

# The Life and Times of Henry Berry Lowry

BY GARRY LEWIS DARTON



was a problem. To add to the problem, the whites were unaccustomed to the inhospitable swamps. Another fact which affected Wishart's manpower, was that most whites refused to show up when drafted by the county commissioners. After the 9 young whites were outlawed for murdering the Black, Ben Bethea, many simply refused to become involved.

The following excerpts are taken from a diary Wishart kept:

"June 5, 1871: Left Lumberton at 9 o'clock. Met at Moss Neck. Headed for Tom Lowry's. Got lost. no pilot. Passed Ed Locklear who was chipping boxes. I laid down my arms and went to talk with him. Later he left his work and began to follow me. I captured him and made him pilot us to Tom Lowry's. Tom was at home, but ran out. I called to him to surrender, but he took his gun down and came to a ready. I fired at him and he ran; then the firing was heavy but he got away, supposed to be wounded. There were with me F. J. Floyd, Dan Currie, George McKay, Arch McCadyen and Henry Biggs."

The density of the swamps should be emphasized. It was reported in the "Lowrie History" that the growth in the swamps was so dense that a lying out desperado could hide behind a clump of bushes undetected by his pursuers who passed within 3 feet of him. Being unaccustomed to the swamps, Wishart and his men would get lost many times during his campaign to capture the Lowry Gang. Also it should be noted that he mentioned Ed Locklear leaving his work and following the Wishart company. Locklear, and many Indian friends and sympathizers like him who kept Henry Berry in the forefront of the whereabouts of the hunting parties, was one of the primary reasons the Lowry Gang could not be captured.

Wishart's Diary continues: "June 6, 1871. The hunt continues. Got information as to where Hag, W. stayed last night but she was nowhere to be found. Tried to learn if she stayed where she was supposed to have been—Ned C——'. On arriving at his field, sent three men to go around and come up in rear of his house. The men came upon him with a woman who was dressing his wounds (referring to Tom Lowry). They had a quilt, blanket, sheet, and a chair in which he was propped up, but he rose and started off. Three shots were fired at him, but he escaped—for the second time. We picked up two pistols, his ammunition, and a bunch of all kinds of keys. We are all worn out—no rations, so we give up the chase for the time and leave. While making our way out of the woods some others of the Lowry gang were following trying to ambush us, but we escaped."

From the beginning, Col. Wishart encountered difficulties. His men were drafted from local white families. Therefore, the vast majority were hunting the Lowry Gang against their wishes. Also, many feared becoming marked men by the Gang. Being forced to track down the Lowry Gang, quite naturally morale and discipline

Continued next week.

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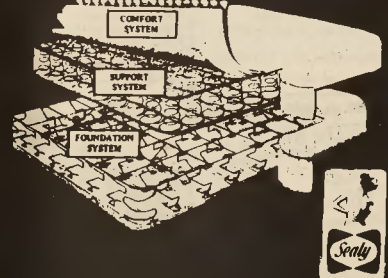
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## Gene Locklear addresses Pembroke Kiwanis Club

Mr. Gene Locklear, manager and owner of University Sportswear Company of the Red Banks area, was the guest speaker at the Tuesday evening meeting of Pembroke Kiwanis Club. He was introduced by Ira Pate Lowry, program chairman for the evening.

Mr. Locklear spoke concerning the size and scope of his company's operation. In 1976 the company's payroll was in excess of one and a half million dollars and averaged 402 employees. Among the contracts fulfilled was one of 300,000 units for the government and a \$250,000 contract for the J.C. Penney Company. Quality first and production second is constantly stressed. The company is interested in working with the high schools in helping students find employment and is willing to train them as operators. One of the biggest problems companies face today is that of finding people who want to work, who want to increase their

skills, who want to move upward within the company structure. The current welfare system in this country today is destroying the desire to work in many people. These people are content to stay on welfare and unless concerned citizens become involved in lobbying for welfare reform the work force in America will continue to dwindle as taxes go up to underwrite the enormous cost of the increasing welfare program.

Following Mr. Locklear's remarks, Eddie Mac Locklear announced that Kiwanis will sponsor a candidate in the Miss Lumberton pageant. Theodore Mavnor thanked the club for funds provided to take 22 special education children to Winston-Salem.

Presiding at the meeting was President Bernard Lowry. The invocation was delivered by Theodore Mavnor and singing was led by Ira Pate Lowry.

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