here for the past year and during which time he and Mrs. Harbison made many friends who regret the transfer, but whose best wishes follow them wherever they go.

## MRS. W. S. M'COMBS CALLED TO HER REWARD FRIDAY

Funeral Services Held Saturday—Was Well Known Throughout This Section

Mrs. W. S. McCombs, 54 years old, wife of Dr. W. S. McCombs who was for many years one of Murphy's leading dentists, but now retired, died at her home last Friday afternoon at 3:30, November 4th, after an illness of about a year. About a month ago, Mrs. McCombs returned home from an Atlanta hospital where she had been taken for treatment some five weeks previously. After returning home her condition gradually grew worse, and the end was not unexpected.

She was the daughter of the late J. T. Butt, and was born at Blairsville, Ga., January 16, 1873. The McCombs and Butt families are among the oldest and most prominent in this mountain section. She had been a member of the Methodist church since 13 years of age, and was a consecrated Christian and devoted mother.

Funeral services were conducted at her home Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock by Dr. J. A. Sharp, president of Young Harris College, assisted by Rev. J. P. Anderson, pastor of the Murphy Presbyterian Church, and Rev. T. L. Sasser, pastor of the Murphy Baptist Church. Interment was in Sunset Cemetery.

She is survived by her husband and six children, four daughters, Misses Ella, Pettie Kate and Ruby McCombs, of Murphy, and Mrs. W. E. Davidson, of St. Louis, Mo.; two sons, Robert and Jim, of Murphy; her mother, Mrs. T. J. Butt, of Bainbridge, Ga.; two sisters, Mrs. T. M. Watkins, of Bainbridge, Ga.; Mrs. J. L. Howelson, of Donaldsonville, Ga.; two brothers, Dr. T. J. Butt, of Cairo, Ga.; and V. I. Butt, of Murphy.

During "Bargain Days" Dec. 1-15, you can get The Asheville Times (evening or morning edition), daily

## P. T. A. HELD FIRST MEETING LAST FRIDAY

Dues Fixed at \$1.00 Per Year—Other Business Transacted

The first regular meeting of the Parent-Teachers Association was held last Friday afternoon in the school auditorium with a good attendance of teachers and parents present. As this was the first meeting of the new association no program had been prepared, however the high school orchestra rendered some musical numbers after which was held the regular business session.

The names of the committees appointed by the President were read, the objects of the Association stated, the dues fixed and some definite objects for the Association to work toward were suggested. The Association fixed the dues at 10 cent per month or \$1.00 a year. For the present month the Association is going to use its efforts in keeping up the attendance of the school children and then make a drive for school books for the library. The members agreed to bring all the readers, histories and similar text books from their homes or from their neighbors homes to the school at the next meeting to be placed in the grade libraries.

The membership committee was urged to be active in securing new members. The Association has a definite field of activity and every parent should join hands with the teachers in making the Association a success, thereby increasing the efficiency of the school.

The next meeting will be held the first Friday in December at three o'clock at the school building.

and Sunday by mail, a full year for \$4.00, and everybody subscribing this year will be in class "A" (preferred list) limited to 5000—marked to expire Dec. 10, 1928 and may renew such subscription every year at the fixed rate \$4.00 (saving \$3.00)—while others pay \$7.00 per year.

## JUDGE SHAW'S CHARGE TO THE GRAND JURY

Compliments People of County on New Court House and Urges That It Be Kept Clean

Declaring that Cherokee County's beautiful new court house was a credit to the people of the county, and the property of every man, woman, boy and girl of the county, Judge T. J. Shaw, in his remarks preceding his charge to the Grand Jury in opening the first session of the superior court held in the new building, urged the people of the county to endeavor to keep the building clean and sanitary.

The building will be dedicated at special exercises Friday afternoon at 1 o'clock. Members of the local bar are preparing the program, which is expected to be in keeping with the day, Nov. 11—Armistice day. A number of prominent visiting attorneys and jurists are expected to have a part on the program.

Judge Shaw's charge to the Grand Jury is an excellent discourse on crime conditions of the day, and contains statements that should be pondered thoroughly by the people. The text of his charge follows:

Mr. Foreman and gentlemen of the Grand Jury, you have been selected and sworn as a grand jury for this Term of the Court. Before entering upon the discharge of your duties, the law requires that I shall deliver to you a charge. By this is meant that I am to explain to you something of the nature of the duties that you are to perform and the manner in which you shall discharge these duties, and in talking to you gentlemen, I am going to talk to you in as simple English as I know how and not in the technical language of the law.

Before beginning my charge I want to congratulate the people of this County, upon this beautiful Court room and this Court building; This building, gentlemen, as far as I can see is a credit to all of the people of your County, and I want the people of the County to understand that this is their building. It does not belong to some imaginary corporation—the County Commissioners do not own it—none of the County officers own it—gentlemen, this building is the property of all of the men and women and boys and girls of your county; it is your institution; it is built with your money and it is built for your convenience and for your accommodation. For that reason every man and woman and boy and girl that comes here ought to make it his business to see that this building is kept clean; that the walls are not written upon; that the floor is not spit upon—just remember that it is your property, your building, and let every man and woman and boy and girl make it his business to keep this Court House, not only the Court room, but all of the rooms of the Court House, and the halls and the entrances to the court house, in decent, proper condition. Now, a great many people chew tobacco, and of all the places in the world they want to chew it is in the court room and about the court house—that is all right, but because you want to chew it, do not spit on the floor, and whether you are chewing or not, do not spit on the floors of the buildings and on the walls of the building and in the

(Continued on page 7)

Babe: Did you hear about the baby fed on elephant's milk that gained twenty pounds the first week?

Howard: No, whose was it?

Babe: The elephant's.

Judge: What is the verdict of the jury?

Foreman of Jury: We find the culprit not guilty, sir, but we recommend that he be warned not to do it again.

• Will Never Forget

By Albert T. Reid



Albert T. Reid  
AUTOCASTER