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. 1.59

. 1.48

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HE TELEPHONE "WLAB RADIO 1060 - St. Pauls"

Robeson Registrar Files Suit Against Two

the Robeson County Board of Elec- respond to the suit. tions and the county Democratic Party chairman have been named in a \$1 million lawsuit.

Charging the Rev. Charles McDowell, the elections chief, and the Rev. E. B. Turner, the party leader, with damaging her reputa-tion is Mary Imogene Horton, a Republican registrar for Lumber

The civil suit filed with the Robeson County Clerk of Court Wednesday requests \$500,000 in damages from both Turner and McDowell. Turner is also a Lumberton city

The suit claims damages in the form of "great mental anguish, pain, suffering and humiliation" for Mrs. Horton.

The damages resulted, the lawsuit claims, from Turner's attempt to have her removed from her regis-

suit total \$200,000, and punitive dam-ages total \$200,000 for each defen-

LUMBERTON - The chairman of The defendants have 30 days to

Turner, in the suit, is charged with pointment by the county elections making statements about Mrs. Hor- board as registrar for the northern ton that "impugn her character as a Robeson County precinct of Lumber public official and falsely and mali- Bridge. ciously impugn her ability and fit-ness to serve the people of said who as a Republican had served five once that person has been sworn in.

community in a position of trust." As stated in the suit, "these state- Turner, who asked that a Democrat ments were not made in good faith be appointed instead. by the defendant Turner and were ither in reckless disregard for the which is made up of two Democrats truth or, in the alternative, were spoken negligently."

ing statements "with malice toward cern with "the character" of Mrs. the plaintiff so that she would be Horton.
removed from her job."

statements "implying the plantiff's character came after he was told by bad character were false and without foundation in fact, and that the defendant McDowell sent this letter with little, if any, investigation into the truth or faisity of the allegations, and as such was negligent in failing When questioned later, Turner reto investigate the matter, before fused to name the individuals whom removing her, or, in the alternative, he said had come to him from Lumacted in reckless disregard of the

August following Mrs. Horton's reap-

years in the post, was protested by

Turner told the board of elections, truth or, in the alternative, were spoken negligently."

It also charges Turner with making statements "with making statements

The suit states that McDoweil's cerning questions of Mrs. Horton's County Attorney Joe P. Ward that individuals already sworn in as elections officials could only be removed "if something was proved improper about their character."

lowing Turner's request, the

two Democrats on the elections board, McDowell and Carmel Locklear, signed a letter to Mrs. Horton requesting her resignation as regis-

Ray Revels, the Republican elections board member, later stated he did not know the other two board members had sought Mrs. Horton's

Alex Brock, state election board chairman, told the Robeson County board that state law forbids local boards from removing an appointee

The county elections board members, after getting Brock's opinion, withdrew their request for Mrs. Horton's resignation.

In a thing called time

521-2826

I wanted to know you And never got the chance We were kept apart by a thing they called color Such a shame There was much we could have shared

There was much we could have learned from each And now. All that is lost

How cruel that we should lose each other in su

1.D. Malcolm

Local Youth to Perform With N.C. Boller

The North Carolina Ballet, Southeastern Chapter, present the "Nutcracker" on Friday, December 9th at 8 p.m. at the Cumberland Memorial Auditorium in Fayetteville, NC.

This Christmas ballet, in two acts, will feature guest artist from the Soviet Union, Alexander Agadohanov and Fredrick Begale, and local dancing teacher Charlotte Blume of Fayetteville. Alexander Agadohanov has been in the United States 11/2 years and is the leading dancer with the Maryland State Ballet and has danced a season with the Pittsburg Ballet also.

Robin Sanderson of Pembroke will be one of the youngest performers in the Ballet. She will

dance in the "Trepak" and mice

The "Nutcracker" is a ballet for and about Christmas. It visualized the dreams of one little girl (Clara) and represents the dreams of Christmas for children of all ages everywhere. The music by Tchaikovsky is part of everyone's knowledge and the fun, joy, excitement, beauty, and surprise of Christimas are all reflected in the timeless ballet.

Advanced tickets for the Nutcracker" may be purcha at Eddie's Music Center and the Shop for Pappagallo at Cross Creek Mall or at the door of the **Cumberland County Memorial** Auditorium the night of the performance. Adult tickets are \$2.50 and children are \$1.00.

The Life and Times of Henry Berry Lowry

It appears that in addition to my two previous loyal fans - my mother and my pet dog Fido - I have two more fans among the readership of The Carolina Indian Voice. At their request, "The Life and Times of Henry Berry Lowry" is resumed.

Frank Wishart was born April 13, 1837, the third son of Eli and Mary Ann Strong Wishart. He was among the first to enlist his services in the Confederate Army when the Civil War erupted between the North and the South. During the war he earned many promotions (reaching the rank of captain) and commendations for bravery. After the Confederacy vas defeated, Wishart returned to his native Robeson County to try and resume his life in a completely environment.

In January, 1866 he married Pitman. Lydia Coincidentally, Henry Berry Lowry married Rhoda Strong. the most beautiful Indian maiden in Scuffletown, also in the month of January of 1866. This is the only thing the two leaders had in common, however.

In 1870 Frances (Frank) Wishart opened a store in Shoeheel, later named Maxton (because there were so many white families in the area with names beginning with Mac).

In an introduction of sorts in the "Wishart Diary" it is reported that "the writer had never heard any reasonable explanation of the motives or reasoning that led (Wishart) to leave his business, undergo the hardships, and risk his life in the war against the Lowry Gang." It could be that the \$12,000 reward on Henry Berry's head-dead or alive-and the \$6,000 reward on the remaining members' heads (except for Andrew Strong who was worth only \$5,000) had a great deal to do with him deciding to "risk his life in the war against the Lowry Gang." It was decided by the county

leaders that a force larger (and more military) than the local Home Guard was needed to quell the Henry Berry Lowry Uprising. Because of his experience in the war Frank Wishart was persuaded by the county leaders to undertake command of the larger organization. He was raised in rank by the governor from a captain to a colonel. The ranks of the larger, military-like organization were filled by men drafted by the county commissioners to serve fixed periods of time under his command

Quite naturally men drafted by the county commissioners were

afraid of becoming marked men and drawing the wrath of the Lowry Gang down on them. Because of this fear, and because. the White recruits were able to last only a few days in the inhospitable swamps while searching for the Lowry gang, Col. Wishart, seldom, if ever, achieved his quota of promised recruits. The fewwho reported returned home at the least provocation

During this time also, federal and state soldiers were sent into Robeson County to assist local authorities in quelling the Lowry disturbance. Being outsiders, however, and ex-Union soldiers to boot, these soldiers many times sympathized with the Lowry Gang and therefore "partook of their hospitality." It was no uncommon sight to see a federal soldier chatting alongside the road with Henry Berry Lowry or any other member of the gang. Eventually, the governor placed Col. Wishart in charge of all military commands in the

The following excerpt is from (Frank) Marjon Francis Wishart's diary:

"June 5, 1871: Left Lumberton

at 9 o'clock. Met at Moss Neck. Headed for Tom Lowery's. Day broke when near William Powell's (maybe Purcell'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. captured him and made him pilot us to Tom Lowery'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 McFadyen and Henry Biggs."

Small wonder Tom Lowry (Henry Berry's brother) chose to shoot it out with 6 armed and hostile whites instead of surrendering.

If one recalls, the last Lowry Gang member (Henderson Oxendine) to surrender to the whites was arrested by whites, tried on trumped-up charges by a jury of whites, found guilty by a white judge, and hanged by a white drifter, the only hangman who could be persuaded (by money) to perform the gristly chore. The period of time from Oxendine's arrest until the time he was hanged was an incredible 19 days. Yes, indeed! Justice was swift for Indians in Robeson County during that turbulent period of Reconstruction.

More next week

